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THE BROAD-AXE.

Eros Tyrusque mihi nullo discrimine agetur.

Vol. I.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Tuesday, March 14, 1871.

No. 4.



TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 14, 1871.

THE LOCAL PRESS.

No. 3.

In our previous notices of the local Press, we took occasion to give due prominence to the oldest and ablest of the editors who have, at different periods, controlled the *Examiner* and *Islander*. This week we will make the *Patriot*, and its staff, the subject of a few comments. That journal, as our readers are well aware, was born of the *Protestant*, of unenviable notoriety. The latter sheet was established by a few ultra Presbyterians, who thought that the best way to further their narrow views, was, by establishing a paper which would take high grounds on the religious tenets which they professed to advocate. "No surrender" was its motto, and certainly the ungentlemanly way in which it treated those who were opposed to the peculiar ideas of its editors, as well as its advocacy of religion itself, was not calculated to advance the meek and humble doctrines of the Saviour of mankind. Certain Catholics, however, wished to show what could be said on the other side of the question, and, as a matter of course, the *Indicator* was established. Then came a war between the two journals, in which neither party gained much honor. Personal abuse and recrimination were the order of the day, until really sincere people began to cry out against the evil. Sensible men, on both sides, became disgusted with the gross personalities which tainted our literary atmosphere, and the two papers were suddenly snuffed out of existence. Both of them terminated an inglorious career, which no person would wish to see revived—the one by changing its patronymic into the *Herald*—the other into the *Patriot*.

Of the latter journal and its managers, we mean to speak pretty freely. We are bound by

no particular ties to Mr. Laird. We do not agree with him either in religion or politics. Indeed, we are opposed to him on both questions; consequently no person will accuse us of flattering him; at the same time we wish to do him impartial justice. As a politician, he has many faults, and on some questions his views, in our opinion, are entirely too contracted. He possesses none of the elasticity of conscience for which the Popes are so notorious, and to this reason we attribute his want of success as a political chief. If he could only divest himself of a certain rigidity of principle on religious points, he would be far better calculated to succeed as a popular tribune. That he possesses many of the qualifications necessary for a political leader, very few who have listened to him on the public platform will deny. He is gifted with ready powers of speech, a loud and sonorous voice, and—in cases where he is hard pushed for argument—with a laugh which disarms hostile criticism; yet, he has never succeeded as a politician, and to us the reason appears plain. It is, we have already stated, to be found in the fact that he is too rigid and unbending in his religious principles. Governments do not legislate for a single sect; neither should individuals imagine that their denomination alone is entitled to all the honors and emoluments in the gift of the State. The man who aspires to political honors must adapt himself to the circumstances of the country in which he strives to lead public opinion, otherwise he need never expect to succeed. We readily admit that men of high moral principle could never, for the sake of power or office, degrade themselves by making promises which they did not intend to fulfil,—that they would scorn to be instruments of deception or to mislead a people; but it unfortunately happens that such men, rarely, if ever, rise to the surface among politicians. Men of "easy virtue" and lax principles,—men with brazen faces and lying tongues, but with a certain plausibility of disposition and suavity of manners,—these are generally the individuals who succeed, while the really honest politician is left to chew in silence the bitter cud of disappointment. We are no admirer of the political chieftains of British North

America,—their virtues are not such as to cause us to sing their *Te Deum*. On the contrary, their want of honor at times is such as to call forth the just indignation of every honest man in their respective communities. We, in this Colony, are not without examples to prove the truth of these statements. Who, at the present day, rule us? Are they men who by their antecedents proved themselves to be the most truthful individuals in the world? Certainly not. They are men who "live by lies, yet dare not boldly lie,"—politicians with double fronts,—one for the people and another for the treasury. We are well aware that political life has a demoralizing influence upon public men; that they cannot expect to rise in the State unless they become as others of their class; that political ambition infests the country and generates a feverish restlessness and discontent; that individuals who take to that line of life generally aim at the acquisition of power or a share of the public plunder, and that in order to accomplish their ends, they must flatter and caress the crowd,—must appeal strongly to its passions and prejudices. This it is that causes so many of our colonial politicians to be without principle in public life; and it also explains the reason why dishonesty, treachery, inconsistency and dozens of other charges of a similar nature, are continually ~~thrown in their faces~~. Now, if a man's religious principles be such as to prevent him from falling into such errors as the above, instead of being denounced and ridiculed, he should be the subject of praise. We may find fault with the stern bigotry of the old Puritans, but no person will question their honesty. So we say of Mr. Laird. We do not admire his strong Calvinistic principles, but we cannot bring ourselves to say that he is a dishonest or an evil-minded man. If he possessed the accommodating dispositions of some of his opponents—if he hooted confederation to-day and was its eulogist to-morrow—if he denounced as "political blackguards" last year men who gave him office this year,—then, we presume, Mr. Laird would be a successful politician, and that to-day he would be high up among those who direct the affairs of the ship of state. We have spoken only of Mr. Laird's public life, and here we think we may safely leave him.

We intended to say a few words about Mr. Donald Currie, the assistant editor of the *Patriot*. His connection with the Press entitles him to our consideration. With the exception, perhaps of Mr. W. H. Pope, he is longer employed on the local Press than any of those who now write for the newspapers. We believe him to be a more prolific writer than any of our living editors. People may dispute as to his ability as an editor, but no one, we think, will deny that the individual who inspires the *Patriot* twice a week, is destitute of intelligence or vigor. As a compiler of figures, we believe he has no equal in the Colony. His statistics on the trade, commerce and resources of the Island, have been extensively and approvingly quoted. Local as well as Colonial journals, have made use of them, and even our statesmen when on a stumping tour, have not considered it beneath them to use the figures compiled by Mr. Currie, in enforcing their arguments. As an official of the late government, his capacity has never been questioned. On the contrary, his efficiency has been acknowledged both by friends and enemies. That he has his faults, like other individuals, we freely admit, but they are not of a sordid kind. In private life his friends give him the character of being generous and disinterested, and as a newspaper writer, mixing up in party politics, we know none who has fewer enemies. Indeed, he has a peculiar knack of disarming even the most bitter of those to whom he is opposed in politics. But it may be said that we are becoming the eulogist of Mr. Currie, and that we are studiously concealing his faults. Well, perhaps so, but until he has erred more grievously than heretofore; until he has taken the side of the oppressor against the industrious poor man; until he proves himself to be without spirit, and a parasite,—until that time at least, we can be allowed to believe that our estimate of the assistant editor of the *Patriot* is correct. As these articles have grown upon our hands, we will again have to defer our notices of the remaining of our living editors.

THE BANKRUPT COURT.

Has our Bankrupt Act proved a failure? The question is one of great importance to the commercial public, and, indeed to the general public. Some people have not only determined that it is a failure, but loudly denounced it as a nuisance. A great many Bankrupts, it is true, have taken advantage of the benefits it offered, but that fact, in itself, proves nothing. There is no doubt that there is a good deal of fraud perpetrated under the protection of the Court, but the same may be said of almost every Bankrupt Court in Christendom. Of those in this Island who have gone through the Court, we venture to say that 60 per cent at least were really "unfortunate debtors," and deserved protection from the rapacity of their creditors. The Court is doing a good work in many ways, but we freely admit that there is a great deal of evil and fraud mixed up with the good. We believe in the necessity of a proper Bankrupt Court in every commercial community, and we therefore are not prepared to join in the

howl for the abolition of the one we have established in this Island after a hard struggle; but we are prepared freely to amend it, and we think the experience of the past three years sufficient to determine what the nature of those amendments should be. It is said, with too much truth, by the opponents of the Bankrupt Law, that never, under any circumstances, are any dividends paid to the creditors of the estates. This might, to a great extent, be obviated by the appointment of an official assignee, who would have no interest in being a party to any fraud on the creditors. Under the present system, the Bankrupt gets any one he pleases appointed as his assignee, and the appointments are made, in a great many instances, without any regard being paid either to solvency or character. Indeed, in more than one instance, it has happened, that the assignee was, at the very time of his appointment, a Bankrupt himself, and seeking relief from the Court. The official assignee would, of course, have charge of and be responsible for the Bankrupt's estate and effects until the meeting of creditors, when an assignee should be chosen by them, and of course they would choose one in whom they could have confidence. Then again, it is argued, and with some force too, that no man should receive a final discharge from his debts unless he paid or secured the payment of 10s., or at least 5s., in the pound.

This is a difficult and much-vexed question. It was discussed with great warmth for many years in England, and is now actually part of the Bankrupt Laws there. But it has only been a short time in operation, and its results are not yet sufficiently apparent to enable any convincing argument to be based upon them. The great and main fact, however, is the adoption of the principle compelling the payment of a dividend before a final discharge is given. For our own part we believe that the Bankrupt Laws of this Colony should be administered by the Supreme Court, and that all the Judges of that Court should be Bankruptcy Judges. We cannot conceive why it was thought necessary to establish a new Court, and appoint a Commissioner, especially to carry out our Bankruptcy Act. The Judges of the Supreme Court are by no means overburdened with work,—in fact, the amount of work done by them compared with that performed by the Judges in the neighboring Provinces, is very small indeed. Vesting in them the Bankruptcy jurisdiction, now exercised by the Commissioner of the Insolvent Court, would quiet, to a great extent, the suspicion and uneasiness now so prevalent in the public mind, and would abolish the present system of appealing, which is not only cumbersome and expensive, but attended by great delays. We wish to

cast no imputation upon the present Commissioner, who is both energetic and pains-taking, but we do think that the division and subdivision of jurisdiction, now being gradually established in this Island, will be attended with evils of a very serious character. But a fatal principle was introduced into our Bankrupt Law when it was first passed, and that was the payment of the Judge by *fees*, instead of by a fixed salary. We do not wish to throw too much blame upon those who were instrumental in carrying the Bill through the House, because we know the opposition they had to encounter, and the penuriousness of those who falsely imagine they are best representing their constituents by opposing all and every direct addition to the annual expenditure. But we do say emphatically, that it was a bad and an unsound principle, and has worked in this country as in every other where it has been introduced, "evil, only evil, and that continually." Human nature is the same everywhere, and we say that it is not fair to the Judge himself to let his pay depend upon his decision, and that it is grossly unfair to the creditors, and breeds in their minds jealousy and distrust.

We do hope that the present government will not be led by the violent clamour of a few interested parties to repeal the present Bankrupt Act, but that, by wise and judicious amendments, they will seek to make it what it should be, a real blessing to the community. The amendments we suggest, would probably necessitate the increase, to some extent, of the salaries of our Judges, but that we look upon as absolutely necessary, whether they are vested with original jurisdiction under the Bankrupt Law or not.

ON DR that some of the tavern-keepers are practical Temperance advocates. They believe in large profits, no "half" prices, and narrow tumblers with bottoms an inch thick.

ON DR that the Ladies' Economical Society have suggested to the Government the adoption of the narrow guage, as crinolines have been dispensed with.

ON DR that a company of married ladies have been organized to supply the government with sound *sleepers* for the railway. Husbands, be wide awake.

ON DR that in consequence of Friday's caucus, a courier left town early yesterday morning, with instructions to rescind the "Railway sleeper contracts."

ON DR that when the government are in agony, it is known by their *Mom*.

What kind of Court is that which lets a man, by cheating, pay his debts?



THE BROAD-AXE is for sale at A. MCKENZIE'S, Confectioner, Queen Street, and H. A. HARVIE and D. LAIRD'S Book-stores; also, by the City Crier, O yes! O yes! At Georgetown, at Hon. D. Gordon's; and at Summerside, by Finlay McNeill, Esq. Single copies, 3d.; subscription, 5s., payable quarterly in advance.

Correspondence addressed to the Editor of the BROAD-AXE, through the Post Office, will receive due attention.

Advertisements, of which a limited number only will be received, addressed as above, with money enclosed, will be inserted at the rate of 10s. per half-square for three months.

OUR ISLAND STEAMERS.

THERE is every indication of an early Spring, and we hope when it comes that our Steam Navigation Company will be prepared with a Time Table corresponding with that of the Shediac Railway. The want of proper connection between the boats and the cars, last year, was often complained of, and the travelling public thereby put to much annoyance, inconvenience and expense. Where the blame rested we do not pretend to know. We have heard it stated that it was not improbable the Island Government would, this season, have to hire a special train to meet the company's steamers whenever they arrived at Shediac. But we hope there will be no necessity for their doing so. We can see no objection or difficulty in arranging a time table that will suit all parties. It is surely the interest of the people of New Brunswick, as it is certainly their duty, to facilitate trade and travel between that province and the Island. The Steam Navigation Company used every effort, we believe, to accommodate the public, but there were always some objections raised by the Railway authorities. The Dominion has to maintain the European and North American Road, and it is certain that the more trade is diverted from that route, the more is thrown in the way of the Boston steamers, of which J. S. Carvell, Esq., is the obliging and efficient agent. Proper representations to Ottawa ought to secure mutual co-operation and assistance between our

Steam Navigation Company and the New Brunswick Railway officials. Instead of being at cross purposes, they should strive to do everything in their power to promote the public interest. Our steamers connect very well at Picton, and why not at Shediac? Our Provincial neighbors want as much of our trade as they can get, and we are quite willing to send it over their railroads and help to make them pay, but not if there are to be hitches and obstructions in the transit; of which, passengers, last year, loudly complained. We think this matter should be ventilated in the local press, so as, if possible, to prevent a recurrence of a grievance that ought not to exist a single day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE BROAD-AXE:

Sir,—I am glad to see you go in for the Railroad. That's right, stick to that, old fellow, and there'll be some chance to make money. I like your arguments, barrin one or two things. You say the Railroad will cost £5000 sterling a mile. Now, you know there's no use frighten the people—that's not the way to carry the point. You should not say much about that just now. Let's have a few miles completed first, and then we can calculate with more certainty. £5000 sterling per mile! Why, after all, 130 miles would only cost nine hundred and seventy-five thousand pounds (i'm not quite sure how to write this sum in figures.) Well, you know, we, I mean the people, that's the farmers, would get the good of it. That would make stirring times, old fellow, and that's what we want in sleepy holler. I am in for a grading contract to the notch of £300 (if I can get security.) Brother Dick has a good billet in a provision store in Boston, and he promises to jine me as a sleeping partner. You know what sleeping partners are, I spose—you know they always do well in government Railway contracts. Dick will send me supplies. Why he writes me, Mr. Broad-Axe, that's astonishing how cheap he can get supplies by watching the Boston markets:—flour often \$2 a bbl., just a little mity, but nothing to hurt; molasses, 10 cents a gall., only just a little thin and sour, but none the worse; tea, 8 cents a pound, only a little musty, but rale strong and will draw as dark as porter; soap and sugarplums, nails and nigger-head, soder and sole leather, caster ile and crockery, pipes and peanuts, kerosene and crack-cers, brooms and butter knives and all other like commodities just as cheap. Now you see, giving employment to capital, gives capital to employment, so I could soon get up a shop, and a real good wholesome stock for the navvies. The fact

of it is, I must make money out of the Colony. I began trade 17 years ago without a red cent, and I can say that I have held my ground ever since; and there's no fear of any honest man speculating now when he gets the chance—thanks to that admirable tribunal “the unfortunate debtors' court,” and the talented, enlightened and respected Judge, the honorable and worshipful Doctor Young, LL.D., P. G. W. P., M. Q. T. R., S. S. A., &c. &c. Yes, Mr. Editor, were it not for that noble institution, your humble servant, instead of freely attending all the Railway meetings and advocating the people's cause by screaming for the Railway, would be now deprived of his liberty, and a life valuable and useful to society wasting away within the walls of a damp dingy and desolate prison. But, Mr. Broad-Axe, you must come out stronger than you have done yet, for the Railway; and in doing that, you must keep up their Honors James Pope, George Howlan, and Andrew McDonald. These are the men I go in for. Keep them in power (these three will do), and we'll be sure to have a Railway. If there's money to be made out of it, these are the men to do it; that is to say, for the country, for the farmers—of course I don't mean that they will make money for themselves; oh! no!!—I would not wrong them by supposing so,—they are all *honorable* men, and have nothing but the farmer's good at heart. Sleeping partners—I mean sleepy holler—would soon go a-head, if you back up those kind gentlemen; they all think the farmers will not keep their heads above water another year, if they have no better roads than there are now to convey their produce to market; and they are so distressed about it, that they can talk of nothing else. Good fellows, so do, back them up.

Your friend

PETER PICK-AXE.

Ch'town, Feb. 24, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BROAD-AXE:

Sir,—Your correspondent “Q. C.” complains of the “relations at present existing between the Bench and the Bar,” of this Island, and deploras alike the want of courtesy in the Judges and the lack of independence in the Bar. It is a very easy thing to make sweeping charges. It is sometimes more difficult to sustain them. Young Barristers, it appears, indulge in a great deal of “tall talk,” after dinner, about their profession. That failing is not singular. It is common more or less to mankind in general, and if Q. C. will keep his ears open when he attends the next public dinner, he will probably note two-thirds of what he hears “bosh.” But are his charges cor-

rect? The Bench consists at present of three Judges. Are they all discourteous and uncivil to the Bar? I think not. On the contrary, I say, without any hesitation, that nothing can exceed the courtesy and respect with which the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Hensley treat the Barristers. As regards Judge Peters, I admit that he does not pay that respect to the Barristers which they are entitled to receive, and that, occasionally, he is very rude and uncivil. The instances referred to by Q. C., to prove the want of independence in the Barristers, may be correctly stated as to the facts, but I do not draw the same deductions from them that he does. Independence is a very good thing in itself, and a very necessary requisite for a lawyer, but Q. C. will remember, that in court a Barrister has more than his own personal dignity, or even that of his profession, to uphold. His client's interests are in his hands, and it is his duty to take care that those interests are not in any way prejudiced by any mistake of his, or by his temper getting the better of his judgment. Of course there must be some limit, and if the Judge should be, as Q. C. says he was, “insultingly rude” to any counsel, it would be that Counsel's duty to call him to account, and make him apologize. Instances of this are not unknown even in P. E. Island, I would inform Q. C., and that in regard to the very Judge before whom he asserts the Bar “cringe” so meanly. However, I will admit there is some truth in Q. C.'s letter. The Bar here are more deferential and subservient to the Judges than is compatible with a proper sense of their own dignity and position and, as a consequence, are treated with less respect by the Bench than they would be if they assumed a more independent tone. But, without making myself a panygerist of the profession to which I belong, I think I may fairly claim that the public have no right to complain of the independence of the Bar, and I may further fairly claim that no man, be he rich or poor, has had justice denied him through any lack of that independence. If any such lack of independence exists, the profession alone has suffered, and, as a member of that profession, I would put the blame on the right shoulders. If there has been any rudeness or overbearing conduct on the part of any of the Judges, the seniors have received their fair share of it, and if Crown Law Officers and Queen's Counsel choose to submit to such a state of things, I think it is hardly fair to ask junior Barristers to resist. In fact, their resistance would be idle, unless they had the moral support of the leaders of the Bar. I admit, that in the other Provinces the standing of the Bar is superior to that of ours, but there are more causes than one

to account for that superiority, and I indulge in the hope that it will not long continue.

Yours truly,

March 8, 1871.

A LAWYER.

ESSENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

(For the last two weeks.)

THE FISHERY DEBATE.

Hon. Mr. Howlan had nothing to say about the interference with Mr. Hall's trade, but he thought we ought to be civil to 40 millions of people.

Hon. Mr. Callbeck—The mischievous regulations of last year were forced upon the government.

Hon. Mr. Brecken didn't believe in the starvation policy.

Hon. Mr. Pope would express no opinion on the three mile line.

Hon. Mr. Sinclair believed the construction put upon the treaty was arbitrary and forced, and he considered the fishermen were taken unawares.

Hon. Mr. Howlan—They had notice.

Hon. Mr. Pope—The Gloucester fishermen wield a powerful influence at Washington.

Hon. Mr. McEachen—The seizures of 1853 paved the way for the old reciprocity treaty.

Hon. B. Davies did not believe in despatches "cut in two, like a side of leather."

Hon. Mr. Eachen—It was mean to let the Yankees take our fish.

Hon. B. Davies—Twenty years ago and ever since, they were among our best customers.

Mr. McNeill—Harbor police interference with our trade was no protection of the fisheries.

Hon. Mr. McEachen—It was the only way to bring the freebooters to their senses.

Hon. Mr. Sinclair—Fishing inside the three mile line was one thing, and re-shipping fish caught outside of it, quite another affair.

Hon. Mr. Brecken would never sell his birth-right in the mackerel.

Hon. Mr. Pope, on reflection, was in favor of asserting the 3-mile boundary.

Mr. Munro—The United States claimed nothing inside the marine league, and nine-tenths of the people of the Colony were opposed to last year's restrictions.

Hon. D. Davies thought the Commander of the *Vulcanus* exceeded his authority, but if the Americans were kept off, it might be better for our boat fishing.

Hon. Mr. McEachen defended Capt. Hardinge.

Hon. Mr. Sinclair—It was taking an undue advantage of the House to bring down garbled despatches.

Hon. Mr. Pope was wrathful, and pitched in.

Hon. Mr. Duncan approved of the action of the late government.

Hon. B. Davies repeated his objections to garbling the despatches.

Mr. Reilly—To abandon every thing is not the way to get reciprocity.

Mr. Neill—Our manaces will amount to nothing.

Hon. Mr. Perry hoped the High Commission would not make a treaty without consulting us.

THE CONTESTED ELECTIONS

Investigation ended in smoke, and a fortnight's expenditure of time, money and gas.

LEGISLATION.

The month's legislation consists of—

One little Bill of 12 lines. One little do. of 17 do. One little do. of five short sections about mortgages. One little do. underway for changing the first of January to the first of March. One little do. for transferring St. Andrew's property to St. Dunstan; and one big Railway do. (strangled in caucus.

ESSENCE OF CAUCUS.

(Held in the Legislative Council Chamber, on Friday, March 10, 1871—Patrick Moan, sentry.)

Hon. Mr. Pope—Gentlemen, I am glad to see so many members of both Houses here, some of whom have, in times past, differed widely on public questions. I am sure you all have the good of the country at heart.

Hon. Mr. Dingwell—Yes, certainly. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. Pope—The roads are very bad in this Island, and it grieves myself and my colleagues to see horses killed and carts broken hauling produce to market, and so we think it would be better to build a Railroad for the farmers.

Hon. Mr. Beer—A Railroad is a very good thing if it does not cost too much.

Hon. Mr. Yeo—How do the Government propose to raise the ways and means?

Hon. Mr. Bell—Before we have an answer to that question, I would like to know if any members of the Executive belong to the Railway ring, or expect a share of the plunder.

Hon. Mr. Pope—That is outside talk, with which we have nothing to do here.

Hon. Mr. Howlan—It is a great slander on the Liberal party. The country ought to know that "this here government is too honest for that sort of thing."

Hon. Mr. Haviland did not wish to hear street rumors introduced, for they only destroy the harmony of the meeting.

Hon. A. A. McDonald—Let us have peace, and a trunk line to Georgetown.

Mr. Reilly—I'm unanimous.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Richards remarked that the Speaker's question had not been answered.

Hon. Mr. Howlan—Well, we were thinking of adding 3 per cent to the present *advalorem*, and charging all the free goods at the same rate.

Hon. Mr. Pope—And doubling the land tax.

Hon. Mr. Owen—And clapping 1½ per cent., on the exports.

Hon. Mr. Strong—Hold! that will do.

Mr. H. Beer—The proposed increase would amount to a very large sum every year.

Dr. Robertson—Then there are no returns at all expected from the Road. I understood it was to clear, at least, half the yearly interest.

Hon. Mr. Haviland—Let us have peace.

Hon. Mr. Pope—And a dissolution.

Hon. Mr. McEachen was not afraid of his own constituents.

Hon. Mr. Howlan—It was cowardice that made some hon. members oppose a Railroad for the good of the country.

Hon. Mr. Yeo—The individual who has just sat down had better look the Attorney General in the face, and think of last session, before he questioned any gentleman's courage. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. A. A. McDonald—Let us have peace; there is no necessity to break up the party.

Mr. Richards—I am afraid the country is asked to undertake too much at once. The road should be built in sections, as our means will admit.

Mr. Munro—Beginning of course, at Georgetown.

Hon. Mr. Pope—The Government are opposed to that plan, and the wants of the farmers are so urgent that the work cannot be delayed.

Hon. Mr. Strong would rather digest an iron rail than go for the scheme of taxation proposed by the government. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. Howlan—I'll quit politics and rejoin my regiment.

Hon. Mr. Brecker—Don't.

Mr. Lefurgy—Positively, gentlemen, you spent the whole day doing nothing—when will you get through the business at this rate.

Hon. Mr. Davies did not like to see the government so pressing on an important question that was not before the country when they were elected. It looked bad, and tended to alarm the people.

Hon. Mr. Pope—Hush! there's Currie coming. Is the sentry at his post?

Hon. Mr. Bell—George, you may as well drop it, like a hot potato, for this session. It's more up-hill work than Kelly's election.

(Adjourned in confusion.)

ON DIR that one of the best precautions against fire, is the piling of ashes against wooden walls. *Vide* Steam Engine House, Grafton Street.

ENQUIRER.—We cannot say whether any Sleeper contracts had been entered into by the friends of the Government before the Railway scheme fizzled. Reports are probably exaggerated, but there has no doubt been a good deal of *lobbying* done.

P. O. HARE, Esq., J. P. Stands over until our next issue.

VOX POPULI.—Your letter is certainly very severe. We have no space for it to-day, and we are not quite sure that we ought to publish it at all. Gross negligence on the part of public officers should be first reported to the government, and failing satisfaction, then the press becomes a legitimate tribunal wherein to apply for redress. We shall probably write a general article on the School Visitorship, and bear your points in mind. We cannot agree with you, however, that £150 is a "handsome salary" for the work to be done, and the qualifications required for the office.

POLL CLERK.—You are right. The decision, in our judgment, is an unwarranted imputation on the character of an honest mechanic, but Parliamentary majorities do many things which private individuals would scorn to attempt. Party conscience is very elastic.

DEBTOR.—To an honest man, a just debt is never out of date. Only rogues take advantage of the six years' statute.

LEXICOGRAPHER—In type, but crowded out. Will appear next issue.

OBITUARY.

Died, or fizzled out, at Township No. 11, (for the want of formation), after a lingering illness of eighteen months, the Lot 11 Commissioners' Court, much regretted by a few friends and relatives. We deeply sympathize with the Commissioners in their sad bereavement. Let it rip. [pd.]

WANTED,

A LEADER and three or four additional Members for Her Majesty's Opposition. Apply at this Office.—March 12, 1871.

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N. B.—Condition Powders and Scholedion for the million.—For the pronunciation of *Refrachisseur*, our readers are referred to Mr. Eckstadt, or C. O. Winkler, the German *shaver* at DesBrisay's corner.

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D. O'M. REDDIN,

Attorney and Barrister at Law, Dorchester Street, Charlottetown.

N. B.—Money to lend.

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Babies' Dolls, Life Policies and Chinese Lanterns, wholesale and retail.

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