

# THE GUARDIAN

An Independent Journal, untrammelled and fearless; aiming to be **Just, Impartial, Reliable, Newsy** seeking at all times to further the best interests of the people, and recognized therefore as **The People's Paper.**  
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## THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1899.

### THE SMUGGLER'S PARADISE

Word comes from Newfoundland that Sir James Winter, Premier of that colony is about to propose joint action by the N. F. and Dominion Governments for the repression of smuggling from St. Pierre and Miquelon. It is mainly intoxicating liquors and tobacco that are smuggled and these to such an extent that it is estimated that Newfoundland loses annually \$100,000 and the Dominion \$500,000 by the nefarious trade. The practical possession of the western and northern shores of Newfoundland by the French gives great facilities there for the illicit traffic in the Ancient Colony, while the long stretch of thinly settled coastline along the Gulf and River St. Lawrence and Cape Breton enables smuggling to be easily effected there with the connivance of the French-speaking habitants.

During the past year more vigorous efforts than ever before have been put forth by the Canadian government. Special officers have been detailed for the service and a good many seizures have been made. No fewer than eight schooners, wholly or partly loaded with the stuff were seized in Cape Breton ports within six months of 1898, and yet the smugglers prosper. They even make armed resistance when occasion offers and they affirm that for every schooner seized in these smuggling operations fifteen escape and land their cargoes.

The principal traders in St. Pierre and Miquelon are engaged in this business. Ten firms in St. Pierre are well and commonly known to be engaged in the smuggling trade and of these three are millionaires, while four others are rated at over \$500,000 each. The profits are very large. On this point a Newfoundland letter states that rum is bought for \$1 a gallon and sold for \$4, while gin, which is got for 60 cents, sells for \$3 or \$2.50. Alcohol gives an even larger profit. It is purchased in St. Pierre for 30 cents a gallon, this being equal in strength to double the bottle proof, so that a man who would risk the purchase of \$100 worth of alcohol, and "doctor" it judiciously, could sell it in Canada or Newfoundland for about \$3,000. This "doctoring" consists in diluting the over-proof spirit and mixing in with it coloring extracts and drugs, the effect of which is to impart a "sting" to the concoction intended for use in a neat form, which tickles the palate of the Quebeckers.

The fact appears to be that the two French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon are at once a smugglers' paradise and the entrepot of a wholesale system of defrauding the Canadian revenues. The situation calls for still more energetic measures than have yet been adopted by the Canadian government. The need of a British consul at St. Pierre is greatly felt, and one should be appointed to that port. At present there is clear evidence that smuggling operations against Canada are winked at by the French authorities. For the great loss to the Canadian revenue and the demoralisation caused by the sale and consumption of the vile compounds smuggled into Cape Breton and Quebec, somebody must be called to account. It is clearly the duty of the Canadian government to carry on an energetic war against the lawless rum-pirates of the Gulf.

### THE COLD SEASON.

There are some persons in Canada who regret the severity of our winters and many in other lands have very exaggerated impressions of the extreme cold of the Dominion climate. Just now the Winnipeg Free Press comes to hand speaking cheerfully of the recent cold wave, in which the thermometer stayed for several days at 40 degrees below zero. "Here's to another cold snap!" says the Free Press. It tells that few persons who had warm clothing and plenty of fuel suffered any bodily ill in consequence. The death rate is lower in cold months than in July and August, even in Manitoba. Twenty times as many persons die from sunstroke as from freezing in nearly all the large cities. We have to be careful of our diet in the hot weather, but in winter can eat what we please and plenty of it. Yellow fever, cholera, plague and malarial fever flourish in the warm season, and if the grip does come to us more frequently in the cold weather what is that to the multiplied forms of disease that come with the burning sun of summer.

There are those who hold that the winter's cold is enervating, and it doubtless affects old and feeble persons unfavorably, but among the usually the robust and healthful there is more discomfort, illness and fatality in the months of spring with its quick changes of temperature and chilly east winds. The Canadian winter has its compensations in pastimes peculiar to the season; and although the cold, sometimes severe, is a distinguishing feature, it does not prevent thousands of our people living to number as many years as are attained by the oldest in the most favored lands. Our climate is on the whole a healthful one and just suited to our energetic, industrious and home-loving people. The home, in the best sense of the word, exists only in the temperate zones of the earth and in lands which have a well-defined winter season.

THE GUARDIAN regrets to learn of the death of Hon. H. M. Kane, formerly United States Consul here. The sad event occurred on the 19th instant at his home in Reading, Pa., where he had been for sometime ill.

The election of a President of France is made by the members of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies, sitting together as a National Assembly. The President of the Senate for the time being presides. Hence it happened that in the election the other day M. Loubet presided in the National Assembly while he was being elected President of France. No speaking is permitted. The names are called in alphabetical order, and the Senators and Deputies as they are called deposit their ballots in an urn in front of the president. In the voting the other day 812 ballots were cast and of these M. Loubet received 483 and M. Moline 274, the balance being scattered over several names. The full number of Senators is 300, and the Deputies number 585 in all.

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A very strong effort is being made to secure a commutation of the death sentence of Cordelia Viau, who was convicted with her paramour, of the murder of the woman's husband. It appears that the murderess has written Lady Minto and secured Her Excellency's written promise to do what she can to secure a commutation. Mrs. Viau's mother, now above eighty years of age, is carrying around a petition and has already obtained over 500 signatures, asking the Governor General to commute the sentence. It is also stated that Archbishop Bruchesi has promised his influence to the same end.

The overturn in York County New Brunswick was one of the most notable features of the recent election. York contains Fredericton, the capital city of the province. At the last previous election the four opposition candidates were returned by majorities averaging 1,000 each. The highest government candidate then received 2,334 and the highest opposition candidate 3,368 votes. Now the highest government member-elect got 3,679 votes and the highest opposition candidate 2,233 votes making a government majority of 1,446 votes. In Kent county the three government candidates has 1200 majority.

It is announced that parliament will be called together on 16th March—a date very close to St. Patrick's day, though probably without regard to the Irish anniversary. The prophets who foresaw a dissolution before the Queen's birthday will probably now change their minds. There will be no Anglo-American treaty to deal with but there are important matters of purely Canadian concern that must come up for consideration. One of these is what shall be done in answer to the verdict of the people as given at the plebiscite. The attitude of the government on that question must be disclosed during the session, possibly in the speech from the throne at the opening. With a full treasury the revenue objection to prohibition will not be so serious as it might otherwise be. In any case it will be a satisfaction to learn what the government will do in the matter.

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