## News by Telegraph.

LONDON, Feb. 18, midnight.—In the House of Commons to-night, in a committee of the whole, it was agreed to renew the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland.....In the House of Lords this evening Sir Stafford Northcote, the Secretary of State for India, made a statement in regard to the presence of the Egyptian troops in the Abyssinian expedition. He said that at the request of the British Government, the Pasha had agreed to recall his auxiliary force from Abyssinia, and the reports which had been received, that the Egyptians still remained in the country, and were advancing with the British forces, have not yet been confirmed by any official despatches received by the Government. He also stated that the expedition no longer suffered from a scarcity of water.....The examination of the persons arrested on suspicion of being connected with the Clerkenwell explosion, has terminated, all the prisoners have been remanded to confinement, except Allen, against whom no evidence has been elicited, and he has been discharged.....Bulletins in regard to Lord Derby's health, report that he is improving.....The Upper House of the Prussian Diet has passed the convention made with the Dynasties, whose territories have been annexed to Prussia. The King engages to suspend all payments of money to the Princes and to confiscate their property in the case of disloyalty.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 18—Cotton closed active and higher. Advices from Manchester favorable. Markets for goods and yarns buoyant.....Corn 34s. 3d.; Wheat 10s. 1d. for California white, and 14s. 5d. for No. 2 Red Western; Flour 37s. 6d.; Beef 115s.; Pork 71s.; for New Lard 55s. 6d.; Cheese 52s.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Gold opened at 140¾.

LONDON, Feb. 20, eve.—Advices to the 1st January have been received here from the English captives in Abyssinia; at that time they were all safe and well..... Late advices from Cape Town, Africa, state that the Supreme Court of Natal has at last decided the question touching the matter of Church property, in favor of Bishop Colenso.....The regular weekly returns of the Bank of England shew that the bullion in the vault has decreased four hundred and thirteen pounds sterling..... Consols closed easier at 93. Breadstuffs steady. Provisions quiet and unchanged.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Gold opened 140¾.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Allen, the Fenian, who was discharged from custody yesterday, after being examined on the charge of causing the Clerkenwell explosion, was soon after re-arrested on the charge of murder..... The bill for the regulation of the press is still under discussion in the French Legislative body. There was a violent debate yesterday on the question of the distribution of the Government advertising patronage The Opposition claimed that the Liberal journals were entitled to a share of advertisements published by national and municipal authorities. This was demanded, not of necessity but of principle, the speakers declaring that in a law for the regulation of the press all journals should be treated with the strictest impartiality. The effort to have a bill modified by the insertion of a provision to this effect was defeated, but the majority against the proposition was small.....The *Moniteur de Sur* has a report that there has been a stop in the advance of the British in Abyssinia, and that Gen. Napier is calling for reinforcements. Consols 92¾.

LONDON, Feb. 19, eve.—The House of Commons this evening passed a bill for the continued suspension of writ of Habeas Corpus in Ireland.....The leading members of the Liberal party propose to give a farewell dinner to the U. S. Minister, Chas. Francis Adams..... Sir George Lee, Judge of the Court of Queen's bench, died to-day.....Mr. Pigot, of the Dublin *Irishman*, has been convicted of publishing seditious libels.....Despatches and letters from Lisbon represent that the political agitation in Portugal continues. The new Government is very unpopular, and tumults are reported in various parts of the country.....A report is current in Florence that the French Government has detailed a frigate to watch the movements of the U. S. squadron under Admiral Farragut, in the Adriatic Gulf and eastern end of the Mediterranean.....Consols closed 92¾. General markets unchanged. Gold 140.

MONTREAL, Feb. 19.—There is intense excitement here over the departure of the Canadian Papal Zouaves for Rome. An immense audience was present at the special services held at Notre Dame Cathedral last night in connection with the event. To-day over 20,000 persons assembled at the station to see them off. Several persons were nearly crushed to death by the pressure of the crowd. The greatest excitement prevails among the Roman Catholics.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20, P. M.—Gold closed at 140¾

LONDON, Feb. 21.—George Francis Train delivered his first lecture in Dublin last evening; it was very thinly attended. Measures had been taken by the authorities for the preservation of peace. The correspondent of one of the morning journals, in alluding to the lecture, says, as a speculation, it was an entire failure. ....John Custin, an inn keeper, and David Murphy, a writer, were arrested at Cork yesterday on the general charge of complicity in Fenian movements. Murphy had but recently arrived from the United States..... Consols 93¾ a 93¾. Manchester advices favorable. Corn 43s. 5d. Provisions quiet.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—President Johnson has appointed Adjutant-General Thomas, Secretary of War, thus again removing Secretary Stanton. General McClellan has been nominated Minister to England.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Great excitement caused by the action of President Johnson in the removal of Stanton from the war office. Gen. Thomas, appointed to succeed Stanton, has been been arrested for violation of the tenure of office law; and committee on reconstruction agreed upon a bill to impeach the President.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Advices from Nassau to the 13th inst. have been received. A meeting of blacks had been held there; the speakers openly criticized the Government for its inability to extricate the Colony from the difficulties caused by lavish expenditure and extravagant measures, &c. The whites are thoroughly loyal to the British Crown, but are uneasy in regard to the disposition of the negroes.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21, P. M.—Gold 140¾.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—The *Evening Globe* has a report that alarming revolts have broken out among the prisoners in India.....The audience at George Francis Train's lecture last night in Dublin was very boisterous. Some persons present who hissed the speaker were very roughly used. A strong force of police were on hand, and prevented any serious personal violence or disloyal demonstrations.....The coroner's jury have concluded a protracted investigation of the explosion of the Clerkenwell house of detention, and to-day rendered their verdict. They bring a charge of murder against the prisoners, Barett, English, O'Keefe, Mullaney and two Desmonds, the woman Ann Justice, and others whose names have not yet appeared. A doubt is expressed as to the complicity of Allen, who was recently discharged, but has been re-arrested. The verdict concluded by severely censuring the metropolitan police in the Clerkenwell district for lack of activity and vigilance.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—Mr. William Foster, member for Bradford, has given notice that on Friday, the 28th inst., he will call the attention of the House of Commons to the state of the Naturalization Laws, and to the right of self-expatriation.....Mr. Sullivan, of the *Dublin Nation*, recently convicted in that city of publishing seditious libels, has been sentenced to six months imprisonment, and Mr. Pigot, of the *Dublin Irishman*, convicted of a like charge, was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment. Both prisoners will be required at the expiration of their terms of confinement to furnish security for future good behaviour.....The bill for the regulation of the newspaper press is still under discussion in the Corps Legislatiff. The amendments for allowing the free publication of summaries, and of the Corps Legislatiff debates, were rejected by a vote of 155 to 67.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—The impeachment question causes great excitement in political circles, and tends to run up the price of gold, opening quotations to-day being 143¾. The debate in Congress, on impeaching the President, will continue through to-day, and question probably taken to-night.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—A tremendous gale prevails on the west coast of England and Wales.....The great Breakwater at Holyhead, a massive stone pier 900 feet long, has been carried away by the waves, and the lights have disappeared.....No disasters to shipping have been reported.....The *Independence Belge* of Saturday has an article on the prospects of peace in Europe. It expresses the general feeling of apprehension which prevails, in saying that the vast military preparations which are now going on in all parts of France, are of a character and on a scale which lead to the conviction that they are designed to answer other purposes than those of national defence.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The proposed impeachment of the President led to a warm debate which occupied the House all day. Predictions are that the resolutions of Impeachment will pass this evening. Gold closed at 142§.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The question of Impeaching President Johnson was taken in the House of Representatives last evening and carried in the affirmative. 126 to 47.....Committees were appointed to prepare charges of Impeachment and report them to the Senate. Great excitement prevails on the subject.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Charles E. Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Anglo American Telegraph Company, died suddenly of appoplexy, in the Board Room, on Wednesday last....In the House of Lords to-night the bill removing the suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus in Ireland was advanced to a second reading.....In the debate to which the bill gave rise, Earls Russell and Grey spoke at length, advocating reform in Ireland in both State and Church. Speeches in reply were made by the Earls of Hardwicke and Ellenborough and the Marquis of Westmeath.....In the House of Commons this evening the proceedings were unimportant.

## Opinion and Report

*Of Attorney and Solicitor Generals, upon the Petition of Joseph M. Dixon and others, (Selkirk Estate), referred to them by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council.*

The Petition of Joseph M. Dixon and other inhabitants of the late Selkirk Estate, in this Island, has been referred to us for an opinion.

It sets forth that they have all become purchasers from the Government of their locations on the above estate, and that most of them have regularly paid up their accruing instalments of the amount charged upon them by the Local Government, for the Freehold of their Farms. That it appears now, as they allege, from the public accounts, that the total amount paid in, on account of the estate, has been more than enough to repay the capital and expenses laid out by the Government in purchasing it. They submit their opinion that according to the spirit and intention of the Land purchase Act, 16 Vic. cap. 18, it was not intended to exact from the tenants of any estate purchased by the Government, any amount beyond what would be necessary to render the purchase self-sustaining and keep the Government free of all costs and charges. Their request is, that an account of the estate should be made up, and if it should then appear that the capital advanced by the Government, interest and all lawful charges respecting the Estate, should appear to have been repaid, that measures should be taken to release the Petitioners and their Lands from all further payments on account of their purchases.

For the purposes of this opinion, we assume that the Petitioners are correct in stating that the full purchase money of the Selkirk Estate and all costs and expenses connected with its management, &c., have been reimbursed to the Government, and the questions on which we are called upon to give an opinion, are, as we understand them, whether, according to the intention and meaning of the Land Purchase Bill, an Estate when purchased, is to be required only to be sustaining in respect of itself, or whether an Estate purchased can be required to assist in sustaining another Estate, or Estates, where a loss may occur or shall be apprehended. and, incidentally, whether, where an Estate proves more than self-sustaining, and the purchasers or occupiers have paid a sufficient amount to clear the Government from loss, they are *ipso facto* discharged from further payments to which they have bound themselves by deed, or whether they are by law bound and compellable if required still to discharge all remaining unpaid instalments of their purchase money.

The Land Purchase Bill must, like all other acts, be construed according to the intention of the Legislature, collected from its express words, and where those are not explicit, gathered from the occasion and necessity of the Law, and the cause which moved the Legislature to enact it. The good intended to be done, the evil to be cured and the remedy proposed must also be inquired into, and such a construction given, to it as will, if possible, give full effect to the act, according to the true intent of the makers of the act, deduced from a view of the whole and every part of it taken together. Guided by these principles, we approach the consideration of this important case, and having given the statute in question careful consideration in all its parts and enactments, we report upon it and the Petition, as follows:

The object and intention of the Act, as declared in its preamble, was to enable the Tenantry of this Island to convert their Leasehold Tenures into Freehold Estates, at an easy rate, and on fair terms. This was to be done by the Government stepping in—advancing the money—purchasing the Lands, and reselling them to the Tenants on favorable and easy terms, with time for payment to be given them as specified in the Act. The Act requires the Lieutenant Governor, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, to call for Tenders for the sale of Lands to the Government, and when any Tender of an Estate has been received and considered, to conclude the purchase if approved of. After "each purchase of Lands" effected under the Act, the 9th section enacts that "it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Public Lands within three months to make a report and return of the Lands purchased, (for each Township, a separate report and return,) designating praticularly the quality, nature, description and position thereof, and arranging the same into classes; and it shall be lawful for, and the duty of the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of Her Majesty's Executive Council, thereupon to fix upon and determine the price to be charged for the sale of each class and description of Land; the same to be regulated so that a sufficient price be charged in the aggregate to cover all costs, charges and expenses of the purchase, transfer, survey and management of the Lands,—the purchase money and interest thereon—loss to the general revenue from decrease in the land tax, on account of the lands purchased under this Act; it being intended that this Act shall if possible, be self-sustaining, and that all expenses and outlays shall be paid out of moneys arising from the sales and rents of Lands purchased hereunder, and that the purchase moneys, and interest, should also be repaid out of the same fund, without any resort to the general revenue, if it can possibly be avoided, but that this object being attained, the Lands shall be disposed of to the Tenants and other persons desirous of becoming purchasers at as low a rate as possible."

The principal question now submitted to us, is involved in the construction to be put upon this 9th section.

We are of opinion that under this section each Estate purchased is to be priced separately, with reference only to its own cost, whether of purchase or working expenses, and not at all with any reference to any other Estate previously purchased, and that the selling price of each class of Lands is to be fixed, so as if possible to make the particular Estate to which it belongs self-sustaining, but no more than self-sustaining, and that if a loss should by any means occur, or be likely to occur, in respect of any particular Estate, it must be paid out of the General Revenue, and cannot be charged upon the Tenants of an other Estate, in short, that one Estate cannot be supplemented at the expense of another. A close consideration of the wording of section 9, appears to us conclusive on this point.

The Report to be made by "the Commissioner of Public Lands" after "each purchase of Lands" is to be a separate report and return for each Township, designating the quality, nature, description and position thereof, and arranging the same into classes, and the Lieutenant Governor, &c., is thereupon to fix the price of each class and description of Land. This can only refer to a particular Estate in question, recently purchased and never priced before. It cannot refer to or include an Estate or Estates previously purchased and priced. If it did, it would involve a repricing of all the Government Lands whenever a new purchase took place, and possibly might in some cases lead to raising the prices at which some of those Lands had previously been sold, a construction perfectly impracticable, unjust and absurd, and contrary to all principle. If, then, the Report and Return upon which the Lands are classified and priced, relates only to the particular Estate under consideration, as recently purchased, and not previously priced, then it follows that the price must and can only be regulated in reference to and on the basis of the costs, charges and expenses of the purchase, transfer, survey and management of the Lands comprised in that Estate, its purchase money and interest thereon, loss to the General Revenue from decrease in the Land Tax, on account of the Lands purchased, the salary of the Commissioner of Public Lands, and all other expenses attendant upon the working of the Act, so far as the latter relate to the particular Estate, or can be fairly chargeable to it.

Acting under the strict provisions of this section, it is hard to see how the pricing of any Estate can be influenced in any way by the results of a former purchase of another Estate.

The Act supposes that each purchase shall be self-sustaining, and whilst it acknowledges the bare possibility that the general revenue may, under certain circumstances, be resorted to, it never, in any part of it, gives the slightest evidence of intention that one Estate should be resorted to to make up any loss incurred in respect of another Estate.

If, as the Petitioners allege, the Selkirk Estate has been charged with the payment of any large amount more than was required to make its purchase self-sustaining, then we think that it has been so charged contrary to the spirit and meaning of the Land Purchase Act, under which it was purchased.

They have, however, it appears, under the 10th section, come forward and consented to purchase their locations at the price so fixed, and have taken and signed and sealed their deeds, and by so doing have solemnly bound themselves to pay the full amount charged, from the payment of a portion of which they now seek to be relieved; are they not legally bound, therefore, to pay in full, although the price charged may have been exorbitant? We are of opinion that they are, and that the relief for which they now seek must be obtained elsewhere than in a Court of Law.

The question raised by the Petitioners is one of the fair construction and intention of the Purchase Bill, and we repeat our opinion that the Estate should have been priced only so as to be sustaining in regard of its own cost, and that any price charged over and above what may have proved requisite to effect that object was not a charge in accordance with the spirit and intention of the statute.

Should the allegations in the petition as regards the Government having been reimbursed in its outlay, prove correct, on a careful account being taken, it will then be a matter worthy of the consideration of the Government and Legislature, whether it would or would not be right and equitable to pass an act giving some relief to the Petitioners.

(Signed) JOSEPH HENSLEY,
Attorney General.
(Signed) D. O'M. REDDIN,
Solicitor General.

Charlottetown, 13th February, 1868.


# The Herald.

**Wednesday, March 4, 1868.**


### MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

OUR Island Legislature meets to-day for the despatch of business. We are not in the secrets of the Government. We do not pretend to know more than our readers of its future policy. Any remarks which we may make are altogether our own; we owe nothing to governmental inspiration. It is the fashion, in certain quarters, to speak slightingly of our Island constitution, and to be witty at the expense of the three estates of our little realm. The area of our Island Home is very limited, and our topics of legislation are certainly not of world-wide importance. The newspapers of foreign countries are not filled with discussions on our political affairs, and the telegraph does not hasten to flash our governmental changes to the ends of the earth. Yet the people of the Island, few as they are, must be governed, and the interests of its public, though they be neither many nor great in the eyes of our neighbors, are of the first consequence to its inhabitants, and must be attended to. Though our relations with foreign countries and the defence of our shores are all managed for us, yet enough remains to demand the anxious care and to tax the energies and abilities of the best of our public men. It is of the utmost importance to the inhabitants of the Island that justice be fairly and impartially administered; that they enjoy the fullest protection of their lives, their property, and their reputations, that taxation be as light as possible, and that it be fairly imposed on all classes, according to their ability to pay, and in proportion to the benefits they receive from a settled government; that the education of their children be as good as possible, and as general as the circumstances of the country permit; and that their roads and bridges be in good repair, affording a safe and easy means of transit from one part of the country to the other. These, we say, and other branches of the public service that we have not mentioned, require the utmost attention of all who have the making of our laws and the direction of our public affairs. The happiness and the prosperity of the people, in a very great measure, depend on the able and effective performance of their many important and onerous duties. A truly intelligent man will never view with indifference the politics of the country in which he may happen to live, or regard with contempt the public acts of its public men. We know that, whatever be the course pursued by some few individuals who are very wise in their own conceit, the people of the Colony generally take, as they ought to do, a very lively interest in public affairs. Our legislators would do well to remember, at all times, that the public eye is upon them. If they evince a sincere desire for the public good, and shew themselves both willing and able to deal with our public questions in a statesman-like manner, their hold on the confidence and esteem of the people will be very greatly strengthened. Whatever may be said to the contrary, it is our conviction that the people of the Island appreciate, at his true value, a really honest and able politician. They have—and very properly, too—a thorough abhorrence of that scheming and twisting and dodging which certain parties, more cunning than wise, dignify by the name of politics. The public man, once convicted of trickery and double-dealing, need never expect to regain their confidence and support. The really honest man, though his abilities may not be of the most brilliant order, has nothing to fear. If he earnestly endeavors to discover what is best for the public good, and having come to a conclusion, fearlessly and honestly acts upon his convictions of what is right, he need be under no apprehension of the result. In politics, as in social life, the easiest and the surest way to gain a good and a lasting reputation is—to deserve it. We are fully convinced that the present House of Assembly contains more real unfeigned lovers of their country, and fewer mere politicians, than any previous one. We have no doubt but that these gentlemen will bring to the consideration of every public question, if not the most splendid talents and the longest experience—that without which talents and experience are curses to the public instead of blessings—namely: a sincere desire and a settled resolution to do their best for their country. We do not wish to be considered as wishing to write disparagingly of the present majority of the House of Assembly. We believe that the members who compose that majority are, to say the very least of them, in native strength of intellect, the equals, if not the superiors, of their opponents, and we are much mistaken if their future legislation does not prove the correctness of our opinion.

Our school law requires revision. In its present state, it is at once complicated and ineffective. Its provisions are too numerous and too apparently contradictory for the use of plain country people, who are those most frequently called upon to interpret them. Of all our laws, our School Act should be the simplest, most carefully worded, and the least liable to misconstruction. Its provisions should be the fewest possible. The intricate process which has to be gone through to enable the teacher to draw his salary, is both absurd and vexatious. The superintendence of our schools should be much more effective than at present. We have no reliable information as to the state of education in the country. The Reports of the Inspectors of Schools are so much waste paper. The Government do not know how its grant is expended, or whether the results of our educational system are at all commensurate with its cost. Inefficient, indolent, and immoral teachers are allowed, without a single check, to ruin the minds and habits of the children entrusted to their care; while there is no inducement held out to the really competent schoolmaster to continue in the profession which he has chosen. Some means should be contrived of weeding the incapable and immoral members out of the profession, and of encouraging those who evince a capacity for teaching to endeavor to excel in it, and to adopt the instruction of youth as a permanent occupation The efficiency of our school system, after all, depends on the competency of our teachers more than on anything else. Let there be a really good staff of teachers in our schools, and education will flourish; but, if they be ignorant and incompetent, no matter how excellent our system or how wise our laws, the educational interests of the country will be sure to languish.

Want of space hinders us from writing to-day more at length on the various topics of legislation likely to come under the attention of our law makers of both Houses during the present session, but we will return to the subject in a short time.

### CONFEDERATION IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

BY our Newfoundland exchanges, which we received on Saturday, the 29th of February, we learn that the Legislature of that Colony was formally opened for the despatch of business on the 30th of January. Notwithstanding the distracted condition of the Dominion, and the unsatisfactory experience of its history upon the smaller Provinces, the Governor of Newfoundland, under inspiration from Ottawa, seems anxious to have that Colony joined to the Dominion, as will appear from the following paragraph in his opening Speech:—

"Since we last met, the Union of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, under the British North American Act of 1867, has been carried into effect. By the invitation of Lord Monck, I was present at the opening of the first Parliament of the Dominion, and during my visit to Ottawa had opportunities for communication with the Governor General and his advisers on questions affecting the Confederation of the Provinces. I found the greatest readiness evinced by the Government of the Dominion to consider in a spirit of liberality any suggestion or propositions on the part of those Colonies which have not yet united with the others; and I am confident that any reasonable stipulations as part of an agreement for union will be assented to cordially. It will be to consider on what terms you would regard a union with the other Provinces as expedient, and after an expression of such an opinion, I should be prepared to submit the question to the decision of the constituencies."

Now, although it must be satisfactory to the people of Newfoundland to know that they are not to be deprived of their liberties in the same way as the people of Nova Scotia have been, yet we are pleased to find, from the St. John's *Patriot*, that they have taken the alarm at once, and are determined to resist Confederation by every constitutional means. Immediately after the speech was made public, a large and influential meeting of the citizens of St. John's was convened, at which the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

"*Resolved*, That this meeting sees with regret that it is the intention of the Government to press the subject of Confederation upon the consideration of the Legislature during the present session.

"*Resolved*, that it would be highly inexpedient and detrimental to the general interests of our Island to enter the Confederation on any terms whatever, whilst, as at present, the Dominion is distracted by financial and other internal troubles, and with the prospect of the secession of at least one of its members, that member, Nova Scotia, being our nearest and most intimate neighbor, whose interests are, in many respects, identical with our own.

"*Whereas*, it is admitted on all sides, and accepted by the Government, that before any step pledging Newfoundland to the Confederation can be taken, the whole question must be submitted to the people at the Polls; and whereas, by our Constitution, a General Election must be holden in the fall of 1869: therefore—

"*Resolved*, that to anticipate such Election, as appears to be indicated in His Excellency's speech, would be an extravagant waste of the public money, and would lead to great excitement, and arouse political passions, and this at a time when, from the depressed state of our common country, the harmonious action of all classes of our population is most necessary.

"*Resolved*, that a Petition embodying the foregoing Resolutions, and praying the Legislature to postpone all action in the matter of Confederation until the next General Election in 1869, be drafted for signature; and that the Hon J. S. Clift be requested to present the said petition in the Legislative Council, and Henry Renouf, Esq., M.H.A., in Legislative Assembly."

It would be a great piece of folly upon the part of the Newfoundland Legislature to entertain the question of Confederation, or to put the electors to unnecessary trouble and expense, until the result of Nova Scotia's efforts to obtain a Repeal of the Union are first known. If these efforts are successful, we do not think that Newfoundland will have any great reason to enter into a Union which has proved a source of heart-burning, misery, and positive injury to a sister Province; and, if unsuccessful, this important lesson can be learned at the expense of others, that once the liberties and privileges of the Colony are surrendered to an all-powerful Canadian majority, whether it be for weal or woe, they are gone forever. Agitation and repining will be alike unavailing to have them restored. The people seem to be well aware of this fact, and it is refreshing to find them taking timely measures to thwart the designs of scheming and mercenary politicians—a tribe with which Newfoundland, like every other place enjoying representative institutions, seems to be cursed. Judging from the spirit of the people and the tone of the Resolutions above quoted, we entertain the confident belief that the political schemers will come to grief, and that the Colony of Newfoundland will jealously guard and cherish its independent privileges, to be enjoyed by its inhabitants for many, many years to come. There is nothing in the origin, history, or experience of Confederations to induce the inhabitants of Newfoundland to throw in their fortunes with the Dominion. An Island, like Prince Edward, they are divided from the Dominion by nature, and they enjoy all the advantages of Union without assuming any of its burdens. Every reason and consideration urge them to remain as they are. The native of Newfoundland, who, with the experience of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick before him, seeks to destroy the autonomy of his native land, must be a fool, and no fit guide to lead others. If he does so for personal aggrandizement, and seeks to rear his own fortunes upon the ruins his of fellow-colonists, he must be a traitor. The Irish settler—not a few of whom have found a home in Newfoundland—who labors for the destruction of the liberties of his adopted country, must be false to his own instincts, false to the traditions of his country, false to his personal experience in his native land; and, had we the ear of the people of Newfoundland, we would simply say to them: "let no such man be trusted."

FIRE FROM AN ASHES BARREL.—A fire broke out in the house of Jas. Davison, Esq., of Rollo Bay, on the night of Friday, the 28th ult., which nearly resulted in the total destruction of the premises. By the most strenuous exertions of Mr. Davison and family—no time having been allowed to call other assistance—the flames were confined to the room in which the fire originsted, and were eventually subdued. The interior of the room was entirely charred, and the glass in the windows melted. Beyond this, no serious loss was sustained. The fire originated, we believe, in the very common yet careless practice of putting hot ashes in a barrel, usually placed in some out of the way room. In the present instance, the barrel was in the garret. We hope the accident will prove a warning to others who may be addicted to similar practices. We congratulate Mr. Davison on his pluck and perseverance, to which he is mainly indebted for having escaped serious loss.

SOME original matter on hand, is crowded out for the present, but will be attended to as soon as possible. "R. B. Reid's" report of a public meeting recently held at Alberton, will appear next week. We are sorry to learn from Mr. Reid's report that much distress, which will require the aid of Government to alleviate, prevails in the Western end of the Island.

THE Nova Scotia Legislature has adjourned until August next. It has been calculated by A. Jones, Esq., of Halifax, one of the Dominion Members of Parliament, that Nova Scotia pays at the rate of $2,000 a day into the Ottawa Treasury over and above what she receives out of it. Under such circumstances, it is no wonder that that Province seeks for *Repeal*. The lesson should not be lost upon this Colony or Newfoundland.

AN English Mail, with dates to the 15th ultimo, was received at the General Post Office on Saturday night last, but, as usual, the despatches across the Atlantic Cable have anticipated the news contained in our latest English papers.

Mr. Lawson's communication on the proposed amendments to the Corporation Act will appear in our next.

DISASTROUS FIRES.—Between 12 and 1 o'clock a fire broke out in a carpenter's shop, on Agricola Street, owned and occupied by Mr. James Scott. This fire originated, we believe, by the shavings around the stove catching, which, bursting into a flame, spread so rapidly that in a few moments the entire inside of the building was in a blaze. Owing to the scarcity of water in the vicinity, the fire spread rapidly, and notwithstaning the utmost exertions of the fire company, the building in which the fire broke out, with its contents, the residence of Mr. Scott, adjoining, a cottage owned and occupied by Mr. J. Morris, carpenter, and another owned by R. H. Nichols, and occupied by Mrs. McKenzie were all destroyed. Messrs. Morris and Nichols' properties were insured in the "Queens;" Mr. Scott's was insured in the "Royal;" but he is a heavy loser, as he had no insurance on his stock or tools. About a quarter to six o'clock on Sunday evening, fire was seen issuing from the tower of the Grafton-street Wesleyan Church. An alarm was immediately given, and the fire companies and military at once repaired to the scene. Fanned by a high wind, the fire spread rapidly over the building, and it was soon apparent that any attempt to confine its progress short of the destruction of the church was futile, and therefore every effort was directed to prevent the fire from extending to the adjoining buildings.—Fortunately, the houses opposite, on the eastern side of Grafton Street, were low, and the church standing on an elevated site, the north-east wind carried the flames over them—otherwise, in all probability, with the extreme cold that prevailed, we should have had to record a far greater calamity from the devouring element. The progress of the flames on the Church was watched with intense interest by thousands of people. As the forks of flame would rush upon the exterior of the steeple, and shoot up from the pinnicles at its four corners, the spectacle was grand in the extreme. At length the pile of wood, having lost its support from below, began to totter, and at last fell with a terrific crash into the burning mass below, sending the flames roaring and seething high into the air. With the fall of the steeple the danger of the surrounding buildings was past, and the flames were left to consume what remained of the Grafton Street Wesleyan Church. The fire is supposed to have originated from the bursting of a flue near the roof, close to where the steeple and roof joined. The building had recently undergone thorough repair, and had been enlarged. The interior was very handsomely fitted up, the pews on the ground floor being all lined with crimson, while the walls, pillars, &c., were painted pure white. The organ was new, and said to be a very fine instrument. This was consumed. The books, cushions, &c., and some of the gas-fittings were saved. The new school house, west of the church, being of brick with a slate roof, is uninjured. The usual bursting of hose which has characterised almost all the fires, since the introduction of the cotton article, was witnessed on Sunday. Will no amount of warnings suffice to stir up the City Council to take some action in the matter?

In St. John, on Tuesday, a house in Portland, adjoining the coach factory, and owned by Mr. John Farmer, was considerably injured by fire, and on Thursday, two houses on the Straight Shore—near Esley's Mills—were destroyed by the same enemy. They were owned respectively by a Mr. Forrest, and a Mr. McCarthy, the former was insured to the amount of $300.—*Hx. Col. of Feb.* 25.

Mr. Howe, in a speech at a meeting of his constituents lately held, said:—

"You will remember that when the British North American Act was before the House of Lords, and reference was made to the addresses and petitions from Nova Scotia, Lord Monck and the Marquis of Normandy assumed that I was to blame for all opposition to the measure, because I had gone into some of the counties and addressed the people. I am determined, when the question comes before the Imperial Parliament again, that this shall not be said. Since my return from Ottawa I have remained at my own fireside. I attended the two meetings held at the county where I live, and, as in duty bound, came to attend this in the county which I represent. Though invited to Cumberland, to Pictou, and other counties, I have declined all invitations, and have left the people to their own independent action. Yet, what have we seen? In every county they have risen, and with one voice have demanded the repeal of this hated Act of Union. Dr. Tupper ventured to assert, at Ottawa, that the September elections were not run upon this issue. He has now got his answer, and if Her Majesty's Government shall not think it sufficiently emphatic we are ready to run them over again. The people must bear their own sins this time, or noble lords must find some other scapegoat when the question comes to be re-argued.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE AT SEA.—On the 8th of January last, at 9 30. p. m., while Mr. Neil Dugald Campbell, son of Mr. John Campbell Mason, Little Sands, P. E. Island—being an able seaman on board the brigantine "Express," Capt. Young—on a voyage from Swansea to Cuba, West Indies and when along with two of the seamen, engaged in furling the fore topgallant-sail, the ship gave a heavy roll, carried away the fore-mast with three men, two of whom were rescued; but sad to relate, Mr. Campbell slipped his hold and was lost. The deceased was 22 years and 5 months of age. Being a sober and industrious young man, he was much esteemed and respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. By this accident, his parents have been deprived of that comfort and endearment which his untimely death has occasioned; but they mourn not as those without hope. Mr. Campbell left this Island last fall, on a voyage to Bristol, England. —*Pat.*

We are glad to learn from the *Progress* that an Agricultural Society for Prince County has lately been organized at Summerside. The officers are:—

*President*—James G. Wiggins, Esq.
*Vice President*—Cornelius Howat, Esq.
*Committee*—Hon. Alex. Laird, M. P. P., (Chairman) Daniel Green, Esq., M. P. P., Stephen McNeill, George Compton, Thos. H. Schurman, Esqrs., and Messrs. George M. Price, Wm. Taylor, A. Craswell, and Robert Glover,

The Committee have not yet appointed a Secretary and Treasurer.

It was decided that meetings be held in Summerside on the evening of every alternate Tuesday, at 7 o'clock, until April 1st, and then once a month during the summer.—*Pat.*

RIFLE COMPETITION.—The members of "Dundas Rifle Corps" mustered at Southport, on Wednesday, the 12th inst., for their Annual Competition for Prizes. The day being very cold, the average was not as high as in all probability would have been, had the weather been warmer, but cold as it was, the Shooting, on the whole, was very fair. There were 5 rounds fired at 200 yards, and 5 at 400 yards, making an average of 23 points per man. There were 39 bulls' eyes, 74 centres, and 73 outers made. The following is a list of the successful competitors:

| | 200yds. | 400yds. | Total. | Prize. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Donald McLeod. | 19 | 13 | 32 | £1 10 0 |
| Alex. McLellan, | 19 | 13 | 32 | 1 0 0 |
| Matthew Jardine, | 18 | 13 | 31 | 0 15 0 |
| Arch. Stewart, | 16 | 12 | 28 | 0 10 0 |
| Alex. Jones, | 13 | 14 | 27 | 0 7 0 |
| Robt. Smallwood, | 16 | 10 | 26 | 0 5 0 |

Southport, Feb. 21, 1868.—*Isl.*

On Friday last, Mr. John McCallum, Brackley Point, brought to market, 9 hogs which weighed together 2790 lbs.; Mr. James McCallum, 6 hogs which weighed 1536 lbs.; and Mr. Irving, Cherry Valley, 7 hogs which weighed 1766 lbs. Mr. Robert Bell purchased the two first lots, and O. Connolly, Esq., the last.—PAT.