

High Rates and Bad Arrangements.

THERE is another point in connection with the Northern Light to which the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries might turn his attention with profit to the Government he represents and to this Province. The rates charged for the carrying of freight are so enormously high that they practically prevent dealers from making use of the Northern Light. Between the Railway and the Northern Light the cost of shipping a hundred pounds of freight from Charlottetown to Pictou is FORTY-THREE CENTS. Twenty-five cents are charged for the carriage of a hundred pounds of freight from Pictou to Georgetown. Under such rates, the Northern Light cannot benefit the community; for the simple reason that business men cannot afford to use her.

Properly managed the Northern Light might be a great boon to Prince Edward Island. Under the auspices of the present Government of the Dominion she bids fair to be a positive evil. Formerly our mails came via the Capes every day it was fit to cross. Under the present arrangement, if adhered to, they will, at least once every week, be five days coming from Halifax or St. John to Summerside. Suppose, for instance, an English mail arrives in Halifax on Friday evening. It will arrive in Pictou at about one o'clock on Saturday; then it will remain until nine o'clock on Tuesday; and it will not reach Charlottetown till Tuesday night at a late hour, or Summerside till Wednesday evening.

Cannot this outrageous arrangement be changed and the rates lowered.

A Reformatory.

WE trust the present season may not pass and no decided steps be taken to establish a Reformatory. In each County of the Province there is a large public school for the encouragement of profligacy and vice and for providing a proper succession of householders, profligates and thieves. The children of the poorest poor obtain admittance to these schools, and study under the most accomplished thieves and cut-throats the County can supply. There is no place to which the youthful offender—of any class—may be sent to be corrected. This should not be so.

A communicated article in the Patriot of Saturday is on "Crime and its Punishment," is worthy of more consideration than the articles which usually appear in that reputable journal. We quote it:—

"We often hear of the increase of crime. Often of the present insecurity of person and property. But has anything come of these many complaints? Has any effort been made to improve matters? None, that we know of; except it be the action of the Corporation in giving us an addition to the police force. But however numerous or vigilant the police may be, without a great improvement in our present system—if so it may be called—of punishment, their efforts will be to a great extent practically useless. Though our community is a small one, and our civic existence has not extended over many years, we have in our midst a large number of professional criminals; men who, hating work but loving debauchery, spend all their time in contriving how to live upon the labor of others, who think of nothing but shoplifting, robbery and violence. They are at perpetual war with the honest portion of the community. They have been repeatedly apprehended and punished, and as repeatedly set at liberty after short terms of imprisonment. They, at least, have no reason to complain of the severity of the judge's sentence, or of the rigor of their punishment. Year after year we see the same term of punishment awarded apparently to all alike, without distinction of persons; the old offender and the youthful criminal receiving from three to six months. What a mockery of justice! How the old reprobate must laugh in his sleeve after the solemn judge has delivered 'the sentence of the court' without even with 'hard labor.' We have seen witnesses for the prosecution discredited by the prisoner's counsel by proof of their previous criminal conviction. We have never seen the evidence of a former conviction given against the prisoner. Why is this? Is this right, either on the part of those who prosecute, or on the part of the judges who sentence? Have the honest portion of the community no claim at the hands of those to whom they entrust the conduct of these matters? Sympathy for crime is unfortunately too generally confounded with Christian charity; and the spirit of the law seems often lost in the too earnest striving after legal technicalities. But we do not look for such failings in those who, from their ability and integrity have been set apart to administer the laws, and prevent crime by proper systematic and adequate punishment. What then is the cause of this? Is it from supineness or indifference? Elsewhere we see Legislators and Judges discussing this subject with ability, and with much laborious research, and we see the result of their labors in a well defined code of punishment. Within our own Dominion much has been done by earnest able judges, whose evident desire is to assist the honest portion of the community in ridding society of professional scoundrelism. How long are we to remain in 'statu quo'? In the words of an able critic, if such a state of things continues to exist much longer, 'It is scarcely to be wondered at if the honest poor man struggling to keep out of the devil's ranks, and taxed all the while to maintain the scoundrel class, should begin to think with Dean Swift, that honesty must after all be derived from the Greek word *onos*, signifying an ass.'

REMEMBER the Entertainment to-morrow (Friday evening) by the Prince Street Methodist Sabbath School (Brick Church) in their School-room. The programme is rich and varied, and no pains will be spared to make it the best of the kind ever given to a Charlottetown audience. Admission, only ten cents.

I. O. O. F.—Election of officers will take place in Wilkey Lodge, No. 27, I. O. O. F., to-morrow evening, when all members are requested to attend.

WELLINGTON McLEOD, Sec'y.

Fishing Facilities at Nail Pond.

A large public meeting was held at Nail Pond on the 20th inst. It was addressed by Hon. S. F. Perry, Hon. Jas. Yeo, Messrs. Hackett, Conroy, White and others. The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

Whereas, the people engaged in the fishing business at Nail Pond and vicinity labor under great disadvantages, and are subject to great losses and inconveniences in not having a suitable place in which to shelter their boats.

And Whereas, a number of boats come from New Brunswick to prosecute the fisheries around the coast, and make a harbor of refuge here, in cases of heavy North-west gales.

Therefore Resolved, That a petition be prepared and presented to the Minister of Public Works at Ottawa, asking him to cause a competent Civil Engineer to make a survey of those shores in the Summer of 1878, with a view of ascertaining the feasibility of opening a harbor at Nail Pond.

Further Resolved, That said petition be entrusted to our representatives.

A committee of three were appointed to carry into effect the above resolution. Said committee consisted of W. S. Larkins, A. J. Gaudet and Sylvian Bernard.

The Improved Taxation Machine.

At the Pownal meeting William Welsh, Esq., used the "mowing machine" as an illustration of the way in which the Tax Act will be improved, if Mr. Welsh's political friends are permitted to remedy its many defects according to their own designs. "The mowing machine," Mr. Welsh said truly, "was at first clumsy and unwieldy." It would not cut well do you see. "The principles on which they were made are exactly the same;" but "machinery by which the intentions of the inventor have been carried out, have been so modified and changed that, from an unwieldy machine, it has become a useful implement."

As with the mowing machine so with the "Assessment Act 1877." Clumsily and unevenly as the Act now shaves the people, it will, under the careful eye and skillful touch of Messrs. Davies and Stewart, be so improved that it will "cut clean." The people of Pownal were so pleased with this illustration that they passed the following resolution:—

Resolved, That notwithstanding some dissatisfaction at the defects of the Assessment Act, its meeting has full confidence in its representatives and in the present Government.

The people of Pownal are a singular people. In politics they have acted a most suicidal part. They rejected the railway, and alone of all the people in Prince Edward Island, they have accepted the "Assessment Act 1877." They will, it appears, be quite satisfied when the Act is so improved that it will—like the mowing machine—shave closer, and cleaner, and faster.

Licensing Board.

THE members of the Licensing Board met in the City Courtroom, on Wednesday evening. There were nine applications for license before them. Of these eight were granted, and one—that of James Landrigan, for tavern license, on Queen street—refused. The application of W. R. Watson for pint license was first read. Of the six names attached to the application five were recognized by the Board, and Mr. Watson was granted his license on condition that the unrecognized name be replaced by the name of a resident of the block on which he resides. Next was the application of John Murphy, for a saloon license on corner of Queen and Water streets. Mr. Murphy, being present, explained that the house for which he was getting the license was not at present in his possession, but that if the Board would be good enough to grant the license, the present holder would immediately give him possession. Mr. Murphy was questioned by the Board as to whether he intended managing the saloon himself or transferring it. He answered that it was his intention to manage the saloon; and if he made any alteration in the management, the Board were at liberty to cancel the license. Mr. Murphy's license was granted on condition that he manages the saloon himself; and that if any transfer from the management is made, the Board will immediately cancel the license. The application of John Kelly, for saloon license, on Grafton street, was then read. The Chairman, satisfied that the signatures on the application were right, asked for Mr. Kelly's "record." He was informed by the Clerk that Mr. Kelly had been fined for selling liquor to minors. This was enough to deprive Mr. Kelly of his license. But the Board was assured that at the time Mr. Kelly was fined he and his wife were confined to bed by sickness, and that it was a strange girl sold the liquor to the minor. The license was granted. The application of Duncan McMillan, for tavern license, on King street, was read. The signatures were satisfactory. His "record" was questioned, and it was discovered that he had been before the Stipendiary for selling liquor on Sunday, but that there was no proof of his doing so. His application was granted on the Board being informed that he was a very respectable man from St. Peters. The next read was the application of John A. McKenna, which was granted, he having a clean record and satisfactory signatures; also, Peter Doyle and Chas. Otto Winkler. There were only four of the signatures to the application of Catherine McKenna—for tavern license, on corner King and Pownal streets—recognized. Her license was granted on condition that she satisfies the Board that the signatures are correct. The application of James Landrigan for a saloon license on Queen street was next read. The signatures were satisfactory, but the "record"—His application was refused. In our last report we omitted to mention that the applications of John Bolger, for tavern license on Dorchester street, and Richard Mitchell, for saloon license, were refused.

TAXATION.

WE regard it as a good sign when our political opponents get cross and commence to be bitter and personal; and we are rather pleased than otherwise with the fury of the Patriot and its correspondents. One of the latter—referring to our late article on "Taxation"—asks:—

"Who, but a madman, would argue that in the levying of a tax in this Province the proper mode would be to levy one of \$3.50 per hundred acres on every hundred acres possessed by the tax-payer? Such a mode would, indeed, do well for persons like the legal editor, who are accumulating wealth in land and money at the expense of the hard working people, and who could then, for a mere nominal tax, escape an assessment proportionate to the real value of their properties."

Now, in the first place, the writer of the article on "Taxation" is not a madman. He is not even "mad" in the sense of being very angry. The Acts of the Government, their unfortunate results, and the ravings of the Government's few defenders, are to him subjects of sorrow rather than of anger.

In the second place, he is not accumulating wealth in land and money, for he is running a daily and weekly newspaper.

In the third place, he is not a "legal editor."

In the fourth place, he did not argue that in the levying of a tax on this Province, the proper mode would be to levy one of \$3.50 on the hundred acres. He merely pointed out that a tax of \$3.50 on the hundred acres would give the Government more than \$35,000 a year; and suggested as the best way out of the maze of difficulties into which Mr. Davies and his friends have plunged the country, the levying of that amount—which is scarcely larger than any farmer now pays—until such time as the people have decided whether or not they will longer submit to the present enormous burden of government, legislation, and officialism. If the people decide that they will not longer bear that burden, then, the writer urged, there will be no need of tax or Tax Act. If they decide to continue to bear it, then they may, if necessary, consider a fair and proper mode of raising the money required. This, the writer contended, was the practical way out of the present difficulty.

The writer showed, as clearly as he could, that the "Assessment Act 1877" was not drawn up in accordance with any of the recognized maxims of public economy; and argued that it could never be satisfactorily amended; because fundamentally wrong. He further declared that Mr. L. H. Davies must either submit to the will of the people or resign.

Latest by Telegraph.

WAR NEWS.

[By Telegraph to Reading Room and Daily Examiner.]

LONDON, Dec. 26. Active intercourse is now going on between London and Paris with a view of establishing an understanding on the Eastern Question.

Russia continues to pay Servia 1,000,000 roubles monthly.

The Sultan held a grand review at Constantinople on Monday, at which great enthusiasm was manifested.

The Servians, after eight hours fighting, captured Kcpalanka with three Krupp guns and a large quantity of ammunition and provisions. The Turks lost heavily in killed and wounded.

LONDON, Dec. 27.

General Skobeloff occupied Tragan with a large force.

The Czar declared his intention to forcibly resist any intervention.

The Cretan Insurgents have convoked a National Assembly, and formed a provisional Government.

Mr. Gladstone has apologized to Midhat Pasha for unjust accusations.

The Servians, under Generals Sesiganins and Benizalea, occupied Heskewatz and Kurshunlge, capturing a quantity of guns and provisions.

The Turkish prisoners from Plevna, are dying of cold and hunger. It is impossible to afford them any relief.

When the Turks made their sortie from Plevna, they left a thousand sick and wounded behind them, Hundreds of them died, and those who were killed in battle, lie unburied around Plevna. The prisoners are encamped among the dead—starving.

Stipendiary Magistrate's Court.

Dec. 27.—Joseph Steele, on complaint of Henry Green, for stealing money from his premises, was discharged to appear when required on obtaining two sureties of \$20 each; Daniel Egan, drunk and incapable, was fined \$2 or 8 days.

Married.

At the residence of the bride's mother, Charlottetown, by the Rev. K. MacLennan, M. A., Mr. Robert Fellowes Irving, son of the late Hon. Wm. Walter Irving, of Bonshaw, to Matilda McNeill, daughter of the late John McNeill.

Died.

At China Point, on the 8th inst., after a brief illness, Sarah Jane, beloved wife of Frederick Nelson, aged 42 years. The deceased was a woman of true Christian character, and leaves a sorrowing husband and 7 children to mourn their loss.

ANOTHER DESERTER.—A young man giving his name as R. Thomson was before the Stipendiary Magistrate for being drunk. He answers to the description of a deserter named Burke, which was forwarded to the City Marshal from the Adjutant of the 20th Regiment. The Marshal made affidavit that he believed him to be a deserter answering to the said description, and he was remanded to jail to await identification.

Grand Success!

—AT THE—

London House

THE GREAT

CASH SALE

Advertised during the months of November and December, which

has given such universal satisfaction in town and country, we have

decided to continue from the beginning of

the year, offering still

Greater Attractions to those who wish to buy.

A Choice Lot of ENGLISH TEAS, by chest and small package, marked very low.

GREAT INDUCEMENTS

Are offered in the Cloth Department, and parties in want of Suits or Single Garments, can have them made up at the shortest notice, and in the best style.

The latest Instalment of NEW GOODS just received by "Northern Light," via Halifax.

GEO. DAVIES & CO.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Notice to the Public.

SUPPLIES for the "Soup Kitchen" will reach the Committee if left at the Store of Mr. Alex. Horne, corner of Queen and Fitzroy Streets. Donations of money will be received by them through Dr. Dodd and Mr. J. Quirk. N. B.—Food for the sick carefully prepared by the Committee. Dec. 27—tf

GEESE!

in good order, for 35 cents each at H. COOMBS, Upper Great George Street.

Dec. 27—2i

CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN, Mayor's Office, Dec. 27, 1877.

SEALED TENDERS

WILL be received at the Mayor's Office, endorsed "Tenders for Blacksmith Work," until TUESDAY, 15th January, 1877, at 4 p. m., for Blacksmith Work required for the City of Charlottetown during the year ending 31st December, 1878. Specification to be seen at the Mayor's Office. By order,

WM. B. MORRISON, City Clerk.

Dec. 27—2aw till 15th ar till 15th

SWEET ORANGES,

APPLES, Lemons, Grapes, Figs, Nuts, Onions, Raisins, Currants, Spices. All kinds Crackers, Preserves, and the largest assortment of Confectionery to be had on the Island. Fancy Toys, Flour (by the bbl. or lb.), Tea, Sugar, Soap, Candles, Pepper, Mustard, Vinegar, and a variety of Groceries.

ALEX. MCKENZIE, Queen Street.

Ch'town, Dec. 27, 1877.—tu&fr3w

NO. 1

CLAPBOARDS.

5,400 NO. 1 CLAPBOARDS, For Sale Cheap, by

F. S. HANFORD & CO. WATER STREET.

Ch'town, Dec. 26—3i

Toys and Fancy Goods,

GLARING OUT PRICES!

HASZARD'S BOOKSTORE, West Side Queen Square.

Dec. 26—2in

Winter Express.

THE INTERCOLONIAL EXPRESS CO. will continue their business during the winter via Steamer Northern Light. Express closes every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening at 6 o'clock, and is received here on the same evenings at 5 o'clock.

Goods, Valuables, and money, forwarded, making as quick time as the mails.

THEO. L. CHAPPELLE, Agent.

Diamond Bookstore, 85 North Side Queen Square.

Ch'town, Dec. 26, 1877.—3i

NOTICE!

NEVER in the history of the "LONDON HOUSE" have we been selling DRY GOODS so LOW as at present, and we would invite those in Town and country, who have not participated in the EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS we are giving, to call at once.

We only ask a personal inspection to show that we are, in good faith, SELLING OFF at the LOW PRICES advertised.

GEO. DAVIES & CO.

Dec. 13th, 1877.—cod2w

45 TONS IRON!

ALL SIZES, at BEER & SONS.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT BOYS' DRUMS!! all sizes, from 75 cts. to \$2.50, and MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, suitable for Christmas and New Year's Presents, at C. P. FLETCHER'S Music Store, Queen St., Dec. 8—cod