

THE EXAMINER

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BY William L. Cotton,

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The Examiner.

Charlottetown, August 30, 1875.

RAILWAY EXTENSION.

A few weeks ago, we gave editorial prominence to the suggestions of Charles C. Gregory, Esq., C. E., respecting railway extension to various large and wealthy out-lying settlements throughout the Island. We are pleased to note that these suggestions are being considered.

This morning, we publish a letter on the subject which, we feel sure, will be read with interest. It is from a high authority. The thoughts thrown out in it should be well considered.

To the Editor of the Examiner:

Sir,—Much is now being said throughout the Province about Branch Railways to different parts of the country, and public meetings are being held for the purpose of discussing the best means of accomplishing the very desirable object of securing the facilities and advantages which railroads invariably confer upon the people.

The scheme proposed by Mr. Gregory, C. E., in my opinion, could not be carried out successfully—first because the local resources are not sufficient to justify the Legislature in granting a subsidy of \$5,000 per mile towards the construction of the branches, and next, because the farmers of this country—owing to the high price and scarcity of labor—have too much work to do on their farms to undertake the grading of railroads, furnishing sleepers, &c., &c.

But railroads the people should have; and if I can render them any assistance in procuring them, I will do so most willingly.

The Prince Edward Island Railway is now generally admitted to be a great success. It was built by, and at the proper cost of the people of Prince Edward Island; and never should have been given away to the Dominion. I will venture to affirm, that this road, under proper management, would yield, to begin with, from \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year over and above the working expenses—

which amount should be increased year by year. By proper management, I mean, that the freight tariff should be much reduced, that there should be second-class passenger fares, with every accommodation afforded to farmers and their families to take their productions to market; that return tickets should be granted, as in all other places; and, in fact, that every possible inducement should be held out to the people to travel, instead of, as at present, crippling the trade of the country by extravagant charges and want of accommodation.

There is no valid reason why the people of Prince Edward Island should not again own this road. The co-operation of the Dominion Representatives and the Local Legislature would secure it without any difficulty. The people themselves could then control it, regulate the charges, and give every accommodation necessary to promote the best interests of the country. The \$60,000 a year and upwards, that this road would yield over working expenses would pay the interest on one million of dollars—a sum sufficient to build 75 or 80 miles of branch railroads and the Local Government Bonds, with the main line and branches, would be a sufficient security to capitalists, to advance the money necessary for the construction of all the roads required. In this way, without any increased taxes, or unreasonable demands upon the people, branches might be built, and the whole be under one control and management—that of "the People of Prince Edward Island."

Your obt. Serv't, JAMES C. POPE. Ravenwood, 30 Aug., 1875.

THE HARVEST.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great quantity of hay spoiled by rain, there is, we believe, a larger amount secured in good order than was ever before secured in one season. The harvest of grain was commenced last week. Already a considerable quantity of barley oats and wheat has been secured in good condition. Wheat, generally, is thin, and the weevil has done some damage. The excellent crop of last year, however, encouraged our farmers to sow more wheat than for many years previous, and it is probable that our importations of flour will be still further reduced. An extra yield of barley and oats may also, if the favorable weather of the past week continues, be counted on.

Mr. Dawson's Lecture.—We call the attention of our readers to the lecture to be given this evening, in the Methodist Chapel, by Benjamin Dawson, Esq., of Montreal, illustrated by the finest Stereoscopic Views ever shown in the Dominion. Apart from the object to which the funds are to be applied, (the Wesleyan Academy) this entertainment is of a very high order, and ought to commend itself to the most refined taste of the community. We hope to see the large edifice crowded to its utmost capacity.

Downed at Sea.—The Brig, Bittern of this port, Capt. Yates, which arrived on Friday, reports the loss of two seamen, between Sambro and Halifax, on the 18th inst., while on a voyage from Trinidad to this Island. They were washed away while stowing the flying jib, in a heavy gale.

CIVIL.—We are obliged to defer the further consideration of civic matters until next week. We will then correct a mistake respecting the taxes collected, into which we were led, in spite of our best efforts to obtain reliable information.

A Monument to George Cole.—The Patriot suggests that a monument be raised to the memory of the late Hon. George Cole, and that subscription lists be opened in all parts of the country to raise a fund for that purpose.

"BANKERS."—Three Fishing Schooners from the Banks of Newfoundland arrived here on Sunday, looking for bait and ice.

LAND COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

The Commissioners have during the past week, been engaged in hearing evidence, etc., respecting the estates of Miss Sullivan, and R. B. Stewart, Esq. In the former case, John Longworth, Esq., assisted in managing the case for the proprietor. Mr. Thompson, Counsel on behalf of the public was absent, and the case was conducted by the Attorney and Solicitor General and L. H. Davies, Esq. The latter gentleman briefly opened proceedings. Evidence was then elicited which showed that Miss Sullivan is in possession of Lots 9, 16, 22, and 61; that on all these Lots the average of arable is about five years rent, that some of the tenants owe \$300, and upwards, some \$200, some \$160, and very many sums varying from \$100 to \$20; that on the whole estate there are 44,514 acres held by lease or by written or verbal agreement, while there are 21,321 acres unoccupied; that the land throughout, is of fair average quality. The price demanded for it is twenty shillings, old Island currency, per acre. On the part of the proprietors the case was closed by John Longworth, Esq. After alluding to the 'very extraordinary law' by which persons were compelled to appear in court for the purpose of answering to the offence of owning property, he went on to say that his client—being a party to the Fifteen Years Purchase Act—was not liable for any breach of the original conditions on which the land was granted by the British Government—her title was clear and undisputed. In 1839 no less than \$45,840 of arrears had been remitted; and now, compelled by Act of Parliament, to relinquish the land itself, he thought his client was entitled to a fair equivalent. The gross rental of the estate was \$7,289,50 per annum; and, because of the increasing difficulty of investing money profitably and safely, he contended that for the leased lands, his client should be awarded a sum which at 5 per cent per annum would yield that amount; that for the unoccupied land Miss Sullivan should now have twenty shillings per acre, because the recent construction of the railway, had greatly enhanced its value. The arrears (\$36,339) he claimed in full, because they could all, except in the case of a few widows or specially poor people, be collected; or if not, the Government which took the land, could better afford to bear the loss than his client. Then the cost of legal proceedings (\$781,85) which had been taken against tenants in arrears because of the passage of the Compulsory Law, and also the cost—estimated at \$200—to which his client would be put in appearing before the Commissioners, should, he contended, be borne by the Local Government. The total amount his clients claims is \$237,356,12.

Mr. Davies commenced his reply, on behalf of the public, by sarcastically complimenting the opposite side on their excessive moderate request—\$240,000 (in round numbers) for 44,000 acres of land, two-thirds of which was barren! Again he claimed the attention of the Commissioners to the fact that this question was not a purely private question. By the Fifteen Years Purchase Bill it was acknowledged that it is a great public grievance which the Commissioners are called upon to settle. With respect to the arrears on the Sullivan Estate, he said it is worthy of remark that although all the arrears to 1858 had been remitted, and although the Island had since then prospered greatly, and although Miss Sullivan was represented here by one of the most active agents on the Island—still they had reached the large sum of \$36,339. From the facts enumerated, he argued that the people were absolutely unable to pay their rent, and that the arrears, were to a certain extent, irrecoverable, and worth little or nothing. And, on what principle does Miss Sullivan now demand twenty years purchase for leased lands, when in 1858, Sir Lawrence Sullivan solemnly bound himself to accept Fifteen Years Purchase? If there is any reason it should be shown. Sir Lawrence Sullivan bound himself to accept Fifteen Years Purchase for the very best farms occupied by the best paying tenants on his estates, but now twenty years purchase is demanded for the whole lot—barrens and all. How is this? He contended that Miss Sullivan's agent should show how, only fifteen or eighteen tenants on the estate had taken advantage of the Fifteen Years Purchase Act; and the inference is that the great majority were unable to pay so large a price. Sir Samuel Cunard sold his estate for five shillings sterling an acre; and on comparison it will be found that the land on many of the Lots in the Cunard estate was superior to that on the adjoining Lots of the Sullivan estate. The award of twenty shillings an acre could only be made on the principle that the Act from which the Commissioners received their powers. The claim of twenty shillings an acre for the unoccupied wilderness lands was monstrous. Twenty cents an acre would be nearer its value. Lot 11—which is better by half than Lot 12—was, in 1856, sold to the Government for 75 cents per acre, and 5000 acres were thrown in for nothing. Former sales were fair criteria of the value of the land, and to those he called the Commissioners' attention. With respect to the demand for payment of expenses incurred in harassing poor tenants—in the attempt to collect rents which were practically irrecoverable—it was ridiculous. The demand for payment of the cost of appearing before the Commissioners was a very small affair. He submitted the case to the consideration of the Commissioners, feeling confident that Justice would be done by them. The Commissioners announced that their award would be made known in the manner provided by law.

They then announced that they would proceed with the investigation of the affairs of Mr. R. B. Stewart's estate. Mr. Stewart thereupon submitted a solemn protest against the investigation and a charge of breach of faith by the British Government. E. J. Hodgson, Esq., opened the case on his behalf. Mr. Stewart, he said owned land in Lots 7, 10, 12, 27 and 30. A small portion of his estate—some four thousand acres—had been conveyed to his children; and the farm on which Mr. Stewart's homestead had also been secured. With these he conceived, the Commissioners had nothing whatever to do. The lands, occupied and unoccupied, he valued at twenty shillings (\$3.24) an acre; the arrears at their full amount.

Mr. Hodgson entered pretty fully into the details of his client's claims. At the conclusion of his address he called Mr. Stewart who took the usual oath and gave his testimony. Messrs. Robert B. Stewart, jr., Benjamin Desbris, and James Kinlay were examined on Saturday. The case is now proceeding.

LAW SUIT SETTLED.—The lawsuit between Messrs. Hunt and Yeo, and Schriber and Burre, has been withdrawn and an amicable settlement made between the parties.—Patriot.

MASONIC PICNIC.—The Masonic Picnic at Freetown on Wednesday last, was a great success. About 400 brethren were present.

JAMES DOUGLASS HAZARD.

LAST WEEK we chronicled the death of one whose name was for many years constantly and prominently before the people of Prince Edward Island; of one who filled many responsible positions with credit to himself and advantage to the Colony;—of one who lived an honest man; and died aged and respected. This week we present our readers with a necessarily brief and imperfect sketch of his life.

In 1839 Thomas Hazard emigrated from the west of England, and in company with eight others, formed the first settlement at Newport Island in Narraganset Bay, Colony of Rhode Island. His fourth lineal descendant was also named Thomas, and, during the American Revolution, sacrificed an immense fortune in the cause of liberty. He was actively employed in carrying dispatches and served as Captain in the New York Militia; was several times taken prisoner by the Americans, narrowly escaping with his life. In 1785, he, with two sons, owing to inducements held out to the loyalists, came to this Island, and received grants of land at lot five. Finding it impracticable to form a settlement at a distance of fifty miles from any human habitations, the land was disposed of, and Thos. Rhodes, his eldest son, eventually settled in Charlottetown. And here was born, on the 27th June, 1797, his eldest son, James Douglass Hazard. Though of late years decorated with several honors, he retired from public life, in the early history of our Province, he took an active and prominent part. In 1823 he published the *Prince Edward Island Register*, and successively the *Royal Gazette and Herald's Gazette*, until 1848. Unselfishly devoted to the interests of his native land, and sincerely attached to British institutions, he took an active part in politics, and was distinguished for his fearless advocacy of truth and justice. While holding fast that which was good, he was the advocate of all really progressive measures, and the people's friend,—his firm stand in their behalf and his resistance of tyrannical agents of the Imperial Government having more than once nearly caused his deprivation of the office of Queen's Printer and the entire suppression of the paper. By all classes and creeds, the paper was welcomed, and often formed the only Primer and Reader of the people. In a magisterial capacity his duties were arduous and incessant; and in the administering of justice, he endeavored, and often successfully, to act the part of the peacemaker, restoring broken friendships and sending away the disputants without fees to pay, or, when charged, handing over the money to the wronged and needy.

At the age of eighteen he served in the first battery of Provincial Artillery, which was stationed at the harbour's mouth to prevent the entrance of an American Privateer. The ship however, after reconnoitering at a distance, sailed away, and relieved the battery from further duty at that point. He proved himself an efficient officer on many occasions, especially during the re-capture of Martin, the 'Saladin' mutineer, and other murderers who were making their escape from the jail.

The deceased was connected with every society that was calculated to improve the Colony. Among these we may mention the Mechanics Institute, Temperance Hall Co., the Gas Company, Insurance Company &c., &c. He was the first to erect a cloth dressing mill on this Island, and was a liberal contributor towards all public works for which aid was asked. While in business, there was hardly a road, bridge, wharf, church, or other public undertaking, towards which he did not contribute aid in some way, without respect to class or creed. During the famine of 1842 he came to the relief of hundreds of starving families, and when his debtors were widows or orphans he sought not his own. His hospitality to strangers and residents, won him the esteem and regard of all.

THE LONDON "TIMES" AND THE COLONIES.

An impression prevails in this country that the London Times has been systematically inimical to Canada. Its late depreciation of new railway enterprises in the Dominion was instanced as a case in point, but, surely the recent revelations in connection with the Northern Colonization Railway fully justify the advice which it rendered to English capitalists. In one respect, the Times has hardly done justice to the country and that was, by manifesting too little interest in Canadian affairs. In this respect, however, it only sinned in common with the whole English Press. We are happy to note that English newspapers of late years have treated the Dominion with more consideration, and that more accurate knowledge of events which transpire here are furnished to the British public. Much of the apparent antagonism of the Times to Canada is explained in that journal in its issue of the 6th inst., where in speaking of the policy it has pursued in regard to British Finance, it incidentally states the course it has pursued in regard to the Colonies. It says, "Another cause of vast and unceasing waste was our old colonial system. Our troops and squadrons were everywhere, doing something or other for the colonists, who lived by the expenditure and then abused the Mother Country. Years ago, a Calbre war, undertaken for a people who would not allow an English convict to land in the colony, would sweep away a million sterling or two of our home revenue. And it is but the other day that we had ten thousand men in New Zealand. It was this journal which, amid violent abuse from various colonial interests, labored to break up this system, and it is now gone, to the benefit and to the mutual good will of the Mother Country and its dependencies." The policy advocated by the great organ of English public opinion has certainly resulted, as far as we are concerned, in making us more self-dependent and self-reliant, and to that extent has advanced our dignity and importance as an integral part of the British Empire.—Toronto Leader.

PERSONAL.—The Rev. John Ellis has returned from a trip through the Upper Provinces and the United States.—Dr. George Warburton, son of the Hon. James Warburton, who recently passed a brilliant examination for the medical branch of the India Civil Service, is now on the Island on a visit to his family, previous to his departure for India.—J. H. Fletcher, Esq., of the Argus, has gone to California. He had, we understand, some thoughts of removing hither, but it is likely the extreme depression in business which exists there will have a deterrent effect. We should be sorry to lose Mr. Fletcher. He is a good neighbor and a very useful member of the community.

REMEMBER the Lecture in Y. M. C. A. Hall, on Wednesday evening next, by Mr. Campbell, the Historian, on "The Wonders of the Heavens."

PERSONAL.—Miss Williams, head teacher of St. Peter's School for girls, arrived from England last week.

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SUMMERSIDE AND ITS INDUSTRIES.

WELLBE PHILLIPS recently told the people of Boston that a city's prosperity does not depend upon location nor the accident of position, but upon the brains of its business men—the genius and enterprise of its people. That he told them a truth and an advantage to the Colony,—of one who lived an honest man; and died aged and respected. This week we present our readers with a necessarily brief and imperfect sketch of his life.

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LATEST NEWS SUMMARY.

EUROPEAN. A plot has been discovered against Don Carlos in which many of his Generals are implicated. Madrid despatches state that negotiations are pending for the surrender of Soudargel by the Carlists. The arrival of the Sultan of Turkey is expected to create a stir to prevent threatened insurrection. Russia will recognize the new Khan of Kokand on condition of indemnification and restoration of the old treaties.

BRITISH. Sir Edward Ryan, Vice-Chancellor of the University, London, is dead. Capt. Webb has succeeded in swimming across the British Channel from Dover to Calais. Victoria Anderson a rope dancer, fell from a rope eighty feet high, during a performance at Sheffield, Eng., the other night, and was killed.

The foot and mouth disease has broken out with great violence in Dorsetshire, Eng., and 120 animals are down. The distemper is spreading rapidly to other parts of England. Lord Carnarvon has been waited upon by a deputation with reference to the proposed North-West African expedition, the object of which is to make a preliminary survey of the African coast opposite the Canary Islands with the view of opening up communication with Central Africa. The noble Earl wished the scheme, which he believed to be a great one, to succeed, and to say anything in the way of official sanction or encouragement. Sir Bartle Frere has written to Mr. McKenzie regretting his inability to be a member of the deputation, and stating his opinion that the undertaking ought to be vigorously supported by the Government.

The Times in its commercial column says: the grain market is inactive, but the prices of wheat will be well maintained this season. This was sustained in the market in spite of the heavy arrivals of foreign wheat. The British wheat so far brought to market has not been of good quality. There is not much that is new to report about the condition of trade abroad. Harvest will generally be about three per cent below a fair yield, but with old stocks to draw on, there can be nothing approaching a scarcity and a moderate advance on last season's prices is likely to secure us an abundance. The improved feeling recently manifested in the City will give the several parcels have been withdrawn from the public sales on account of reduced offers.

The most extensive preparations are being made in Sheffield for the approaching visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales, in connection with the new Fifth Park. The visit will last several days. After the ceremony of opening the Park their Royal Highnesses will pass through the town to the residence of his Worship the Mayor, where the Royal visitors will dine, and in the evening will attend a grand ball which will be given by the Mayor and Mayoress in the Cutlers' Hall. On the afternoon of the second day their Royal Highnesses will honor the Master Cutler of Hallamshire with their presence at a luncheon given by the Mayor, and afterwards they will attend a garden party which is to be given by his Grace the Duke of Norfolk at his residence, the Farm. During their visit, too, her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales has graciously promised to present her own collection of the 19th Regiment stationed in Sheffield; and on Tuesday evening their Royal Highnesses will again dine at the residence of his Worship the Mayor, where they will remain till the following day.

A writer in Nature, Mr. G. J. Romanes, has collected some cases tending to show that some animals possess the sense of humor. A young orang-outang in the Zoological Gardens, London, used frequently to amuse the spectators by placing an insect in his ear, and when he was severely gratified by its antics called forth a laugh. A skye terrier of Mr. Romanes, while lying upon one side and violently grinning, would hold one leg in its mouth, and was manifestly pleased when the "joke" was appreciated by the spectators. When such a skye terrier, as an ill-treated animal, "he smug dog" was fond of catching flies on the window-panes, but if ridiculed when unsuccessful, he was much annoyed. We have ourselves frequently observed this peculiar merriment in dogs, especially those who have been much petted. Mr. Romanes says that his dog was sometimes so distressed when he failed to catch his fly and this became a bait for ridicule that he would frequently endeavor to catch one going through the appropriate action with lips and tongue, and even simulate killing his victim. "So well was the piece of acting accomplished, that the spectator would have been quite deceived, had he not seen that the dog was only endeavoring to catch one, as an ill-treated animal, "he smug dog" was fond of catching flies on the window-panes, but if ridiculed when unsuccessful, he was much annoyed. We have ourselves frequently observed this peculiar merriment in dogs, especially those who have been much petted. Mr. Romanes says that his dog was sometimes so distressed when he failed to catch his fly and this became a bait for ridicule that he would frequently endeavor to catch one going through the appropriate action with lips and tongue, and even simulate killing his victim. 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