

The Public Accounts.

WHEN Mr. Louis Henry Davies informs the readers of the *Patriot* that he has found the task of replying to our articles "wearisome work," most of his readers will be inclined to believe him. His latest production, extending, as it does, over nearly three columns of the *Patriot* is, in all conscience, "weary" enough; and, we might add, dreary enough also. But these are not its greatest defects. It is sadly lacking in what a venerable Nova Scotia Doctor of Divinity would call the "essential element." We have only time to call attention to one of the many instances in which the ex-Premier has plainly and, we are sorry to add, wilfully departed from the truth. He says "amongst all the confusion and contradiction now existing with reference to our finances, there are some broad facts admitted on all sides, and I desire to call public attention to them."

"1st. That for the first time since Confederation, we have a debt against the Province."

Now, against this "broad fact" No. 1, we will place the words of Mr. L. H. Davies in 1875. He then said:—

"The actual debt of the Colony had been increased during the past year, and the larger our debt became, the less revenue we would receive from the Dominion. \* \* \* Owing to the increase of our debt and the consequent diminution of the interest to be paid us, the annual subsidy to be paid us would, this year, be less than in 1874.—VIDE PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER, 1875."

Now, we ask if the Ex-Premier spoke the truth in 1875, when he said that we had an "actual debt" at that time, and which was being "increased," how can he now assert as a "broad fact, admitted on all sides," that for the first time since Confederation we have a debt against the Province! But this is not the worst. On the 15th of May last, this same Mr. Louis Henry Davies wrote a letter to the press, in which he said:—

"The Speech which the present Administration put into the Governor's hands at the opening of the Legislature, contained a statement that there was at present a public debt on the Island, and that they were about devising measures—to use their own choice language—to extinguish that debt. The publication of that statement certainly startled me because I knew it to be absolutely untrue."

"We find ourselves possessing actual available assets, amounting in value to over \$1,615,533.75, at the very time that our rulers make the announcement in the Governor's Speech, that there is a public indebtedness."

We now leave Mr. L. H. Davies to reconcile his various statements in reference to the public debt, and to assist him in the task which, we dare say, he will pronounce very "wearisome work," we will recapitulate as follows:—

1st. His declaration in 1875, that the Colony was in debt at that time,

2nd. His declaration in May, 1879, that we could have no public debt, while we had lands in our possession to the value of \$708,706.63, and assets at Ottawa, amounting to \$906,872.12.

3. His declaration in the last *Patriot* in which he says "the broad fact is admitted on all sides that for the first time since Confederation we have a debt against the Province."

The man who on three separate occasions has made solemn declarations in reference to our public debt, any one of which gives the lie to the other two, is not to be trusted in anything he may say in reference to the finances of this Province.

We have the satisfaction of knowing that notwithstanding Mr. Davies' long, labored and "wearisome" letters, and the earnest labours of his equally "wearisome" and unscrupulous assistants,—Messrs. Frederick W. Hyndman and W. D. Stewart—the decision of the intelligent public may be summed up in a few words.

1st. That the present Government on taking charge of the Treasury, found nearly \$80,000 of the current revenue expended in the first two months of the year, most of which had been applied in the payment of debts belonging to 1878, amongst which was \$21,164.16, as teachers' salaries only three quarters of such being paid in 1878.

2. That the present Government have abolished sinecures, amalgamated certain offices, reduced the salaries all round, and greatly reduced the people's burdens by their policy of retrenchment, as well as by their judicious and honest expenditure of the public funds.

3. That the full fruits of the economical reforms introduced last spring could not be expected to appear in 1878—the new Civil Service Act only taking effect on the 1st of July.

The amusing part of Mr. Davies' letter is where he quotes the *Patriot* as an authority on the Public Accounts. The next thing in

order will be to quote Mr. W. D. Stewart's opinion as settling the whole question. These gentlemen appear to think that by quoting each others' reckless statements and repeating them in a thousand forms the public will at length be induced to believe them. In this respect they remind us of the fable of the Brahmin and the Dog. The man who has waded through the six columns of Mr. Davies' "wearisome" letters, will not be averse to reading a fable from *Aesop*.

"A pious Brahmin, it is written, made a vow that on a certain day he would sacrifice a sheep, and on the appointed morning he went forth to buy one. There lived in his neighborhood three rogues who knew of his vow, and laid a scheme for profiting by it. The first met him and said, 'Oh, Brahmin, wilt thou buy a sheep? I have one fit for sacrifice.'—'It is for that very purpose,' said the holy man, 'that I came forth this day.' Then the impostor opened the bag and brought out of it an unclean beast, an ugly dog, lame and blind. Thereon the Brahmin cried out, 'Wretch, who touchest things impure, and utterest things untrue, callest thou that cur a sheep?' 'Truly,' answered the other, 'it is a sheep of the finest fleece, and of the sweetest flesh. Oh, Brahmin, it will be an offering most acceptable to the gods.' 'Friend,' said the Brahmin, 'either thou or I must be blind.'"

"Just then one of the accomplices came up. 'Praised be the gods,' said this second rogue, 'that I have been saved the trouble of going to the market for a sheep! This is such a sheep as I wanted. For how much wilt thou sell it?' When the Brahmin heard this, his mind wavered and from, like one swinging in the air at a holy festival. 'Sir,' said he to the new comer, 'take heed what thou dost: this is no sheep, but an unclean cur.' 'Oh, Brahmin,' said the new comer, 'thou art drunk or mad!'"

"At this time the third confederate drew near. 'Let us ask this man,' said the Brahmin, 'what the creature is, and I will stand by what he shall say.' To this the others agreed; and the Brahmin called out, 'Oh, stranger, what dost thou call this beast?' 'Surely, oh, Brahmin,' said the knave, 'it is a fine sheep.' Then the Brahmin said, 'Surely the gods have taken away my senses,'—and he asked pardon of him who carried the dog, and bought it for a measure of rice and a pot of ghee, and offered it up to the gods, who, being wrath at this unclean sacrifice, smote him with a sore disease in all his joints."

It appears that Mr. Davies has placed his opponents under an immense obligation. He "has never so much as entered the House of Assembly as a spectator" since March, 1879! What marvellous kindness! Who will doubt after this the truth of his disclaimer—that he would not hasten the dissolution of the present Government by a single day. Had L. H. Davies, Esquire, only shown himself in the House of Assembly as a spectator, he would have proved a veritable king of terrors to the whole House. The announcement now made in so patronizing a manner may, however, fill the minds of our present Legislators with gloomy forebodings. Some fine morning our impatient statesman may act the part of Oliver Cromwell, in dissolving the Long Parliament. Accompanied by his worthy Lieutenant, W. D. Stewart, and followed by a numerous train of needy relations, he may swoop down on an assembled wisdom and utter the talismanic words: "Get you gone, and give place to better men."

Afraid of Canada.

HOW THE UNITED STATES COULD BE CONQUERED.

The Inspector of Artillery of the Dominion has recently made a comprehensive report on the military strength and resources of Canada, which is deemed of sufficient importance for republication by our own Ordnance Department. This report makes a pretty formidable showing for the Dominion, which would be by no means a contemptible enemy when supported by the military and naval power of Great Britain. An officer of the United States army stationed at Columbus barracks, who has been studying this document, writes a long letter to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, somewhat in the spirit of a scare, setting forth our helplessness in the early stages of a sudden war.

We do not share his apprehensions, but it is well enough to recognize the fact that the Dominion has six hundred thousand enrolled militia; that forty-three thousand three hundred and sixty-five of these are armed, organized and drilled; that she is very strong in garrison and field artillery and has great abundance of cavalry horses; that her militia is so organized that fourteen thousand new men come in every year for three years' drill, and that the same number pass out every year to increase the list of enrolled militia who have received instruction and training and would be immediately available in a sudden emergency. This is a greater force than could be put at once into the field by our States which border on the Dominion. Our regular army is so small, and the bulk of it is at such a distance in the Western Territories, that it would be of little use in a contest with Canada. Troops could be sent over from Great Britain more rapidly than our regular army could be recruited. There is a popular notion that in case of war we could make a complete conquest of Canada in a single month; but it might not prove so easy a task.

In one respect this exposition of the military strength of Canada is of no great importance. The completion of the enlarged Welland Canal next year will give ready access to the upper lakes for British gun-boats and ships of war which could shell and destroy our wealthy but defenceless cities on the lakes. This is a real

danger and it is the duty of our Government to provide against it. At the outbreak of a war the first thing we should attempt would be to seize the Welland canal. But Canada could pour forth troops faster for its defence that we could land them for its capture. It is indispensable that we adopt efficient measures for preventing the appearance of a British fleet on the upper lakes, which are inaccessible to our navy. There is a treaty by which the United States and Great Britain stipulate to maintain only one small vessel each, with a single gun, on Lake Ontario, and two such vessels each on the upper lakes. But this treaty would be abrogated by a declaration of war. Great Britain could send armed steamers through the Welland Canal in four or five days from Quebec, and we should have no naval force on the lakes until we could build it. Meanwhile our populous lake cities would lie at the mercy of long range British guns.

It is for our military engineers to judge what is most suitable to be done; but one of the first things that suggests itself is the construction of strong and heavily armed forts on the New York bank of the St. Lawrence, which would completely command the river, and, with the aid of torpedo-boats, would make it impossible for any British ship to pass up into Lake Ontario. Indeed, this seems one of the most indispensable measures for national defence.—N. Y. Herald.

Slaughter Market

THE ENTIRE STOCK

—AT THE—

Queen Street Auction Rooms,

WILL BE DISPOSED OF

To-Morrow, 31st inst.,

WITHOUT RESERVE.

BOOTS & SHOES,

DRY GOODS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS,

Room Paper, Tea, &c.

Shoemakers' Machinery, Tilton & McFarlane Safe.

W. D. STEWART,

March 30, '80.

Auctioneer.

LECTURE

Under the Auspices of St. Vincent de Paul Society.

IN compliance with a Requisition from a number of prominent Gentlemen,

PROFESSOR CAVEN

Has consented to deliver his Lecture on

"CARDINAL WISEMAN,"

—IS THE—

MARKET HALL,

—ON—

Wednesday, 7th April,

AT 8 O'CLOCK.

The proceeds to be devoted to the relief of the Poor. Admission 10 cents; Reserved Seats 20 cents. By order,

HUGH WALKER, Secy of Com.

March 30, '80—tu s tu, h no ar pres pat



Canadian Pacific Railway.

TENDERS for a second 100 miles section West of Red River will be received by the undersigned until noon on MONDAY, the 29th of March next.

The section will extend from the end of the 48th Contract—near the western boundary of Manitoba—to a point on the west side of the valley of Bird-Tail Creek.

Tenders must be on the printed form, which, with all other information, may be had at the Pacific Railway Engineer's Offices, in Ottawa, and Winnipeg, on and after the 1st day of March next.

By Order,

F. BRAUN, Secretary.

DEPT. OF RAILWAYS & CANALS, } Ottawa, 11th February 1880. }

The reception of the above Tenders is postponed until noon on FRIDAY, 9th April next.

By Order,

F. BRAUN, Secretary.

DEPT. OF RAILWAYS & CANALS, } m30, 2aw tl Ottawa, 22nd March, 1880. }

BILLS OF LADING

—FOR SALE—

AT THE EXAMINER OFFICE.

Wanted.

Wanted.

OLD IRON (wrought scraps preferred), OLD BRASS, OLD COPPER, OLD LEAD, OLD ZINC, OLD ROPE, OLD CANVAS, HORSE HAIR, PEWTER. For which highest Cash Price will be paid. H. COOMBS. Ch'town, March 29, '80—31

83.

QUEEN STREET,

Opposite Bell Tower,

The Best place to Buy

DRESS GOODS,

Printed, White and Grey

COTTONS,

MILLINERY!

OF ALL KINDS.

Beddings, Tablings,

&c. &c.

TWEEDS,

Suitings, &c.,

READYMADE

CLOTHING,

HATS, &c.

CARPETS

A GOOD ASSORTMENT,

CHEAP.

Room Papers,

A GREAT VARIETY.

DELICIOUS TEAS.

ALL KINDS OF

DRY GOODS!

AT VERY LOW PRICES, AT

TREMAINE &

METCALF'S,

83 QUEEN STREET.

Ch'town, March 30, 1880.

Clearing - Out Sale!

—OF—

DRY GOODS,

Boots and Shoes, Tea, Flour and Molasses, and 1 Tilton and McFarlane Safe.

The Subscriber will Sell at PUBLIC AUCTION at the

Queen Street Auction Rooms,

TO COMMENCE ON

Wednesday, the 31st March,

at 11 o'clock, a. m.,

A large Assortment of DRY GOODS—(further particulars in a few days)

1000 Rolls ROOM PAPER, 1200 Pairs BOOTS and SHOES—assorted, ordered for positive Sale without reserve. A Large lot of RUBBERS, 40 Packages TEA (broken), 200 Bbls. FLOUR (Canadian Extras), 20 Puns. MOLASSES, 1 Tilton & McFarlane SAFE—owned by the St. Lawrence Marine Insurance Co.

TERMS AS USUAL.

W. D. STEWART,

March 22, 1880—cod Auctioneer.

Meeting of Parliament.

ST. JAMES' KIRK

BAZAAR!

THE Ladies in connection with St. James' Kirk will hold a Bazaar for the

Sale of Fancy and Useful Articles,

—ALSO—

A Tea and Refreshment Table, On the 31st March Next,

—IN THE—

MARKET HALL.

The proceeds to be applied to the liquidation of the debt on the Church edifice.

Doors open at 2 o'clock, p. m.

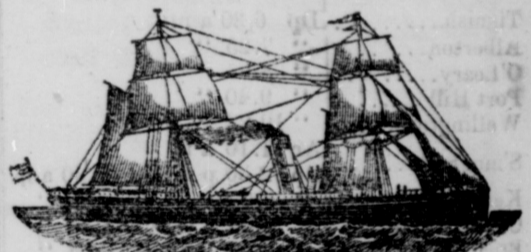
Admission—Adults, 20 cents; children, half-price. Tickets to be had at the Drug Stores of W. R. Watson, Dr. Dodd, C. D. Rankin, and at the door.

PRESIDENT—Mrs. McLennan.

COMMITTEE—Mrs. McPherson, Mrs. Longworth, Mrs. A. Kennedy, Mrs. Stirling, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. McLaren, Mrs. A. Murray, Mrs. Cavanagh, Mrs. Rankin, Mrs. P. W. Hyndman, Miss Mackieson, Miss Owen, Mrs. Malcolm McLeod.

T. A. STEWART, Secretary.

Feb. 19, 1880.



OPEN FOR CHARTER.

STEAMSHIP "PRINCE EDWARD" will be due at Charlottetown,

About the 1st of May Next.

and will carry Potatoes, Oats, Barley, Butter, and other Produce of the Island, on freight.

The upper deck room of this steamer is also open for charter for either Horses, Cattle or Sheep.

Parties wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity, will please apply early, in order to secure room.

Should a full cargo be engaged, the "Prince Edward" would sail about the 10th May for a port in Great Britain, as may hereafter be agreed on.

Should the room for 5,000 barrels be engaged within ten days, the "Prince Edward" will be laid on the berth and sail for Liverpool, G. B. direct, about the 10th May.

For particulars apply to

Peake Bros. & Co., MANAGERS

Charlottetown, March 11, 1880.

Wants, Lost, Found, &c.

WANTED—A Woman to take the management of an infant and two children under nine years of age. Must have references as to character and qualifications. Apply at EXAMINER office. [m 20, ti

HOUSEMAID WANTED.—A girl with good recommendations. Apply at EXAMINER Office. [m 29

TWO LET—TWO HOUSES—One containing 8 rooms, the other 6 rooms. Apply to JOHN STENTIFORD. [m 27, oaw ti

LOST—On Sunday last an EYEGLASS with black ribbon attached. The finder will please leave it at this office. [m 25

TO LET—One-half of a double-tenement Dwelling House on Sydney Street, adjoining the residence of H. J. Callbeck, Esq. Possession given 1st of April. Apply to FRANCIS P. MCCARRON. [m 25, 4i pd

TO LET—On or about the first April, the House now occupied by Mr. Benjamin Davies, junr., fronting on Water Street. For information apply to W. W. CLARKE. [m 18 ti