

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

MAY 13, 1890.

The Richmond Bay Railway.

This is one of the matters about which Richard Hunt, Esq., went to Ottawa in March last. An item in the supplementary estimates, as published by THE EXAMINER a few days ago, shows that, in respect to it, at least, he has been successful. We are informed that some of the reasons urged by Mr. Hunt in support of his claim for the Richmond Bay Railway were:—

1. That the railway will give easy access to the great oyster grounds of Canada, Richmond Bay. About 30,000 barrels of oysters are annually taken out of this Bay. With a railway terminus on the grounds, most of this quantity would be shipped to Summerside and Shelburne, and thence over the Intercolonial. The freight thus collected would, in one year, pay the cost of the branch. Under present arrangements, fishermen are subject to great hardships in landing and getting their fares to market in Summerside. Carts have to be driven out to their boats for the oysters, frequently in cold and icy water. Then, they have to be carted distances ranging from four to fourteen miles, over very bad roads. The through freight from Richmond Bay to Summerside and Shelburne, at five cents per barrel would be more than five cents per barrel in excess of the present through freight from Summerside, thus making the oyster worth at least twenty cents a barrel more to the fisherman than they are under present arrangements.

2. Around Richmond Bay are fine farming districts, remote from railway facilities. With a railway terminus about Compton's Shore, ferry steamers would run to Beach Point, Oyster Cove and intervening places, and also to McIntosh's shore. Lot 13, calling at Grand River, Lower Lot 16, etc., and these boats would also be used for towing oyster boats to and from the oyster grounds.

3. The farmers of Freetown, Kinkora, Cape Traverse, Hunter River and other inland places get their supplies of mussel and fish by rail from Summerside. This harbor is about exhausted, and new ground will have to be looked for. There is abundance of mud in Richmond Bay of a superior quality to that taken in Summerside. This is a matter of great importance to farmers, and they must appreciate the advantages of a rail way tapping Richmond Bay. There is no profit to the railway in hauling mud into the country at the low rates charged for it. The advantage is looked for in the prosperity of the people, by reason of the increased yield of the farm produce, as a result of the application of the mud, the produce being in turn carried to market over the railway.

4. Again, the distance from Compton's or Crawwell's Shore to Melpaque Harbor is only twelve miles by channel course. This harbor is resorted to by hundreds of fishermen, many of whom would avail themselves of the proximity of the railway to run up and ship their fares, thus facilitating trade and giving employment to the Intercolonial Railway.

To these strong arguments, skillfully urged by Mr. Hunt, the Government have yielded. Our representatives in Parliament are, we believe, very much surprised to learn that the fishermen of Richmond Bay and the Gulf beyond, the farmers of the vicinity, and the trade of the country at large, are about to obtain a boon which they never thought of applying for!

This one fact brings into strong relief the huge blunder which was made by the people of Prince Edward Island when they sent six useless Grits to represent them at Ottawa.

Natural History Society.

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS was the subject of the instructive paper read by Mr. L. W. Watson before the Natural History Society, at the meeting held yesterday afternoon. Mr. Watson did not confine himself to a mere description or enumeration of the plants of carnivorous habits. Beginning with the lowest forms of animal and vegetable life, he pointed out their similarity in composition and nutrition, and contended that a similarity in many important functions of the animal and plant can be traced even in the higher forms, where the differences are most apparent. As types of carnivorous plants the Dionaea, a species of Nepenthes, our native carnivorous plant, the round-leaved Sundew, *Crocea rotundifolia* and the pitcher plant, *Sarracenia purpurea* were minutely described. An interesting account was given of the capture of its insect prey by the Drosera, of the detention of the insect by the viscid secretion of the glands until it is slowly enveloped by the enfolding leaf. It was shown that the captured insect undergoes a true process of digestion, being acted on by a solvent secretion, similar to pepsin or the active principle of the gastric juice in animals. As the spines and leaves are fully excited only by substances capable of being digested by the plant, the inference was drawn that plants possess a species of instinct or intelligence. This inference evoked considerable discussion afterwards. The paper was illustrated with specimens and drawings, and was read to an intelligent and appreciative audience.

Mr. G. F. Owen will, in about a month, read a paper before the Society, on P. E. Island, one hundred years ago, with special reference to Natural History.

The House of Commons had a little talk recently over the \$75,000; it spends annually on printing reports of its own debates. Wind comes high at the Capital. Some good suggestions were made during the discussion as to the best modes of lessening the *caacoches loquendi* with which too many members are afflicted. Col. Aynott suggested that the proceedings in committee should not be officially reported, and Mr. Ellis wanted the Hansard abolished, but Mr. Rains Pope every member should pay for printing his own speech. The Montreal *Gazette* remarks that this, no doubt, work well in reducing the talk, but it would come very hard upon Messrs. Casey and McMillan, who so sessional allowance would have to be quadrupled if they were to be kept from Hansard as well as political bankrupts. It would come very hard, too, upon Mr. Dey.

City Council Meeting.

The regular monthly meeting of the City Council was held last evening. Present: His Worship Mayor Haviland and Councillors Morris, Byrne, Taylor, McCarron, Eden, Lorge and Douse.

After the transaction of some preliminary business, Mayor Haviland submitted the correspondence received since previous meetings.

Hazard & Rattenbury's letter informed the Board that if the sum of \$320, which sum, it is alleged, is due John Murphy for keeping the pumps and wells in repair during the year ending April 12, 1890, is not paid immediately, they would begin a suit against the City. Laid on the table.

The requisition of the Water Commissioners asked for the further issuing of debentures to the amount of \$10,000, for the purpose of defraying the cost of laying additional service pipe and extending the waterworks. The request was granted, the debentures to bear interest at 4 p. c.

The letter of Mr. A. B. Warburton asked that Grafton street east be opened up and extended to the causeway across the marsh leading to the Driving Park. The request was ordered to be complied with, subject to the approval of the Recorder.

Mr. Alfred F. Tomlins, late clerk to the Stipendiary Magistrate, asked that the Board grant him a pension in consequence of his health having broken down while in the service of the corporation. Laid on the table.

Mr. Charles Higgins complained that a manure heap near his residence on Richmond Street west, was detrimental to the health of the people in that neighbourhood, and asked that it be removed at once.

The application of the Salvation Army for the use of the Market Hall on the night of Monday, 2nd June, was referred to the Market Committee.

A petition from the Police force, asking for new uniforms, was handed over to the Police Committee.

The communication of City Surveyor Taylor asked for an increase in his yearly salary. He was granted an additional \$100—which makes his salary \$500.

Policeman Harris, Doyle and Campbell were put in nomination for the vacancy in the sergeantship of the force caused by the promotion of Sergeant Cameron. The first named was elected.

Councillor McCarron gave notice that at the next meeting he would move for a reconsideration of this matter.

City Marshal Cameron was appointed acting Sanitary Officer for one month.

Councillor Byrne asked the Public Property Committee if it was their intention to have the upper story of the City Hall completed.

Councillor Eden said he did not think it was, as there was no sum in the estimates for the work.

William Dillon was appointed Assistant Market Clerk and Janitor at a salary of \$350 a year. An amendment that the salary be \$300 was defeated.

Councillor Morris reported that the Public Property Committee had leased the old engine house on King Street to Mr. W. F. Robins for \$75 per year, with the privilege of purchasing for \$900.

It was decided to see what could be done in the way of abating the nuisance near Mr. Bolger's premises on Water Street by boring.

Councillor McCarron tendered his resignation as a member of the Street Committee.

Councillor Byrne spoke strongly against the practice of voting away the city's money without notice of application for such being given previous to the meeting, and gave notice that at next meeting he would move for the establishing of an ordinance providing for the keeping of an Order Book wherein each member shall give notice of his intention of applying for a money grant, specifying the purpose for which the grant is desired, some time previous to the meeting at which the application is to be made, in order to give members time to consider what action to take in the matter.

Council adjourned.

The Duke of Connaught.

It is in many ways a matter of regret that the circumstances of the Duke of Connaught's visit to Canada do not permit of any extended official courtesies. Duty requires that His Royal Highness shall be in England on the 21st June, and all his arrangements have to be governed by this fact. The party, which includes the Duke and Duchess, Sir John McNeill, Colonel and Mrs. Cavage, and Dr. Kilkelly, with the usual retinue, are expected to arrive at Victoria, B. C., on the 23rd inst., and will leave the coast for the east on the 25th. On the overland journey a stop for a few hours only will be made at Banff and Winnipeg. From the latter city they will proceed to Toronto by rail, thence to Niagara, and back by rail to Kingston, where the steamer will be taken for Montreal, the intention being to arrive there on the 5th or 6th of June. From Montreal, where they will be the guests of Sir George Stephen, the party proceeds to Ottawa, where they will lunch with Sir John Macdonald. Leaving Ottawa they go to the Lower St. Lawrence for a few days' fishing. At Quebec, on the 11th, they will be the guests of the Governor-General, and will sail on the Allan steamer Sardinian on the 12th of June.

The Hollanders propose a European combination against the United States as a retaliation for the antagonism shown by the latter country to European trade. If it were possible to carry such a combination into effect the result would be disastrous, not only to the American farmer, but to American trade generally. Last year the value of the farm products exported from the United States to Europe reached the enormous sum of \$532,000,000.

Mr. McKinley, when opening the debate in Congress on the tariff bill that bears his name, said the increased duties on farm products were meant to give the United States farmer the market for the \$25,000,000 worth of farm products now imported into that country; and then he added: "This is a domestic bill, not a foreign one." It is plain that Congressman McKinley does not read the *Charlottetown Patriot* and the *Toronto Globe*. If he did, he would know that his bill is a measure of retaliation against Canada for suiting her national needs.

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The McKinley Bill.

McKINLEY SAYS THAT IT IS A DOMESTIC, NOT A FOREIGN BILL.

Mr. McKinley explained his tariff bill in the House of Representatives, on the 7th inst. In the last political campaign, he said, the tariff has been the absorbing question before the people. The bill had not abolished the internal revenue tax, as the Republican party had pledged itself to do in the event that that abolition was necessary to preserve the protective system, because the committee had found that the abolition of the one was not necessary to the preservation of the other. The bill recommended the abolition of all special taxes and the reduction of the tax on tobacco and snuff, and it removed the restrictions on the growers of tobacco. With these exceptions, the internal revenue law stood as at present. If these recommendations were agreed to, internal taxation would be reduced a little over \$10,000,000. The committee also recommended a provision requiring all imported articles to bear a stamp or mark, indicating the country in which such articles are manufactured. The reason that actuated the committee was that it had become too common among some of the countries of the world to copy some of our best known brands and sell them in competition with our own home-made product.

The next provision recommended was one extending and liberalizing the drawback sections of the law. Under the existing statute, any citizen of the United States could import any article, pay duty on it, make it into a complete product, export it and the government refund 90 per cent. of the duty paid on the raw material. The committee recommended that hereafter the government should retain only 1 per cent., instead of 10 per cent. This gave to the people of the United States practically free raw material for the export trade.

It was asserted by the minority that the bill would not reduce the revenues of the government, but on the contrary it would increase the revenues. This statement was misleading. It could only be valuable on the assumption that the importations of the present year under this bill would be equal to the importations of like articles under existing laws. The instant duties were increased to a fair protective point, that instant the importation diminished, and the revenues correspondingly diminished. No one should dispute that proposition. If the bill could become a law, the revenue of the government would be diminished from \$50,000,000 to \$63,000,000.

The agricultural interests of the country had received the earnest attention of the committee, and every relief which could be afforded them by the tariff had been recommended. The minority said that a duty on agricultural products would be of no benefit to the farmers. The majority thinking differently, had advanced the duty all along the line. If gentlemen reflected upon the difference in the price of labor here and abroad in the production of wheat, they would perceive how near we were (if we had not indeed reached it) to the danger line, so far even as our own home market was concerned. The farmers had come to appreciate that the time was already here when the American agriculturist must sell his products in the markets of the world in competition with the wheat produced by the low-priced labor of other countries. Their care must be hereafter to preserve their own market, for they must be driven from the foreign one unless, by reducing the cost of production, they could compete with unequal conditions. Under the duties fixed by the bill the annual imports of \$25,000,000 of agricultural products would be supplied to the people of the United States by the American farmer, and that \$25,000,000 distributed among the farmers would relieve some of the depression prevailing and give them confidence and courage, and increased ability to raise the mortgages on their farms. [Applause.] During the twelve years of reciprocity with Canada, the United States had bought much more than it had sold. What Canada wanted, what other countries wanted, was a free and open market in the United States. What the United States wanted, if it ever had reciprocity, was reciprocity with equality, reciprocity that was fair, reciprocity that was just, reciprocity that would give her her share in the trade, or the bargains she made with the other countries of the world. Whenever the United States had trade reciprocity or low duties, it had always been the loser. But he would not discuss reciprocity. This was a domestic bill; it was not a foreign bill. [Applause.]

Passing to the consideration of the free list, Mr. McKinley said that the committee had taken from the free list and placed on the dutiable list 18 articles, 10 of which were articles of agriculture. If the same quantity should be imported this year as was imported last year, this would increase the revenue \$2,400,000. It had taken from the dutiable list and put upon the free list 48 articles which last year paid into the treasury \$61,500,000, of which \$55,000,000 was from sugar alone.

What was the complaint against the bill? Was it that it would stop exportation and interfere with our foreign market? The foreign markets were as accessible under the bill as under the existing law. They were as accessible under the bill as they would be under absolute free trade. The bill would put no burden, no taxation, no restriction on American products that went out of the country. Nor did the committee despise the foreign trade. It would encourage and sustain it; but what peculiar sanctity hung about the foreign that did not attach to the domestic market? Why should we pass over the best market in the world—our own market? Notwithstanding all these croakings, however, we are now exporting more products than at any time in our history. Our exports had increased 35 per cent. more than the exports from free trade Great Britain. While Great Britain had, between 1870 and 1880, lost 13 per cent. of her commerce, the United States had gained 22 per cent., and with the same aid to shipping that Great Britain gave, the ships of the United States would plough every sea under the American flag in successful competition with the ships of the world. [Applause.] We have enjoyed 29 years of continuous protection—the longest period since the foundation of the government—and found ourselves in greater prosperity than at any other time.

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Carnivorous Plants.

MR. WATSON'S paper on this subject before the Natural History Society was of a most interesting as well as of a highly scientific character. It was delivered in a clear and concise style, and the many points of interest were finely illustrated by simple diagrams.

The close relationship existing between the lower forms of plants and animals was first shown, and this identity of base structure traced up into the higher forms: thus the peculiar animal like habits of certain plants were partly accounted for. A full and beautiful account was then given of the structure of various carnivorous plants—Dionaea, Drosera, Sarracenia, Nepenthes, etc. The complicated structure of their peculiar organs for capturing insects, their singular digestive properties, and their wonderful semblance of intelligence, were fully and admirably shown. The talented essayist had studied his subject faithfully, and with the true instincts of a naturalist, considered it in all its relations to the great questions of biology and philosophy, thus giving breadth, life and consistency to the whole well-studied discourse. A unanimous vote of thanks was given the essayist, and an animated discussion of various points raised entered into by Messrs. McSwain, Newson, Dr. Leeming, Hon. D. Laird and other gentlemen present. B.

Another Epidemic.

The latest epidemic is reported from Tennessee. Despatches give particulars of the ravages of a disease called spotted fever near Franklin, in that state. The disease is unusually fatal, nine out of every ten persons attacked dying. The fever had a brief run in Sumner and Webster Counties about two months ago, but disappeared. Last week it re-appeared, and within 48 hours had taken five lives. Since then a dozen more have died, and the people of the stricken district have about concluded to abandon it forever, as this is the fifth visitation of the fever. Farms and all kinds of stock can be bought for a song. The origin of the disease is not known. It comes without warning and goes as suddenly.

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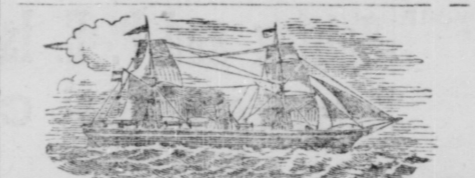
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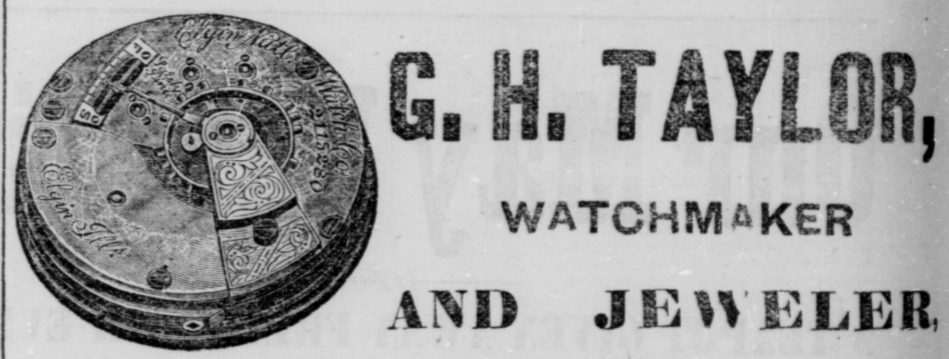
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