

THE DAILY EXAMINER

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W. L. COTTON, J. W. MITCHELL, Manager. Office Sup't

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

MAY 19, 1879.

Mr. Davies' Letter.

WE owe Mr. L. H. Davies an apology for not having sooner noticed his lengthy letter entitled "our Finances." Matters of, perhaps, minor importance have absorbed the time and space which should, otherwise, have been devoted to a consideration of the statements of the late Leader of the Local Government.

It has never been a charge against Mr. Davies that he has not the ability to make the "worse appear the better cause." Indeed, a lively imagination, an unscrupulous use of the rhetorician's art, with constant practice in the law courts, have rendered him all but invincible upon that point.

The letter before us has evidently been prepared with unusual care; and, truth to tell, is rather more moderate in tone than the effusions of Mr. Davies' usually are. Yet, the ruling passion is ever strong; and Mr. Davies is unable—even in a statement of figures—to withstand the torrent of exaggeration by which, when he impugns the statements of his opponents, he is almost invariably carried away. He says the Government "have published a ridiculous and one-sided statement, with the hope that casual readers will accept it as true, and with the knowledge that partisan editors will confirm it if necessary with an oath." For ourselves, it is hardly necessary to tell the readers of THE EXAMINER that, though we may, perhaps, have served our party too well, and, at times, not wisely, we have never published or confirmed statements, in their interest, which were not also in the interests of the country and which we did not believe to be strictly true. Mr. Davies, we suppose, judges the press which supports his opponents by the standard he has formed from an intimate knowledge of the moral character of the press which supports himself.

Mr. Davies is—now that he is out of office—exceedingly solicitous about the credit of the Province. It is, of course, not right to cry wolf when there is no wolf. But a large majority will, we venture to say, agree with us that nothing is to be gained by hiding the facts. We have no debentures to sell; and we can afford to know the truth—even though it be somewhat distasteful.

Mr. Davies also objects to the statement of the Lieutenant Governor that there is a Provincial debt. Being in debt does not imply that our sources of revenue are exhausted—that we, as a Province, have drawn all our assets at Ottawa and absorbed all the money due by our farmers for lands. Were this so, we should be in a state of bankruptcy; and no one has yet stated that we are in a state of bankruptcy—though there is no doubt that had we continued in the fatuous course we were pursuing—no matter how large our assets—bankruptcy was the inevitable end.

But to the "ridiculous statement" which, by the way, was prepared by and bears the official signature of F. W. Hyndman, Provincial Auditor. The statement shows that \$52,415.65 paid in 1879, belonged to the expenditure of 1878. But Mr. Davies says "that of the alleged expenditure in that statement \$52,451.65 were not expended at all in 1878 for the very best reason in the world that a very large portion of it was not payable till 1879."

Is not this begging the question—which is, whether the amount belonged to the expenditure of last year or of this year? Mr. Davies instances the item of \$10,344.76 paid in 1879 on account of teachers' salaries. But he fails to tell the public how many quarters of teachers salaries were paid and entered into the public accounts of 1878. In point of fact there were but three! The item referred to as paid in 1879, must, therefore, either belong to the expenditure of 1878, or else one quarter of teachers' salaries for 1878 was paid in 1879.

Mr. Davies also instances the item of \$8,251.61 paid in 1879 on account of work done upon the Lunatic Asylum in 1878.

We cannot sufficiently admire the assurance of the gentleman who claims that this item is not fairly chargeable to the expenditures of 1878. Why should they be included in the expenditure of 1879? Mr. Davies says because his estimate of the expenditure on the Asylum for 1878 was not sufficiently large. The contractors were more energetic than he anticipated! Is this, we ask, is this a good reason—such a one as an intelligent public can endorse? Mr. Davies must be trifling with the public.

The fact is the absolute truth of the Provincial auditors statement cannot be successfully controverted. Mr. Davies admits a deficit last year of \$21,448.95; and that amount added to the \$52,145.65 in Provincial Auditors statement—or \$73,594.60—is the real deficit rolled up by Mr. Davies and his colleagues during the year 1878.

There is, doubtless, some force in Mr. Davies' statement regarding the falling off of the revenue. We shall, if possible, enquire into that phase of his letter upon a future occasion.

Queen's County Jail.

A few days ago we visited this institution for the purpose of inspecting its interior, and also certain improvements which have been made for the safety of the jail at the suggestion of the Inspecting Commissioner—R. R. Fitzgerald, Esq. We were pleased to find the building throughout in good order, and the prisoners, one and all, looking hale and hearty. They appear to do better since labor has been provided for them in the yard. All seem willing to work, and judging from the amount of stone broken and made fit for macadamizing purposes (about 100 tons in three months) there is little time spent idly by the prisoners. They do not appear to enjoy jail life so well now as previous to the improvements made by the Commissioner, viz:—The substitution of heavy grating instead of light ones on the lower cells, and the attaching of shutters to the upper cell windows. The first named improvement mars all the hope of escape which a number of the prisoners entertained, and the second completely destroys the pleasant view which other of the criminals had of the prison surroundings, and also prevents them from having any communication with persons on the streets. The shutters are fitted closely against the lower part of the window, open about eighteen inches from the top, and while preventing the view above mentioned, they admit all the light which may be desired in a common room.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, May 1.

Morning Session.

DEBATE ON THE DRAFT ADDRESS RESUMED.

Mr. ANNEAR.—The first paragraph of the speech referred to the inconvenience of the time at which the Legislature was called together, and all the previous speakers had agreed upon this point. The present was a particularly unsuitable time for the tiller of the soil to be away from his farm, for his crop depended upon the way in which the land was cultivated in the spring. It did not make so much difference to mercantile men, for they had assistants to do the work, and with the aid of the telegraph, could conduct their business almost as well as if they were at home. He was not in a position to make any positive statements with regard to the state of our finances; and, as conflicting statements had been made by hon. members who should be reliable, he would content himself with waiting until the Public Accounts were laid on the table, and then they would be in a position to understand the subject. All the members around the Board appeared to be a happy family in discussing the question as to our share of the Fishery Award. It was a money matter, and all desired to get as much of it as possible. Considering our geographical position we were entitled to the lion's share of that Award. It was said that this money, if received by us, would be the means of relieving us in a great measure, and he hoped that those who ruled the destinies of the country would make such a disposition of it as would be most beneficial to the country. The cost of elections was a heavy drain on the country, and a great part of the expense was occasioned by the registration of voters, and this should be done away with. He would be in favor of retaining the Ballot, unless some means could be devised by which men could vote without being subjected to outside pressure. The next clause referred to the abolition of this branch of the Legislature. This subject had been discussed at the last election, and some hon. members had been elected to carry it out. He always stated that the Council could not be turned upside down as you would turn over a boat or a wheelbarrow. It was his intention to listen to all the arguments with respect to this matter; and, after hearing both sides, he would be in a better position to come to a decision than he was now. From all he had heard, it appeared to be a necessity, on account of the way the Island was running in debt. Economy was necessary, and we should begin with abolishing the Council; and then follow down and carry out a thorough system of retrenchment. There was room for great improvement in the Civil Service, although he would not favor cutting down salaries to starvation prices. He thought \$1000 a year should be sufficient for the heads of departments; and, if the plan was practicable, he would like to allow heads of departments to choose their own assistants, and then they could get them to work seven or

eight hours a day, so that fewer clerks would be required. We were promised a measure relating to roads and bridges. It was very important to have those in good condition; and a great deal of the money expended on them was wasted through the inefficiency of those who had the expending of it. This department, above all others, required practical men to take charge of it. No man liked to be too officious; but men who were elected to the Legislature were conservators of the public rights, and they should make it known if they see any waste of the public money. He did not know whether the Government intended to fall back on the old measure or not. He believed some improvement might be made on it, but a great number in his district would prefer it to the present law. With regard to imprisonment for debt, he did not profess to be much posted on that subject, but thought the jail a very poor place to keep a man who was willing to earn his bread. Many an honest man who has fallen into arrears would pay his debts if allowed his liberty. When the Assessment Act was first passed, he did not consider the principle a right one, but, since he had seen it working, he was better satisfied with it. The greatest objection he had to it was the cost of collecting, and he thought a scheme might be devised to bring more of the money collected into the Treasury. He would not wish to fall back on the old system, but thought a tax of three or four dollars an acre might be put on shore farms, and on those in the interior a less amount. An Act like the old Land Tax Act, to make rich and poor pay alike, would ever get his support. All were agreed on the next paragraph, and pleased that the small pox had disappeared from our midst. He remembered a time in England when hundreds in a single parish fell victims to this dreadful disease, and when it once got started in a village or town, there was no knowing where it would end. He hoped that the liabilities incurred by the Alberton Board of Health would be settled by the Government. Respecting the last paragraph, he hoped they would be guided in their deliberations by the Giver of all good.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole. Mr. Reid occupied the Chair of the Committee.

THEY are about to test the validity of the Canadian Temperance Act in Fredericton, N. B. A despatch says:—In the matter of John B. Grieve, convicted for selling spirituous liquors contrary to the Canadian Temperance Act of 1878, Judge Weldon has granted a summons, with a stay of proceedings, returnable on the 23rd inst., calling upon the Police Magistrate to show cause why an order nisi for a certiorari should not be granted, returnable at next Trinity Term, to remove the conviction and all proceedings upon which the same was based, into the Supreme Court for the purpose of questioning the same.

THE American newspapers report that Mr. G. R. Dutcher—who did so great a work as a temperance lecturer in Nova Scotia—has left his family and taken to drinking.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements or opinions of our correspondents.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Citizen," in Friday's paper, states that the fees of the County Courts fall short of paying the clerks' salaries, and he supposes that the Local Legislature has to make the amount good. This statement is untrue, and "A Citizen" could have been convinced of its untruthfulness if he had sought to make himself aware of the facts by referring to the Public Auditor's Report for 1878; but I presume that he is like the man who declared himself open to conviction, but said he would like to see the man who dare convince him. Exclusive of the returns for December Court, which, owing to the press of business, could not be made up until after the commencement of this year, and do not, therefore, appear in the accounts for 1878, the returns from the County Courts of Queen's County amount to a sum much larger than the clerks' salaries, and, including these returns, the aggregate amount is nearly equal to the amount returned for 1878 by the Prothonotary, for Supreme Court fees for the whole Island.

I need not refer to the other statements in "A Citizen's" letter—*ab uno disce omnes.*

Yours, &c., H. C. McDONALD.

May 19th, 1879.

Pasture.

THE best in the Royalty can be had by applying at once at STUMBLER'S LIVERY STABLES. Terms low to suit the times. May 14, 1879—1w

ORANGES!

WE SHALL BE RECEIVING FRESH LOTS EVERY WEEK DURING THE SEASON—AT THE— FLOUR AND TEA STORE! And will Sell them Cheap for Cash by the Box.

29 Boxes Received this Date. SEND IN YOUR ORDERS.

BEER & GOFF.

Ch'town, April 26, 1879.

THE WEEKLY EXAMINER.—Persons having relatives or friends abroad, and desiring to keep them informed concerning P. E. Island, cannot do so in a better or cheaper way than by subscribing to THE WEEKLY EXAMINER. Sent, postpaid, to any address in Great Britain, the United States, or the Dominion, on receipt of One Dollar.

THE ONLY DIRECT LINE TO BOSTON!



Steamers Carroll and Worcester.

BOTH STEAMERS are fitted with superior Passenger Accommodation, arranged for every convenience and comfort, and fitted up in elegant style. FREIGHT carried at moderate rates, and as low as by any other route. Eggs, in boxes and barrels, handled with the greatest care.

SAVING TIME.—Only one business day used in reaching Boston, by leaving here Saturday morning and catching steamer at Halifax, and arriving at Boston Monday morning.

LEAVE CHARLOTTETOWN Every Thursday, punctually at 5 p.m.

LEAVE BOSTON Every Saturday, punctually at noon. CARVELL BROS., AGENTS.

Ch'town, May 19, 1879—law at pat

RAISINS.

100 BOXES FRESH VALENCIAS. CARVELL BROS. May 19—li

FLOUR.

100 Bbls. STRONG BAKERS, 100 bbls. SPRING EXTRA, JUST ARRIVED. CARVELL BROS. May 19, 1879—lin

GUANO!

50 BAGS, powerful fertilizer for Gardens or general purposes. CARVELL BROS. May 19, 1879—pat 2aw 1m.

Horse for Sale.

A GOOD CARRIAGE HORSE, suitable for a Lady to drive, will be sold CHEAP, if applied for at once to WILLIAM MURPHY, Gas House. Ch'town, May 17, 1879—2i

TO SELL OR TO LET.

WHAT Two-Story Dwelling House, Garden, Coach House, Stable, etc., on Grafton Street (West) opposite the residence of the undersigned, and having a fine view of the harbor. Possession 1st June. Apply to JOHN W. MORRISON. May 17, 1879.

PHOTOGRAPHS!

MUGFORD, Sole Licensee for Lambert's Patents for Permanent Photographs, for City and Queen's County.

THEY NEVER FADE, as the old Photographs do. ALL THE OLD SORTS HALF PRICE!

RICHMOND STREET, Opposite London House—David Wilson's Old Stand.

P. S.—TO THE TRADE.—Photographers wishing to supply their Customers with Permanent Pictures, can get their Printing and Enlarging done at reasonable Prices from their own Negatives.—Sample, 25 cts, 35 cts, 60 cts. Ch'town, May 16, 1879—3m law dy & wky

Steam Navigation Company OF P. E. ISLAND.

THE Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the above Co. will be held at their office, Corner Great George and Lower Water Street, at 7 o'clock, on the evening of TUESDAY, the 20th inst.

By order of the Directors, FRED. W. HALES, Secretary.

May 5, 1879—2in oaw

HOUSE TO LET.

ONE half of that double Tenement Brick House on Upper Queen Street, containing nine large rooms, (with or without the stable,) at present occupied by F. L. McNutt, Esq. Possession given about the 7th June next. Apply to ALEXANDER HORNE. Ch'town, May 14, 1879. 3taw.

COAL. COAL.

NOW landing a cargo ACADIA NUT COAL, selling cheap from schooner. TERMS CASH Apply to W. W. CLARKE, Agent.

Ch'town, head Lord's Wharf, May 12, 1879.

Coal. Coal.

ON HAND, and ready for delivery, Round and Nut COAL, fresh from the Mines. Terms cash. CAPT. JOHN HUGHES, Water Street.

Charlottetown, April 28, 1879—1m

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Queen Street.

New Spring & Summer

GOODS,

Ex "Prince Edward" and other Steamers.

All carefully selected in the Best and Cheapest markets.

Dress Materials,

Dress Fringes, etc.

Black Silks & Velvets

MILLINERY,

a really Good Assortment.

Hats, Feathers, Flowers, very attractive

Lace Curtains

at prices to suit all customers.

Ladies' and Gents'

UNDERCLOTHING Good and Cheap.

HOSIERY, in variety.

Grey Cottons, White Cottons, Print Cottons, Towels, Towelling, Table Damasks, Tweeds, etc.

Best Value Yet Offered.

Jas. DesBRISAY

May 14, 1879.