

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Tombstones, Tombstones, Marble Mantle-Pieces, &c.

(Kent Street, next door to Dr. Johnson's.) MARBLE WORK of all kinds executed by the Subscriber, with neatness and dispatch, and at the lowest rates. MILLSTONES made to order. Parties requiring any of the above articles are respectfully requested to call and examine my Stock before purchasing elsewhere. JOHN CAIRNS, Kent Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

NOTE.—I beg to inform the public generally that I have employed an Agent to solicit orders on my account; therefore can afford to sell cheaply. My material and workmanship are scattered over the Island, and I leave it to a discerning public to judge of their merits for themselves. J. C.

STEAMER FROM ST. JOHN, N. B. TO Halifax and Charlottetown. Fine chance for early Spring Goods! THE P. E. ISLAND STEAM NAVIGATION CO'S POWERFUL STEAMSHIP "PRINCESS OF WALES," 1000 tons burden, E. L. V. Commander, will leave ST. JOHN, N. B. for HALIFAX and CHARLOTTETOWN, on or about 15th April. For FURTHER PARTICULARS apply to ST. JOHN, N. B. to THOMAS HAZARD; HALIFAX, to THOMAS BULTON; CHARLOTTETOWN, to JOHN INGS. Feb. 22, 1864.

UNION BANK OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. In accordance with a resolution passed at the General Meeting of the Stockholders of the above Bank, held at the Colonial Building, Charlottetown, on the 15th March, 1864, it is hereby made of 35 per cent on the Subscribed Stock, which amount the Stockholders are hereby requested to pay into the hands of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, at his office, in Charlottetown, on or before Tuesday the 22nd March next. CHARLES PALMER, Chairman. Dated 22nd February, 1864.

A Meeting of the above Directors, held on Monday, the 15th February, instant, it was Resolved, That inasmuch as the Stock has not all been taken up, and some of the subscribers expressed a wish to be permitted to pay up a larger proportion of their Subscribed Stock than 35 per cent, there is hereby resolved, that a larger proportion of the Stock in proportion to the amount of Stock so paid up. CHARLES PALMER, Chairman. Dated 22nd February, 1864.

Bell's Clothing Store, Queen Street, -- Charlottetown. THE Subscriber begs leave to notify all parties INDEBTED to him—especially those whose accounts were rendered on the 31st December last—that he will expect payment on or before the 15th day of MARCH next. All accounts remaining unsettled after that date will be paid for with further notice. CHARLES BELL, Jr. Feb. 23rd, 1864.

LANGUAGES. GREEK, LATIN, FRENCH and ITALIAN, also DRAWING and PERSPECTIVE, taught by JOHN F. NEWBERY, King-st. Terms.—One lesson per week, £1 per quarter; Two lessons per week, £2; Three lessons, £3; and thus in proportion for a further number of lessons and longer periods. Feb. 22, 1864.

NOTICE. Marine Insurance Company of Prince Edward Island. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Office in WATER STREET, on THURSDAY, the 17th day of MARCH, 1864, at 10 o'clock, a.m. By Order of the Board of Directors, DANIEL J. ROBERTS, Secy. Charlottetown, Feb. 22nd, 1864.

BANK OF P. E. ISLAND. THE Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Bank will take place at the Bank premises, Queen Street, Charlottetown, on TUESDAY, the 1st day of MARCH, next, at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of choosing Seven Directors for the ensuing year, and transacting such other business as may be brought before the meeting. N. B.—By the 6th Bye-Law all persons voting for others by proxy, must deposit their authority to vote with the Cashier at least one day previous to the day of meeting. WM. CUNDALL, Cashier. Charlottetown, Feb. 22, 1864. (IG & L)

SALE OF Valuable Freehold Property. TO be Sold by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the Colonial Building, in Charlottetown, on the Fourth day of MARCH, next, at 12 o'clock, noon, by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in a certain Indenture of Mortgage, dated the Tenth day of December, 1860, and made between the Honourable William Fergusson, of the County of Kent, and Susan Kemps, his wife, of the one part, and Daniel Hodgson, of Charlottetown, of the other part, and by said Daniel Hodgson assigned to me.—All those Tracts, Pieces or Parcels of Land, being Pasture Lots Numbers Nineteen (19), Twenty-six (26), Thirty-four (34), and Forty-two (42), in the County of Charlottetown, aforesaid, the same are delineated and laid down on a certain Map or Plan of the said County of Kent, and now kept in the Office of the Registrar of Deeds and Keeper of Plans for the said Island, reference being thereunto had will more fully and at large appear. For further particulars, in terms of Sale, &c., apply to the Subscriber or his Solicitor. Dated at Charlottetown this 31st August, A. D. 1863. WILLIAM H. HOBKIRK, Solicitor.

THE above Sale is POSTPONED until WEDNESDAY, the 15th day of June next, A. D. 1864, at the same place, and at twelve o'clock, noon. Dated the 29th February, A. D. 1864. WILLIAM H. HOBKIRK, Solicitor.

Ex Annie Elizabeth & Laurel. THE Subscriber has received, ex the above Vessels from New York and Boston—200 lbs Bakers' FLOUR, 200 lbs Family do, 200 lbs superfine do, 30 do Pastry do, 50 boxes MACK CANDLES, 50 dozen Biscuits, 50 do Biscuits, 35 boxes SOAP. For sale on liberal terms. Ch'town, Dec. 28, 1863. J. S. CARVELL, Jr.

1864. February! 1864. CARRIAGE, SLEIGH, SPRINGS and BANDS, Spring Steel, Axle Shoeing Steel, Iron, Cast Bells, Bells and Nuts, &c. Cheap as BEER & SONS. February 8, 1864. 6in

MOLASSES! MOLASSES! A FEW Hhds. and Tierces of MOLASSES will be sold low for Cash, to close a consignment. February 8, 1864. 1m NEIL KANKIN.

TOBACCO! TOBACCO! IN STOCK and FOR SALE.—20 kegs Cavendish TOBACCO, 20 kegs Good Extra do, 20 do Honey Dew do. J. S. CARVELL, Ch'town, Dec. 28, 1863. J. S.

MOLASSES! MOLASSES! THE subscriber has IN STORE and for sale on liberal terms—50 tierces Macao Molasses, 50 tierces Cienfuegos do, 20 barrels do. J. S. CARVELL, Ch'town, Dec. 28, 1863. J. S.

Run! Run!! A FEW PUNCHIONS of superior old DEMERARA RUM for sale. GEORGE COLE. Also at his Brewery, Whiskey, Gin and Ale. FRESHING MACHINE CAST-INGS, at BEER & SONS. February 22, 1864.

that Agricultural Chemistry has for its objects those changes in the arrangements of matter connected with the growth and nourishment of plants, their comparative value as food, the constitution of soils, the manner in which lands are enriched by manure, or rendered fertile by the different processes of cultivation. Enquiries of such a nature could not, be interesting and important both to the theoretical Agriculturist and to the practical Farmer. To the first they are necessary in applying most of the fundamental principles on which the theory of the art depends. To the second they are useful in affording simple and easy experiments for directing his labours, and for enabling the farmer to pursue a certain and systematic plan of improvement. It was scarcely possible, he observed, to enter upon any investigation in Agriculture without finding it connected more or less with doctrines or elucidations derived from Chemistry. He then proceeded to give several experiments with the organic elements—Oxygen, Hydrogen, Carbon and Nitrogen,—explaining their properties and functions in the economy of nature. He also treated on the thirteen other Elements immediately connected with Agriculture,—showing the important part they perform in the vegetation and growth of plants. He took up, seriatim, the several Elements—Phosphorus, Sulphur, Chlorine, Sodium, Silica, Alumina, Iron, Manganese, Magnesia, Calcium, Fluorine, Potassium, Iodine,—and shewed how readily they were compounded to make articles of every day use. The following morning, at 12 o'clock, Mr. Hazard again lectured to the Mister and scholars, and several other persons, at the same place, with additional experiments, and concluded with an Address on "Rural Economy."

The following vote of thanks, proposed by P. Stephens, Esq., was passed unanimously, and presented to Mr. Hazard:—To J. D. HAZARD, ESQUIRE, SECRETARY TO THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. The trustees and members of the Orwell Cove District beg leave to return your grateful acknowledgments and best thanks for the excellent and very instructive Lecture on Agricultural Chemistry, and the several elucidations, and interesting experiments accompanying it, which you have so kindly favoured them; and they hope soon to learn that the Government have made such suitable provision for the extension of such Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry as shall afford the people, throughout the whole of the Island, regular opportunities of being benefited by the practical instruction which, on this occasion, you have so much gratified your audience.

Many of the respectable individuals present concurred in their acknowledgment of the high sense generally entertained throughout the country of Mr. Hazard's past usefulness, and of his solicitude for the welfare and advancement of his native land; and in expressions of regret that his claims upon the country have not met with a fuller recognition on the part of the Government.

CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S LITERARY INSTITUTE. Mr. Edward Rielly delivered an excellent lecture at this Institute on Wednesday evening last. His subject was "A glance at Irish History during the last half century, with a sketch of the influence of O'Connell;" and the able manner in which he treated it, shewed his knowledge of the history of Ireland, his extensive reading, and his sound judgment in referring to the Act of Union, and showed the fraud, bribery, deception and intimidation which was used in passing that Act. He then treated of Catholic emancipation, the repeal agitation, and the exodus from Ireland to America. The influence of Mr. O'Connell over his countrymen was very ably spoken of by the lecturer, who showed that no man, in any age or country, ever conducted a moral force equal to that wielded by the great Liberator during the whole of his public life. He also stated several very appropriate remarks which were praised by the gentlemen who took part in the discussion which followed its delivery.

The City Amateur Band, who were engaged by the Institute at the commencement of the season, contributed very much to the entertainment of the audience during the evening. They played several very appropriate pieces, and with great regularity and correctness; indeed, they have attained a state of proficiency in the diverse art, and have shown an admirable acquiring knowledge of new tunes, that would be creditable to any band of professional performers.

On next Wednesday evening, the Rev. Donald M. McDonald, of East Point, will lecture, at the above Institute on "The influence of a moral and religious training on society." The chair will be taken at 8 o'clock, on W. W. SULLIVAN, Secy. Feb. 22d, 1864.

LOSS OF THE STEAMSHIP BOHEMIAN! FRIDAY, 8.30 P. M. Monday night about eight o'clock the Steamship "Bohemian" struck on Alders Rock, three miles outside of Cape Elizabeth, near Portland. She sank in an hour, and a half. Captain Smith probably lost 35 or 40 persons drowned. Weather calm and mild, but dark. Richmond papers of 20th report Federal deputation at Grand Pass, 35 miles from Mobile, with gunboats and land forces; also reported Federals repulsed with great loss. News of Washington despatches reports rumors new movement of Army of Potomac directed to dislodge Lee from present position.

Chatanooga despatch reports Longstreet retreating from superior force and main body of army of Cumberland, pushing into East Tennessee.

The notorious Father Chiquini was married a short time ago to Miss Euphemia Allard, of Kankakee, Illinois. As a shipwreck recently a seaman was going ashore on a hawser from the bow of the steamer Scotch, when a shark took off one leg at the first bite. On the next attack the man lost his left arm near the shoulder, and lost his right leg in the same manner.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS and OINTMENT.—Nature's Pain—Pain is the indicator of some disorder of the system, and never to be neglected, for the "pain of to-day may prove the agony of to-morrow." Holloway's medicines stand pre-eminently forward, and are everywhere commended for quickly removing all kinds of morbid humors, and every secretion is natural, which is health, and may be secured by every invalid at a trifling outlay. The purpose of Holloway's remedies is to mitigate suffering, abolish pain, and remove disease; and they nobly effect this object. One trial will convince the most sceptical.

Married. At Charlottetown on the evening of Thursday the 25th instant, by the Rev. Thomas Duncau, Mr. David Bethune, to Miss Flora McKenzie, both of this City. Colburn, Mass., Feb. 24, by Rev. J. C. Bodwell, Mr. Edward T. Moody, proprietor of the "Middlesex Journal," formerly of this city, to Miss Susan D. Dutton, of Winsted, Conn. At Morell, Maine, on Feb. 22nd, by the Rev. Henry Crawford, Mr. James Rattery, to Miss Margaret McLaughlin, both of the Head of Hillsboro.

Died. At St. John, N. B. on the 12th inst., after a prolonged illness from disease of the heart, Mr. Israel Bell, aged 70 years. Formerly of the "Victoria Hotel," in this City. On the 6th instant, after a lingering illness of decline, Mr. Donald Docherty, of Lot 50, aged 40 years. At Summerville, on Friday morning, the 19th instant, after a painful illness of Dropsy, of ten months duration, which he bore with patient resignation, John William, second son of Robert and Agnes Glover, aged 10 years. At Murray Harbor, on the 8th instant, after an illness of eight days, Charlotte Elizabeth, aged five years, and on the 12th instant, after an illness of eight days, William Healey, aged two and a half years, both of Diphtheria, children of David Crichton, Esq.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. The Great Land Commission a failure! Procure free land while you can. THE Subscriber has THREE FARMS on Lot 15, which he offers to sell on reasonable terms. There is a portion of each of these Farms cleared and under cultivation; they front on the Bay, and are situated in the most fertile soil in the County. A Building Lot or two in Charlottetown or Summerside would be taken as a payment. For further particulars apply to the Hon. W. W. Lewis, Charlottetown; Mr. E. B. BROWN, Summerside, or to Brown's Mart, Egmont Bay. Feb. 22nd, 1864.

NOTICE!! THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY call attention to the fact that he has been appointed by Note of Hand or Book Account, that payment must be made before the 15th of MARCH NEXT, otherwise their amounts will be handed to an Attorney for collection. DAVID R. HOOPER. Lot 32, Feb. 22, 1864. 3m

much work required, as we can prove by the proposals for tenders; and the work done—except in the case of last year, when Mr. Reilly had it on the cheapest description of paper, and in the most hurried manner. Now, if there can be a considerable saving effected in putting out one part of the public printing to the competition of the trade, why not put out all? While Mr. Whelan held the office of Queen's Printer, his Tory opponents were never tired of grumbling and growling about his emoluments. They insisted that all the work of the office should be put up to tender, and they promised that it would be done as soon as a change took place. The Gazette could be tendered for at so much per column, or the official advertisements therein at so much per square; and surely there could be no difficulty in putting up the Session laws to tender, at so much per sheet, as has been done with the City Bye Laws and the Provincial Revised Statutes. There is not the slightest doubt that a great saving would be effected by the competition. When Mr. Hazard was Queen's Printer, he had, as one source of his emoluments, in virtue of his office, the printing of the Council Journals, which is a very small affair, and for which he charged one pound fifteen shillings a sheet. A much larger number of copies of the same size work is now done by tender at about fifteen shillings a sheet. Did Mr. Hazard "take advantage of his position," &c., &c.? But if there be a saving of the people's money in putting public services up to tender, why not make the practice general? Let the public offices be put up to public competition, and take, if you like, those offices that are not ministerial. Mr. Wright will soon find a competitor for the Treasurer's Office, who will do his work as faithfully as he for less than £300.—Mr. Aldous would find his office taken from him if he tendered for his present salary; and Mr. Crawford's work is not of such a difficult nature but that it could be done for a hundred pounds a year by any expert penman—for there is no brain work required in the service—and thereby save a hundred a year to the people from that office alone. We might refer to many other public offices, and make similar remarks.

But returning to the subject of the public printing, the question for the country to consider is—Does that service, on the whole, cost less than it did under the Liberal Government? No, indeed, but considerably more on the average. The chess-parings, in the way of competition, are merely a blind; and we believe they are chiefly resorted to for the purpose of distributing the public money amongst the other printers who support the Government as well as Mr. Ings. We are informed that the printing for the road service, this year, was not allowed to fall to the lowest tender, because the lowest tender came from an opponent of the Government, but that the work was given to another office in which our economical rulers receive a small moral of support. As a proof of our assertion, that the public printing costs more, on the average, under the Tories than it did under the Liberals, we shall instance two years of the role of each party, which are fair periods for a comparison.

COST OF PUBLIC PRINTING UNDER THE LIBERALS. 1857—£719 3s. 2d. 1858—£714 2s. 2d. Total for the two years, £1433 5s. 4d. COST OF PRINTING UNDER THE TORIES. 1860—£682 18s. 11d. 1861—£624 6s. 10d. Total for the two years, £1307 4s. 9d. Being £191 1s. 4d. more than the Liberal Government paid for the public printing during a like period, as above mentioned. These charges, in both cases, are independent of the cost of printing for the two branches of the Legislature, which, according to the usual practice, was done by tender. In 1862, the last year for which we have any official account of the cost of the public printing, the charge for that service was £775 3s. 3d.—in addition to which Mr. Ings received £244 10s. 10d. on account of printing the Revised Laws, making in all the very large amount of £1619 14s. 1d. In 1857 and 1858—two of the years during which Mr. Whelan held the office of Queen's Printer, and which we have selected for the comparative statement given above—the Tories were actually rabid against Mr. Whelan, in the Assembly and out of it, because the printing one year cost £719, and in the other year £714. We have shown that in two other years, while Mr. Ings held the office, it cost £191 more; and in 1862 it cost about sixty pounds more than in 1857 or 1858, besides £244 for printing the Revised Laws, which is an outlay that might have been well dispensed with. And yet there are not only no complaints or murmuring at the cost of the public printing now, but a silly attempt is made to glorify the Administration, on the score of economy in reference to this branch of the public service; and Mr. Whelan, though out of office, is still considered a fair mark for abuse and misrepresentation. Those who indulge in either will find that he is ready to defend himself against all comers.

Before Mr. Laird again "exercises" himself in reference to the public printing, let him study the facts and figures herein set forth. We can without the least trouble, oblige him with an additional supply when he is ready for it. The study of the subject may be the salutary means of directing his mind from the "No-Popery" mania, of which he is such a melancholy victim.

TRADE RETURNS. We expressed the opinion, in a recent article on the subject of "Revenue and Taxation," that smuggling must have been extensively practised, during the last two or three years, otherwise the revenue of the country would have been much greater than it has been, considering the prosperous condition of all branches of trade, and the very high duties imposed on British and foreign merchandise. We have just noticed in the Journal of the House of Assembly for last year an official statement that gives singular confirmation to this opinion. In the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (see Journal p. 176, Session 1863)—we find the following Table:—

TABLE (C), SHOWING IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FROM THE YEARS 1856 TO 1862, INCLUSIVE.

1856—Imports, £257,000 sterling.
1857—Do 258,000 "
1858—Do 180,000 "
1859—Do 330,000 "
1860—Do 320,000 "
1861—Do 210,000 "
1862—Do 211,000 "

We leave the public to draw their own conclusions from these figures. In two years there is an enormous difference—1857, for instance, and 1862. In the former year, as we observe by the statement above, when the so much abused Liberals were using all their energies to develop the resources of the country, the value of our Imports was £258,000. In 1862, when the Tories had attained to the summit of their influence and power—when they found the people submissive enough to bear any amount of taxation—and when one description of merchandise, cotton manufactures, had greatly increased in value—the imports were valued at only £211,000!! The inference is, that a very large amount of merchandise brought to the Island in 1862 was never entered; and therefore the revenue was much smaller than it should be, through the negligence, or, perhaps, a worse fault on the part of the Government officials.

LECTURE ON AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY. By special invitation, on Friday evening, the 28th of January, J. D. Hazard, Esquire, delivered an interesting and instructive lecture, to a numerous meeting, at Orwell Cove School House, on "Scientific Farming." He commenced his lecture by stating

work required, as we can prove by the proposals for tenders; and the work done—except in the case of last year, when Mr. Reilly had it on the cheapest description of paper, and in the most hurried manner. Now, if there can be a considerable saving effected in putting out one part of the public printing to the competition of the trade, why not put out all? While Mr. Whelan held the office of Queen's Printer, his Tory opponents were never tired of grumbling and growling about his emoluments. They insisted that all the work of the office should be put up to tender, and they promised that it would be done as soon as a change took place. The Gazette could be tendered for at so much per column, or the official advertisements therein at so much per square; and surely there could be no difficulty in putting up the Session laws to tender, at so much per sheet, as has been done with the City Bye Laws and the Provincial Revised Statutes. There is not the slightest doubt that a great saving would be effected by the competition. When Mr. Hazard was Queen's Printer, he had, as one source of his emoluments, in virtue of his office, the printing of the Council Journals, which is a very small affair, and for which he charged one pound fifteen shillings a sheet. A much larger number of copies of the same size work is now done by tender at about fifteen shillings a sheet. Did Mr. Hazard "take advantage of his position," &c., &c.? But if there be a saving of the people's money in putting public services up to tender, why not make the practice general? Let the public offices be put up to public competition, and take, if you like, those offices that are not ministerial. Mr. Wright will soon find a competitor for the Treasurer's Office, who will do his work as faithfully as he for less than £300.—Mr. Aldous would find his office taken from him if he tendered for his present salary; and Mr. Crawford's work is not of such a difficult nature but that it could be done for a hundred pounds a year by any expert penman—for there is no brain work required in the service—and thereby save a hundred a year to the people from that office alone. We might refer to many other public offices, and make similar remarks.

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with their fulfillment, can justly or legally have been in the Crown or Government; and that, therefore, the indulgences ought to be held to be of non-effect, and to be entitled to no regard, as barring the rights of the people, or as opposed to their demand for the establishment of a Court of Escheat. Had "the indulgences" been sanctioned and confirmed by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, it would, we must admit, have been different. They would, then, have been rendered legal and constitutional; instead of being, as they are, mere unconstitutional and capricious allowances of successive ministers of the Crown, or rather, only of successive Secretaries of State for the Colonies. Had recourse been had to the Imperial Parliament for a confirmation of these indulgences, a due consideration of them, by that august body, would have led, unavoidably, to a complete investigation of the grants themselves; and such an investigation would—it can scarcely be doubted, we think—have led to a declaration, on their part, not only of the improvidence of the conditions of the grants, but of the non-validity of the entire grants, as unconstitutional alienations of public rights and property; and, even although their legislative action thereon should have had, for its principal object, the giving of constitutional validity to the grants, it could not but, at the same time, have carried with it such a recognition of the rights of the settlers or colonists, as would have caused to them and their heirs—subjected to no obligations or burdens but—such as that of being cheerfully submitted to—titles in fee simple to the farms, literally won by them from the resisting wilderness by the might and labor of their own hands.

The speculation in which we have here indulged, respecting what possibly would have been the result of a thorough investigation of the grants, by the Imperial Government, had such an investigation been made by them, leads us into the making of one or two other observations, as, perhaps, necessary to the proper elucidation of the principles by which we are governed in our consideration of the Land Question.

The policy which would dictate a Government's granting considerable portions—but certainly not the whole—of an acquired extensive wilderness territory—such as Prince Edward Island almost wholly was at the time of its being taken possession of by Great Britain—amongst a limited number of its wealthier subjects, to the end that, by their means—that is, at their own private expense—there should be planted upon it such a number of free settlers, selected by them from amongst the indigent but honest and industrious classes of their fellow subjects, as would be a sufficient nucleus for the formation of a future colonial state—is a policy the wisdom of which, we think, it would not be easy to impugn. The primary object of the Government, directed by such policy, would not be the peculiar advantage of the grantees, although certainly that would be duly regarded, as it ought to be; but the bettering of the condition of a large body of its poor but deserving subjects, and the forming out of them, by fostering protection and encouragement, a successful and happy colonial people, whose enterprise and prosperity would directly tend to the augmentation of the wealth and power of the parent state.

By some such views as these the Imperial Government were, no doubt, actuated when they undertook to provide for the colonization of Prince Edward Island; but, unfortunately, on account of the hazy mental atmosphere through which they seem to have been contemplated, and other causes, at which it is not difficult to guess, they so blundered in the attempt, that, from the first to the present time, the consequences—so stoutly as the people have battled against them, and much as has been nobly accomplished by them for the improvement of their condition—have been bitter and incessant strife between the occupants of the lands and the presumed proprietors, and vexatious perplexity to every Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE VOLUNTEER SYSTEM. THE importance that some persons among us seem to attach to the Volunteer movement in this country is very amusing. One would almost imagine by the solemn tone assumed by Volunteer officers and Volunteer advocates that the safety of the British empire depended upon the numbers and efficiency of the Prince Edward Island Volunteer Force. The absence of reason and argument in all their lucubrations is amply compensated for by the grave and authoritative tone in which they utter their inflated common places. When a person of plain practical common sense asks "what good have the Volunteers done here, and what good are they likely to do?" he is answered by a long tirade, containing the smallest modicum of sense in the greatest quantity of words. If he is not convinced by the argument he will at least be stunned by the din.

It is our intention in this article to give plain answers to the above questions. Before doing so, we must inform our readers that we do not look at the subject from the same point of view as the Volunteer officers, fond of display, and anxious for promotion, or the political partisan fishing for votes. Our stand point is that of a citizen and a taxpayer, and we wish to enquire if he benefits that he and his class have derived, or are likely to derive, from the organization of a Volunteer Force in this Island.

To the first question: What good have the Volunteers done? we reply—None whatever. It may be asked, are not the knowledge of the military art, the habits of discipline, and the practice in the use of arms which they have acquired by their attendance at drill, advantages? If any knowledge were really gained, and habits of subordination formed, they might happily be of some use some day to a few who may hereafter follow the profession of arms. But we deny that any such knowledge is acquired, or any such habits formed. On the contrary, we firmly believe that for all practical purposes it had been much better if nine-tenths of our Volunteers had never attended drill at all. We have little hesitation in saying that a squad of the rawest recruits would be brought to a state of efficiency more quickly, and with less trouble than the best drilled company in the Island. The bad habits and imperfect discipline of our amateur soldiers would be sources of more annoyance and trouble to the drill instructor than the ignorance and unskillfulness of raw recruits. It is well known that it is much more difficult to break bad habits once formed than to acquire good ones. Take, for instance, that most important part of drill instruction, the management and care of arms. How many of our Volunteers, we ask, possess sufficient knowledge of the construction of the rifle to enable them to keep it in good working order, or how many are willing to make the sacrifice of time and labour which keeping that noble weapon in such order imperatively demands! We are informed, on good authority, that when inspected, the arms entrusted to the care of our Volunteers were found in a most disgraceful condition,—so injured were they, and so badly taken care of, that had the Volunteers who used them belonged to the regular Army they would have been obliged to change their comfortable quarters and generous diet for lonely cells and bread and water. If such severe discipline is necessary to compel well instructed regular soldiers, who have nothing else to do, to keep their arms in good order, is it any wonder that those of our ill-instructed and undisciplined Volunteers be-

with their fulfillment, can justly or legally have been in the Crown or Government; and that, therefore, the indulgences ought to be held to be of non-effect, and to be entitled to no regard, as barring the rights of the people, or as opposed to their demand for the establishment of a Court of Escheat. Had "the indulgences" been sanctioned and confirmed by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, it would, we must admit, have been different. They would, then, have been rendered legal and constitutional; instead of being, as they are, mere unconstitutional and capricious allowances of successive ministers of the Crown, or rather, only of successive Secretaries of State for the Colonies. Had recourse been had to the Imperial Parliament for a confirmation of these indulgences, a due consideration of them, by that august body, would have led, unavoidably, to a complete investigation of the grants themselves; and such an investigation would—it can scarcely be doubted, we think—have led to a declaration, on their part, not only of the improvidence of the conditions of the grants, but of the non-validity of the entire grants, as unconstitutional alienations of public rights and property; and, even although their legislative action thereon should have had, for its principal object, the giving of constitutional validity to the grants, it could not but, at the same time, have carried with it such a recognition of the rights of the settlers or colonists, as would have caused to them and their heirs—subjected to no obligations or burdens but—such as that of being cheerfully submitted to—titles in fee simple to the farms, literally won by them from the resisting wilderness by the might and labor of their own hands.

The speculation in which we have here indulged, respecting what possibly would have been the result of a thorough investigation of the grants, by the Imperial Government, had such an investigation been made by them, leads us into the making of one or two other observations, as, perhaps, necessary to the proper elucidation of the principles by which we are governed in our consideration of the Land Question.

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