

Imprisonment for Debt.

SINCE the suicide of the unfortunate man McInnis, in Queen's County jail, popular indignation has been much excited against the system of imprisonment for Debt. This case is, indeed, one of extreme hardship; and, without referring to the distress brought upon the family of the deceased, it is to be deplored that an occurrence of the kind should happen, to render any of our Public Institutions so unenviably notorious abroad, and so odious at home.

Imprisonment for debt has always been the law in this Island, and it seems to be a necessary accompaniment of the credit system, common in new countries. In many instances it operated harshly; and some years ago, an act was passed by the Legislature prohibiting arrests for debt under a certain amount. The new Statute, which was thought to be so beneficial, was found to work unsatisfactorily to both debtor and creditor. The latter finding that, in many instances, he could not compel payment, declined to give credit; while the former, if he ever could obtain an advance, was often disposed to be dishonest. Many honest men could obtain nothing for their support, under the new system; and, on the other hand, many dealers were defrauded of what was their due. The result was, that the Act became so unpopular that petitions and memorials were sent in to the Legislature, praying for its repeal. This was accordingly done, and recourse had again to the old law. Latterly an Act was passed in the Lower House with the object of again repealing the law as regards Imprisonment for Small Debts, but it failed to meet the approval of the Legislative Council, who deemed it unsuitable to our circumstances.

Enactments have been passed from time to time, making this Law bear as lightly as possible on the honest debtor who is really unable to pay; and the insane state of mind into which poor McInnis had fallen must alone have prevented him from taking advantage of those provisions and opening wide the prison door, which a relentless creditor had closed upon him.

It must not be understood, however, that a debtor can be confined indefinitely, if he has been guilty of no fraud and retains no property above what is exempt by law. In such a case he can be imprisoned for a short time only. If he has property which he can dispose of, he cannot experience much difficulty in paying the debt. Cases of hardship will occur in this, as in every system, but they are few compared with the number who have either to be sent to prison or threatened with the penalty in order to obtain from them payment of what they honestly owe. The law is not so much to blame as are the parties disposed to take advantage of it, and it is only in very exceptional cases that the creditor has the power to oppress his debtor.

But, while providing against the oppression of the creditor, it must not be forgotten that there are also dishonest debtors—persons who will never pay a debt, as long as the law will not compel them to do it. And it very often happens that those very parties are quite able to pay if they wish. Instances of the following kind are not unknown in this Island. Some years ago a person who was not supposed to be strictly honest was confined in Jail at the suit of a creditor; and, by swearing that he owned no property and was guilty of no fraud, he obtained the usual order for his discharge, unless the legal allowance were paid by the plaintiff—on payment of which he might be detained for three months, but no longer. The plaintiff had not much faith in the truthfulness of his friend, and continued to pay him the allowance. A few days after he was called in by the debtor, who paid him the amount of his debt in full, alleging as a reason for this unusual desire to be honest, that he was so much annoyed by fleas in the jail that he could not content himself there for the remainder of the term.

A great blessing would, doubtless, be conferred upon society if the present law could be abolished, and one substituted which, while affording an equal security to the creditor, would at the same time protect the debtor and allow him his liberty.

The credit system is deeply rooted in this Island, and, as we said before, this law seems to be its attendant, although, we hope, not a necessary one. If any scheme for abolishing imprisonment and substituting a more humane method of collecting debts, can be devised, the time seems most opportune for its introduction, and it would, we have no doubt, be gladly welcomed by the people.

"The Double Dealers."

"I thank the Jew," etc. Mr. Brown (a supporter of the Free Trade Leader, McKenzie) said, when he introduced his Protectionist resolution respecting flour (vide *Herald*, 1878):—

He voted for the right hon. gentleman's amendment, believing that it was calculated to bring about the sort of reciprocal trade with our American neighbors which we might expect from Protection. We were as well able to manufacture goods and cheap wares as they were, but our markets were not large enough; we wanted that scope for selling our manufactures which their markets afforded. We had a barrier to the progression of our manufactures because of this, while the Americans could supply us with manufactured goods and get large prices for them. He did not believe that if the Americans were such energetic, shrewd people as they were represented to be, and as they undoubtedly were, if they did not believe Protection to be to their advantage, they would continue a system so ruinous and so disastrous as Protection had been represented by some gentlemen to be, if it was such a ruinous system. English people would not bring their steel, and German manufacturers, their laces and ribbons and manufacture them in America, thus competing with America on her own ground, if they did not believe the American system of Protection was beneficial. He had been urged by millers, largely engaged in the district, to take up this question. He had also received representations from Mr. Gordon, a miller from another section of the country, Messrs. Corly & Sons, who had lately opened a large branch of their business in the city of St. John, for the purpose of shipping flour down there, and others, and it was considered that the Maritime Provinces could be as cheaply supplied with flour from Ontario as they could from their American neighbors if this Protection was given. He therefore moved:—

"That Mr. Speaker do not now leave the Chair, but that it be resolved, that whereas a large quantity of wheat and flour has been imported into Canada within the last few years, this House is of opinion that the interests of Canadian farmers would be promoted by the imposition of a duty on these articles."

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD: I would like to ask the hon. head of the Government whether he considers this vote a vote of want of confidence?

Mr. ROSS (Grit), who seconded the Protectionist resolution introduced by Brown, the supporter of the Free Trader (!) Leader McKenzie, said:—

Mr. ROSS said he did not second the motion as a want of confidence motion because he did not know any other party in the House that he could support if he withdrew his confidence from the Administration. The hon. member for North Hastings (Mr. BOWELL) thought that because there was a certain party in his (Mr. ROSS') district, which believed in protective duties, he would have their support; but he would find out his mistake—they had little confidence in the member for North Hastings.

MCKENZIE, the Free Trade Leader (!) said:—

"As long as duties are levied upon imported articles, they should be levied upon articles produced by our own people."

Again:— "I am in favor of it—viz., 'Incidental Protection.'"

QUEBEC ELECTION.

Statements and Opinions.

The Grit pretensions to M. Caron, the member elect for Maskinonge, as a supporter of the Joly Administration, should be set at rest by the following extract from M. Caron's address to the electors:—

"I am a Conservative, and in the critical circumstances through which the country is passing at this moment, I believe that every enlightened Canadian, every true patriot, should be such more than ever before."

"If I had been in the House at the last session, I would not have hesitated to vote confidence in the DeBoucherville Government, and non-confidence in the Joly Administration. And if I have the honour to be elected, the latter Administration will no more have my support than it has my confidence to-day, because in the first place they have mounted to power by trampling under foot the principles of responsible government, thereby striking a terrible blow at our local independence; and in the second place, the new Ministers profess principles which are not mine."

THERE will be a meeting of the City Council this evening at 7.30.

"BATTERY" DIVISION.—Last evening a public Temperance meeting was held at Winsloe Road and addressed by the G. W. Patriarch of the Sons of Temperance, and Past W. P. Seller. At the close "Battery" Division, No. 55, S. of T., was re-organized with 33 members. The officers are:—W. P., James Carter; W. A., Mrs. J. Cudmore; R. S., J. T. Cudmore; A. R. S., J. Diamond; F. S., John Ford; T., Thomas Inch, Chap.; George Cudmore, Senr.; C., Cephas Nunn, A. C., M. Inch; I. S., Henry Locke; O. S., John Carter; P. W. P., William H. Smith; Regular meeting, every Thursday night, at 8, sharp. "Battery" starts out with excellent prospects of a useful future.

THE dwelling of Joseph Steele, of Grand River Cape, was destroyed by fire on Sunday night last. The fire originated in a defective flue, above the second floor, and before the alarm reached the nearest inhabitants, the house, with all its contents, except a stove, were reduced to ashes. Steele is a blind man, having unfortunately met with an accident about two years ago, middle-aged, and is entirely dependent upon his wife for sustenance. They were left in the open air with two children, and unless the neighbors and charitably disposed extend a little help they will have great hardship to endure.—K. C. Advertiser.

Special Notices.

BANANAS, Rhubarb, Dates, Cranberries, New Onions, Oranges, Lemons, Tamarinds, Maple Candy, &c., just received at "The Confectionery."—21

ROBERT ORR & Co., having enlarged their store, are now showing New Goods in every department, at prices specially low to suit cash customers. May 8 3 in

A FINE Assortment of Fishing Rods, Flies, Reels, Lines, Casts, Floats, Hooks, Baskets, Fly-Books; also Tips, Rings, Ferules, &c., &c., for repairing Rods, received, by "Prince Edward," at DODD'S MEDICAL HALL, DODD'S Corner—may 10 dy pat 2w 2aw

SPRING OPENING.—Weeks & Co., Queen Street, are opening to-day large lots of NEW SPRING GOODS, received by first steamer.—2w

JUST RECEIVED—A nice lot of Ladies', Misses' and Children's American and Canadian Boots, Shoes and Slippers. Fine English Boots and Boot-uppers daily expected.—DORSEY & JOST. 3i pat & ar.

FROM England direct, by steamer "Prince Edward," Fresh Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Perfumes, Druggists' Sundries, &c., &c., received at DODD'S MEDICAL HALL, DODD'S corner.— may 10—dy pat 2w 2aw

ON Monday next J. & W. Beer intend opening for the benefit of the ladies of Charlottetown a vicinity, a dress and mantle-making and millinery department, under the superintendence of Mrs. P. G. Clarke. This effort will, we feel assured, be appreciated by the ladies and receive their unanimous support. 2ins

Do We Want Reciprocity?

(From the Moncton Times.)

Let our readers carefully study the following comparative statement which we believe to be entirely reliable, having taken the figures from official tables published by the authorities of Canada and the United States:—

Table comparing Canadian and United States duties on various goods like Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn, etc.

The effect of such tariffs has proved most disastrous to the trade and industries of Canada, as any one except a Free Trade theorist would expect. Precisely what the result is and has been we shall hereafter show.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Fifteen millions of dollars already sunk in the Pacific Railway, and practically nothing substantial to show for it but the steel rails.

The *Nouveau Monde* points out that the Rouges have no claim on Messrs. Turcotte, Magnan, Caron and Bertrand, whom they claim as Ministerialists. M. Turcotte has declared himself emphatically opposed to M. Joly. M. Bertrand was brought out by the Conservatives to oppose the old Rouge member, M. Robert, in Rouville. M. Caron announced himself as a supporter of M. de Boucherville, and was opposed to the uttermost by the Rouges. "And, lastly," says the *Monde*, "we are especially authorized to say that M. Magnan is also a Conservative," and opposed to M. Joly.

The *Winnipeg Free Press*, a Ministerial paper, is disgusted with Mr. Mills' management of the half-breed reserves. It says: "It is now seven long years since the half-breed reserves were made, and yet we believe fully half the area remains unallotted and locked up against settlement and improvement. From the very beginning the administration of these reserves has been of a character exactly confirmatory of the theory adopted by so many that the real object of the reserves was to prevent, or at least hinder, the settlement of the Province."

New Advertisements.

The Latest Novelty.

SPiral SHAVINGS, for making Wall Pockets, Brackets and other Fancy Work, and a new Stock of

WOOD SPLINTS, COLORED STRAWS, PERFORATED MOTTOS, PERFORATED BOARD, (entirely new kinds), SILVER PAPER, TINFOIL, &c., &c.

Just Opened at BREMNER BROS. May 10—pat 3i

HARPER'S HISTORY Of the Maritime Provinces For sale at BREMNER BROS. May 10—pat 3i

W. C. McDonald's TOBACCOES!

25 Boxes Flat Chewing, 50 Caddies "British Consols," "Gold Bar," "Queen's" and "Neison's Navy."

Carvell Bros. Ch'town, May 10, 1878—3w law

BY THE CARROLL TO-DAY,

A LOT of Childrens' CARRIAGES—very good, and cheap for cash. MARK BUTCHER. May 9—4i

Prince Edward Island



STEAMERS SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Leave Charlottetown for Pictou every MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY mornings at 5 o'clock, connecting there at 10 a. m. with train for Halifax. Fare to Halifax, \$4.10. Picnic Parties of twenty or upwards can obtain Return Tickets at Charlottetown Office to Pictou and back same day, for \$1 each.

Returning to Charlottetown. Leave Pictou every TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY, about 2 p. m., on arrival of morning train from Halifax.

CAPE BRETON.

Leave Pictou for Hawkesbury every MONDAY and THURSDAY, on arrival of morning train from Halifax, connecting both ways with Stage and Steamer "Neptune," to and from Sydney and Bras d'Or Lake.

Returning to Pictou SAME NIGHTS, connecting with 10 a. m. train TUESDAY and FRIDAY for Halifax.

New Brunswick, Canada and United States.

Leave SUMMERSIDE every day (Sunday excepted) on arrival of morning train from Charlottetown, connecting at Shediac with trains for each of the above named places, and at St. John with Steamers of International Co. for Portland and Boston. Also, leaves Charlottetown for Summerside every Monday Morning, about 3 o'clock.

Returning, leaves Shediac every day (Sunday excepted) on arrival of day train from St. John, for Summerside; connect there without delay, with train for Charlottetown. Also, leave Summerside for Charlottetown every Saturday evening, about 6 o'clock.

AGENTS: Almon & MacIntosh, Halifax, Noonan & Davies, Pictou; A. Grant and Co., Hawkesbury; Hanford Bros., St. John.

F. W. HALES.

Charlottetown, May 9, 1878,

NEW GOODS.

NEW GOODS.

ROBERT ORR & CO. Have now open, and ready for inspection, a very large stock of

STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS!

Which they are selling, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,

LOWER PRICES

Ever Before Offered.

They respectfully solicit the patronage of their customers, and the public generally. Ch'town, May 8, 1878.

THE place to get your Printing done is at the EXAMINER Printing Rooms!

New Advertisements.

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 9, 1878.—1 a w arg pat

NOTICE!

ALL Parties who have any Bills against the Reform Club will please send them in before SATURDAY next to the undersigned.

BENJ. DAVIES, Jr., Sec. Reform Club.

May 9—2i

CIVIC ELECTION, BY THE MAYOR.

IN pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly of this Island, made and passed in the Eighteenth year of the reign of her present Majesty, intitled, "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Charlottetown, and the several Acts in amendment thereof," I do hereby give Public Notice that an Election of

One Common Councilman,

to supply the vacancy in the office of Councilor for WARD NO. FOUR (4), in the said city, instead of place of Simon W. Crabbe, Esquire, will be held

On Monday, the 13th day of May next,

in the said Ward, and at the place following that is to say: At the Fire Engine House, fronting on Kent Street, East; and at the said election the Poll will be opened at Nine o'clock in the forenoon, and continue open till Five o'clock in the afternoon, of the same day.

DESCRIPTION OF WARD.—Ward Number Four comprises all that part of Charlottetown which lies South of Fitzroy and North of Grafton Streets.

QUALIFICATION.—An Act to amend an Act to Incorporate the Town of Charlottetown (passed 18th April, 1877.)

SECTION I. All the male inhabitants of the age of Twenty-one years and upwards, who shall have resided in the said City for at least one year then next preceding the day of such Election, and being British subjects, and such of whom shall actually, and within the Ward for which he shall vote, then be, and for three months previously shall have been, actually and in his own right the bona fide owner of the freehold of one whole Town Lot, Common Lot, Water Lot, or the bona fide owner of a piece of ground of the yearly value of Thirty Dollars, or the bona fide owner of the freehold of a Dwelling House, part of a Dwelling House, Store, Warehouse, Office, or Shop, of the yearly value of Thirty Dollars; or who shall be in the tenancy, occupancy of a Town Lot, Common Lot, Water Lot, or piece of Ground, Dwelling House, part of a Dwelling House, Shop, or Warehouse, of the annual rent of Thirty Dollars, payable quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly; and no other person shall be entitled to vote at said Elections for such Mayor and Councilors; provided that every partner, whose share of the rent amounts to Thirty Dollars annually, shall be entitled to vote; and provided further, that every such male person of age, aforesaid, and being a non-resident of said City, shall be doing business in, and be in actual occupation of, business or other premises in the said City, and who shall be qualified to vote at such Elections under any of the several qualifications hereinbefore specified, shall be entitled to vote for such Mayor and Councilors, in the Ward in which the property on which he claims to vote shall be situate.

J. S. CARVELL,

MAYOR.

W. B. MORRISON, City Clerk. Charlottetown, May 6, 1878.—her ne pat arg pres

Steam Navigation Co'y OF P. E. ISLAND.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the above Company, will be held at their Office, on TUESDAY, the 21st MAY, at seven o'clock in the evening, for the election of Directors and other business.

By order of the Directors. DANIEL DAVIES, President. F. W. HALES, Secretary. Ch'town, May 7, 1878—dy pat