The Weekly Examiner
AND ISLAND ARGUS.

APRIL 1, 1881.

Winter Communication.

The House of Assembly, on Wednesday evening last, by A UNANIMOUS VOTE, adopted the resolution of the Leader of the Government respecting Winter Steam Communication. The disussion of the subject was animated and prolonged till about two o'clock next morning. Nearly all the representatives of the people in the Lower House gave expression to their views, and several of the speeches were exceedingly good. It is pleasing to note that our public men are of one mind that the terms of Union with the Dominion must be fulfilled. Hearty and united action will, without doubt, be followed by the improvement in Winter Communication which the people of this Province have bargained for and require.

The Crisis.

The crisis has come. It was precipitated Monday evening by Mr. Shaw. When the Assembly were that evening considering the Government measure to provide for a general election for both Legislative Council and Lower House, in order that the question of the reduction of the Legislature may be tested at the polls, Mr. Shaw moved a resolution providing that the dissolution should take place at the close of the present session.

The Government at once accepted the challenge, and the Assembly UNANIMOUSLY agreed that there should, during the coming recess, be an appeal to the country.

The Legislative Council will hardly dare to reject this proposition; and if they do not, a general election will take place during the coming summer.

Winter Steam Communication.

Hon. Mr Sullivan, Monday evening, gave notice that he will move the following resolutions:—

"*Whereas*, By the terms of Union between Prince Edward Island and the Dominion of Canada, the Government of the Dominion undertook and agreed to "establish and maintain efficient steam service for the conveyance of mails and passengers between the Island and the mainland of the Dominion, winter and summer, thus placing the Island in continuous communication with the Intercolonial Railway and the Railway system of the Dominion."

And Whereas, No such efficient steam service has been maintained during any winter since the Island became part of the Dominion.

Resolved Therefore, That a joint address from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly be presented to His Excellency the Governor General representing the failure of the Dominion Government to carry out that part of the Terms of Confederation above referred to, and praying that His Excellency in Council will take such action as shall cause the grievance above recited to be remedied and the Terms of Confederation to be fulfilled, and that the Legislative Council be requested to join in the said Address.

East Northumberland.

The Grit press throughout the Dominion are jubilant over the defeat of the Government candidate, Mr. Kennedy, in East Northumberland, and the return of Mr. Crouter, whereby they have scored their first victory since the General Election of 1878. Mr. Keeler, the late member, wrested the constituency from the Grits at the last election by a majority of only 63, and as it has always been a doubtful borough, the Opposition are welcome to make all they can out of their little victory. If reports be true which are in circulation, Mr Crouter gained his election by means anything but creditable. It appears that Mr. Kennedy is a Roman Catholic, and that a most infamous sectarian canvass was made against him on that account, and in favor of Mr. Crouter, who is a Protestant. Such tactics as seem to have been resorted to in this election, cannot be too strongly condemned. The other day, we observed that an organization is being formed in Toronto, with the design of preventing Roman Catholics from being elected to the Legislature, or holding any office whatever. One notable feature of this association is that the names of the members are not to be public—they evidently "love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." The Orangemen of Ontario, we are glad to see, disclaim all connection and sympathy with this new Society, it being part of the Orange platform, as they say, that Roman Catholics have as many rights as Protestants, and should enjoy the same liberties that Orangemen claim for themselves.

The St. John *News*, the organ of Mr. Willis, a high dignitary in the Orange order, strongly condemns the course pursued in the East Northumberland Election, and says "the only workable principle is fair play, but no favor to men of any creed or nationality. Justice to all, special privileges to none."

The Fishery Award.

Hon. Mr. Sullivan, on Monday evening, gave notice that he will move:—

"That the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to take into consideration the despatches of the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor General in answer to the joint address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly to Her Majesty the Queen, praying for compensation for the use of the Island Fisheries by citizens of the United States from 24th of July, 1871, to 1st July, 1873, and for payment of a portion of the Halifax award, together with all other papers on the table of this House relating to the same subject."

From the foregoing notice of motion, it will be seen that the Government, although so far unsuccessful in their applications to both the Dominion and Imperial Governments for a share of the Halifax award under the Treaty of Washington, do not intend to lose sight of the claim. What course they now intend to adopt, we cannot say until the motion, of which Mr. Sullivan has given notice, comes before the House. It will be remembered that the claim made in the minute of council, forwarded by the Davies' Government, and also in the Joint Address of both Houses in the session of 1879, was for $1,250,000 as the share of this Province in the Halifax Award. To which the reply was given by the Dominion Government that the Halifax Award was made to cover the period of twelve years, commencing on 1st July, 1873, during which the Treaty is to continue in operation, and as on that date this Province became part of the Confederation, we had no stronger claim than any other Province to a portion of the Award. On being thus informed, the Legislature last session memorialized the Queen and asked that not only might Canada be directed by the British Government to hand over to us the $1,250,000 claimed for our share of the award for a period of twelve years from 1st July, 1873, but also that we should be compensated by the Imperial Government for the use of our fisheries by citizens of the United States for the period of nearly two years from 24th July 1871, to 1st July, 1873, when at the earnest request of the Home Government, this Island threw open her fisheries to U. S. fishermen. The despatch that was received from Lord Kimberley in reply to the memorial, evaded answering this part of the claim entirely, and we trust that our Legislature, in dealing with the whole question, will not neglect to press this claim against the Imperial Government, who have treated the Island very shabbily in the matter.

A firm of agents in Edinburgh, Scotland, for shippers of cattle from Canada, write to their clients in Montreal that cattle greatly deteriorate on the passage after the 1st of October, in consequence of the cold weather; they also warn Canadian shippers not to expect as high prices the coming summer as last year, as there is a greater supply of cattle in England.

The Question of the Day.

The Hon. John Lefurgy (himself a large property holder) thinks the best protection property-holders can obtain at the present time is a reduction of the expense of legislation, and a consequent lightening of the burden property holders are compelled to bear; and the Hon. Daniel Gordon (a man of excellent judgment) thinks it as absurd for the people to keep forty-three legislators in this Province—when fifteen could do the work, as for a ship owner to keep forty-three sailors in a ship which could be as well worked by fifteen.

Governor Griffith.

The threatened war in Ashantee has, happily, been averted; not, however, without bringing into prominence, in an honorable connection, the name of one in whom this Province has some interest. We refer to the Hon. William Brandford Griffith, C. B., C. M. G., Lieutenant-Governor of the Gold Coast, who took a leading part in the affair. Governor Griffith is a gentleman of considerable ability—a native of Barbadoes and the son of a former Speaker of the House of Assembly of that Island. He filled the office of Auditor General for a number of years. At Barbadoes, during the administration of Governor John Pope Hennessey, Mr. Griffith, in addition to the duties of his office, discharged those of Acting Colonial Secretary, during the absence of the Hon. Mr. Gore, and stood by the Governor in endeavoring to carry out the wishes of the British Government in reference to the confederation of the West India Colonies for which he incurred the displeasure of the anti-Confederates; and the insurgent negroes, unable to discern between their friends and opponents, attacked Mr. Griffith's country seat, "Windsor," which had to be guarded by the military and police, who could not, however, prevent the wanton destruction of Mr. Griffith's crops and the hacking and maiming of his cattle. The Lieutenant Governorship of the Gold Coast, it is understood, will be a stepping stone to further promotion. Governor Griffith is an uncle-in-law to W. J. S. Parks, Esq., late of the Head of Hillboro' River, in this Island, and Mrs. Griffith, wife of the Lieutenant Governor, is a cousin of the late Mrs. John E. W. Alleyne, of the same place.

Winter Steam Communication.

We are very glad to observe that the Government is going to take up the matter of winter steam communication between this Province and the mainland, and insist upon the Dominion Government carrying out the terms of the compact under which we became part of the Confederation. We are now at the close of the eighth winter which has elapsed since we entered the Union, on terms which guaranteed the establishment and maintenance of *efficient* steam service, *winter* and summer, with the intention of placing us in *continuous* communication with the Intercolonial and other railway systems of the Dominion, and we are very little, if any, better off than before. The "Albert" which was placed on the route for the second and third winters was a "tub," but still giving her fair play, she was very nearly as good as her successor, the "Northern Light" which the Minister of Marine has, more than once pronounced a huge fraud.

This season our business men have suffered great loss and inconvenience on account of the irregularity and detention of the steamer. Hundreds of tons of freight have been lying at Pictou awaiting shipment, and will probably remain there until the *St. Lawrence* or *Princess* bring them. Passengers have suffered seriously, starvation has stared them in the face; and forced to leave the steamer to seek the shore, they have been severely frozen, although, providentially, none have perished.

Surely, the Dominion Government, after five years trial of this "Northern Light," will see that is been a complete failure. We are therefore pleased that our Local Government has taken the matter in hand; and we trust that their representations may be the means of awakening the Dominion Government to a sense of their duty in discharging the obligations imposed upon them by the terms of Union.

Hon. D. Davies' Letter.

The Honorable Daniel Davies is one of a very limited number of men who never speak unless they have something to say, and when any thing appears in the public press over that gentleman's signature, it will amply repay perusal. Since Mr. Davies' withdrawal from active political life a few years ago, letters (at various intervals) have appeared from his pen on questions affecting the welfare of our farmers and merchants, and we are glad to observe from the communication addressed to the editor of the *Patriot*, which we publish to-day, that the series is not yet finished. There is one suggestion which we may be allowed to make to Mr. Davies, and which we have no doubt he will take kindly, and it is that, in future, he adopt the EXAMINER AND ARGUS as the medium through which to communicate his ideas to the people, as thereby they will reach a much larger and more appreciative class of readers.

The subject of Mr. Davies' last letter, which will be found elsewhere, is the establishment of Starch, Butter and Cheese Factories in this Province. This is one of several industries, which have, since the adoption of the National Policy, engaged the attention of our people, and several companies about to embark in these enterprises, are seeking Acts of Incorporation by the Legislature now in session. Opportunity is thus given to our representatives to discuss these important questions, and without wishing to discourage our people in anything calculated to advance their prosperity, we advise them to ponder well before going too far,—to look before they leap. A large amount of capital is being invested this year in lobster factories, and we hope that success will attend the efforts of the persons engaged in this valuable industry; but the close of the season will tell the tale of much money made or lost. Canadians have long been taunted with being slow and unprogressive as compared with our American Cousins, but it is better to advance slowly, if, at the same time, we do so surely. There is such a thing as having "too many irons in the fire," and the old adage of "let the shoemaker stick to his last" is a very good one, and its truth has been proven upon many occasions. Our Statute Book reveals scores of companies whose existence is confined to the covers of that volume, and it has been too much the practice in this Province to secure the charter first and propound the scheme afterwards. The opinions of men of such sound judgment on these matters, as Mr. Davies, should have much weight, and we shall at all times be happy to receive correspondence on this or any other subject in which the farmers chiefly have an interest.

Before we leave this question, we must give expression to our pleasure on reading in Mr. Davies' letter such a thorough endorsement of the N. P., as appears when, in recommending the making of refined, as well as crude starch, he advocates the placing of a high duty upon foreign material, so that our manufacturers would not only supply the local demand for the Island, but also send it to all parts of the Dominion. We have doubtless been in error in hitherto associating Mr. Davies with the Grits or opponents of the N. P., and we gladly welcome his return to the ranks of the Liberal Conservative party, in which he was once a powerful and respected member.

Mr. Langevin and Mr. Blake.—We learn that it is the intention of the Hon. Mr. Langevin, Minister of Public Works, to visit the Maritime Provinces during the ensuing summer, when he will inspect the works in progress. Mr. Langevin has systematically made it an important point, in fact a *sine qua non* of office, to acquire a practical knowledge of his department.—*Ottawa Citizen.*

The Maritime Provinces are further east than East Toronto. Mr. Blake declined speaking for his party's candidate in East Toronto because he was not an elector there. Mr. Blake will shortly speak in the Maritime Provinces. Perhaps he is an elector there.—*Toronto Mail.*

A Glance at Our Country's Record.

This was the subject of Rev. Dr. Walker's lecture in the Market Hall, on Monday evening, in aid of the funds of St. Vincent de Paul Society. The Lecturer did not, as the title might indicate, take up the political record of Canada, and review the changes that have taken place in her Government from the arrival of Cartier to the term of Lord Lorne, noting her progress under different constitutions, first as several isolated provinces down to the accomplishment of Confederation projected by Lord Durham. Nor was it devoted to reviews of the social revolutions that have taken place from the time of Champlain to our own day.

The Lecture partook somewhat of the nature of both, *opening* with the advent of the discoverer of the St. Lawrence, the causes that compelled the first colonists to emigrate, the trials and privations they endured in their new home, and the subsequent rapid progress made by them in the settlement of the country were briefly touched upon. The extraordinary growth of towns in Canada on the sites of which but a few years ago nothing stood but the wild forest, the great strides made also in her commerce, the evidences every where of the success that attended the efforts of her settlers in the past, supply the best criterion by which to judge of Canada's greatness in the future. The Rev. gentleman also pointed out what a beautiful home is the Canadian's, in the scenery by its mountains, lakes and rivers, and described in good language some of the magnificent views, especially those about the Thousand Islands and the Rapids of the St. Lawrence. The religious celebration at Quebec, in October, 1874, in honor of the late Bishop Laval, was also referred to. The lecture, having such an extended range, occupied but an hour and a quarter in the delivery.

Temperance.

A large and influential meeting of the Central Committee of Prince Edward Island was held last Tuesday evening. Among those present we noticed the Rev. Dr. Murray, Rev. Mr. McGillivray and Rev. Mr. Hodgson The names of Hon James Muirhead, of Summerside, and Messrs. Bowers, Cooper and M. G. McLeod, of Charlottetown, were added to the Committee.

Communications were read from Thomas Gales, Esq., Montreal, Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, asking the co-operation of the Central Committee in certain propositions for the better enforcement of the "Canada Temperance Act 1878." The request was agreed to. Other business of very great importance to the temperance question was brought forward and disposed of.

The temperance people of the Island may feel assured that their wishes will be faithfully carried out by the Committee. They are at present doing all that can be done to bring about a better state of things in King's and Queen's Counties, where the Scott Act is very loosely carried out, as well as in Queen's County and Charlottetown, where the License Law is not only winked at, but openly and shamefully violated.—Com.

The Dawn of a New Era.

The English nation has, at last, broken through its stolidity and apathy. The last forty years have brought many important changes. Commercial progress, social advancement, beneficent political revolutions and, chiefest of all, the great elementary education movement, have worked changes worthy of notice.

We give a few of these changes in detail.

Population—In 1840, the population of the United Kingdom was 26,487,000; in 1878, it was estimated at 33,799,000. In the former year, London contained 1,700,000 inhabitants; in the latter, 3,800,000. Not a bad growth that, for London; the last forty years do better than the previous *thousand!*

Trade—In 1840, the foreign trade of the United Kingdom (combined exports and imports) amounted to £172,133,000. In 1878, it amounted to £614,255,000. Marvellous rate of increase this, too!

Revenue—The public revenue for the year 1840 was £51,850,000. In 1878, it was £81,598,000. The income tax in 1843 (the first year of its incidence) yielded for every penny in the pound, £801,000. In 1878 the taxable incomes had so increased that every penny in the pound of income tax yielded £1,947,000. Fiscal genius is here pleasingly indicated!

Pauperism—The number of adult able-bodied paupers who were receiving relief in England and Wales in 1848, was 201,644, out of a population of 17,565,000. In 1878 the number had diminished to 97,927, out of 24,854,000. Something satisfactory here for our stolid stand still friends to ponder!

Crime—In 1840 the convictions for criminal offences of all kinds throughout the United Kingdom were 34,030, with a population of 26,487,000. In 1878, they were 17,038, with a population of 32,799,009. This decrease was no sudden, fitful, or accidental circumstance, but was the gradual result, year by year, of permanent influences.

Could there be a stronger proof of the vast moral as well as material progress of that people? Such, then, is the pale glow of the DAWN; happy sign of the clear, strong DAY.

Looking to Reciprocity.

It is very evident that there is a strong desire on the part of commercial men in many parts of the United States to bring about reciprocal trade relations with Canada. Evidences of this desire have appeared in the Western States, New York, Massachussetts and elsewhere. In fact, for the last five years there have been persistent efforts to secure Congressional action in the matter, the merchants of the United States having petitioned Congress to appoint a Commission to consider whether a basis for a Reciprocity Treaty could not be arrived at. Since the adoption of a Protective Tariff by Canada, and the consequent further loss to the United States of a market for millions of dollars worth of their products, the desire for a Reciprocity Treaty has been steadily gaining. About the end of January over fifteen hundred of the leading mercantile houses of New York and Boston, following up their previous efforts in the same direction, petitioned Congress in the matter.—*St. John Sun.*

A Russian Manifesto.

The following manifesto has been promulgated in Russia:—

We, Alexander III., ascending the throne with the firm intention of securing and strengthening the tranquility and welfare of the Empire, and following the example of Nicholas I. and Alexander II., deem it our sacred duty to decide that certain measures be adopted. Under extraordinary circumstances, in view of the minority of the heir to our throne, it is our will, and in accordance with the fundamental laws of the Empire, we do ordain as follows: In the event of our demise, before the Czarewitch has attained the requisite age, we appoint Grand Duke Vladimer Regent of the Empire, the Kingdom of Poland and Grand Duchy of Finland, until the Czarewitch shall have attained the required age; in the event of the death of the Czarewitch (after our demise), before he attains his majority, the Grand Duke shall remain regent, after our latter next son shall have ascended the throne, in view of the law of succession, until the latter attains his majority.

The superintendent of foreign mails at Washington has written to the Postmaster General of Canada, proposing that the existing postal arrangements between Canada and the United States be changed to provide for forwarding letters from either country to the other, on which has been prepaid at least one single rate of postage, deficient postage to be collected and retained by the country delivering them. Under the existing arrangement prepayment of postage in full on all correspondence is compulsory. The rule works hardship by delaying many letters and subjecting senders to great inconvenience and sometimes loss.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, March 28.

Hon. Mr. Sullivan moved that the House go into Committee on "An Act to amend an Act providing for the election of members of the Legislative Council, and other purposes therein mentioned."

He explained the provisions of the Bill, and stated that as the Council had rejected the three measures passed by the House respecting that body, it was necessary to ascertain the wishes of the people at the polls regarding the question of abolition This Bill would therefore make provision that the whole of the seats of the forty-three members composing the House of Assembly and Legislative Council should be declared vacant at the dissolution of the present House of Assembly, and that a General Election for both Chambers, under the existing law, be held simultaneously.

Mr. Perry replied. He desired the Government to fix the date for holding said General election for both Houses. If this were done he would support the measure.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson said that it would rest with the Council to propose any date for holding the election which they thought proper. This measure was absolutely necessary to test the country for the purpose of settling the much-vexed question.

Mr. Shaw said: I rise for the purpose of moving the following amendment. The clause as it is in the Bill, reads:—

"At the next dissolution of the present House of Assembly, all seats in the Legislative Council shall become vacant; and the whole of the Legislative Council shall be dissolved, and writs for a new election for the whole Legislative Council shall be issued and elections held according to law."

Now I move that this section be struck out and the following substituted:—

After the prorogation of the present General Assembly, all seats in the Legislative Council and House of Assembly shall become vacant and, on a day to be named by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and set forth in a proclamation declaring such dissolution and writs for new elections of members to serve in the Legislative Council and House of Assembly shall be held according to law.

I may say that in making this motion, I do so to expedite matters. It is proper that this important question should come before the people fairly and squarely. If a change is to be made in the constitution of the Province, the people should first be consulted. As one representative, I shall never think of adopting any other course than that of handing back to the people, unimpaired, the trust I received from them.

Mr Farquharson—In rising to second the motion, I may say that it is evident a bomb-shell has been thrown into the ranks of the Government. The amendment, if carried, will save the cost of one session of the Legislative Council—some $6,000 or $7,000 a year. The question will thus be decided. I am willing to go immediately to the people; and let them decide.

Mr. Gordon.—The question which has been before the people is: Shall the Legislative Council be abolished or not? With respect to this question there has been, on this side of the House, no uncertain sound. It is evident, Sir, that the people have too many men in their service. What would be thought of the shipowner, however wealthy, who would keep a ship manned with forty-three men, when fifteen men would be well able to manage her? Yet, I think, our little Province stands in the position of a shipowner such as this. I take it that the amendment is a direct challenge to the Government; and if the Government have the pluck which I think they have, they will take it up in a moment. The people will then be able to declare, in a proper way, the number of men they want to do their work, and to say who they shall be. With regard to the Leader of the Opposition, his conduct has shown that he cannot stand fast. He reminds me very much of a story of a quack doctor, who on sending his man to the woods to obtain some bark, addressed him in these words: If you scrape the bark up it will act as a cathartic; if you scrape it down it will act as an emetic; but if you scrape it both up and down, no man can tell what may happen. So with the Leader of the Opposition, scrape him one way and one result will follow; scrape him another and a totally different effect will be produced; scrape him up and down, and it is quite impossible to say what may take place. Mr. Chairman, I am for the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Sullivan: As the Government are anxious that this question should be fairly, squarely and properly tested, and the sooner the better, I may tell my hon. friend that the Government have decided to accept the challenge of the Opposition. The amendment moved by Mr. Shaw, is, however, not worded exactly as it should be It reads:—

After the prorogation of the present General Assembly, all seats in the Legislative Council and House of Assembly shall become vacant and, on a day to be named by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and set forth in a proclamation declaring such dissolution and writs for new elections of members to serve in the Legislative Council and House of Assembly shall be issued according to law.

That would not do so far as this House is concerned, though it would do for the other House, and I therefore propose the following as an amendment:—

After the prorogation of the present General Assembly, and during the next recess, all seats in the Legislative Council and House of Assembly shall become vacant, and a dissolution of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly shall take place on a day to be named by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and set forth in a proclamation declaring such dissolution, and writs for new elections of members to serve in the Legislative Council and House of Assembly shall be held according to law.

Mr. Shaw—I am quite willing that the alteration proposed by the Leader of the Government shall be made.

Mr. Farquharson—Did not approve of the suggestion. The Leader of the Government would not allow the Opposition any credit. A few moments ago he said he would leave this matter of the time of holding the election to the Legislative Council.

Hon. Mr. Prowse—I hope, Sir, that the Opposition have, at last, really made up their minds about this question. It is, however, somewhat curious and remarkable that the Leader of the Opposition, only a few moments ago, ridiculed this "paltry little measure," while now we find the Hon. member for West River claiming credit for it. But I think, Sir, that the latter gentleman is claiming credit in vain. It is quite evident that the suggestion which resulted in the amendment proposed on the part of the Opposition by the Hon. member for Fort Augustus, came from the gentlemen behind him. The whip has been cracked; and the Hon. gentleman must, of necessity, obey.

Mr. DeBlois—I sincerely congratulate the Government on the action they have now taken. The Opposition have taunted the Government with being dishonest with regard to this question; but I think the Opposition themselves have been dishonest throughout. I do not intend, at the present time, to say anything with regard to the matter, except to express my pleasure at the prospect there now is of the people having an opportunity of expressing their opinion upon it. I shall support the Bill, as amended.

Mr. Perry—It is very consoling to see the Government coming over and taking the amendment of the Opposition. The moment the Opposition made a suggestion they were ready to take hold of it. They have had to come over to the Opposition to learn how to frame their laws. I feel assured that the Legislative Council will accept the Bill as amended.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—I may say that it was from the first the intention of the Government to dissolve the Legislature immediately after the passage of the Bill. Therefore the Opposition are entitled to no special credit for the proposition contained in their amendment. It is indeed evident from the whole course and tenor of the debate that they have very reluctantly, "toed the mark."

Mr. Perry—It is you who are afraid the Bill will become law; for if it does you will not come back to this House.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Our action on this occasion, does not show any fear. As for the assertion of my hon. friend, that I will not come back to this House, the hon. gentleman said the same before the last election. Every one on the other side of the House made the same prediction. There seemed to be, on the part of hon. members of the Opposition, a unanimity of opinion that I would not come back to this House. But in some way or other I did come back. I was, in fact, elected by acclamation. But, how it happened I cannot tell, a very large proportion of those who prophesied that I would not come back, did not come back themselves.

After some further discussion the Bill, as amended, was reported agreed to.

Marine Insurance Company.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Directors, in presenting this, the Eighteenth Annual Report, are sorry that they have again to complain of an unprofitable year's business. In their efforts to secure only good risks, the number of policies issued and the amount of premiums taken have been reduced to a lower figure than ever before in the annals of the Company. Notwithstanding this caution, the losses have almost equalled the receipts, so that only a small sum remains for reinsurance and return premiums.

During the past year 85 policies have been issued, the premiums on which amount to		$7,639.72
Re-insurance from 1879,		5,136.00
Losses paid,	5,060.00	
Return premiums,	1,467.49	
Sec'y Commission,	216.74	
Discounts, Printing, &c.,	82.01	
	6,766.24	
Estimated losses,	5,200.00	
Re insurances,	3,372.00	
Estimated loss on year's business,		2,562.52
	$15,338.24	$15,338.24

Last year the estimated loss on business of 1879 was $703.37, but the "W. Owen," which at that time was supposed to be lost, arrived safely at destination after a very long passage. Some of the other losses also proved to be under the estimate made, thus changing the expected loss into a profit of $2,712.36. This sum will not only pay off the balances due by shareholders on losses in 1878, but leave a small sum towards the losses of last year.

The approximate state of the Company, as a whole, will be as under:—

BALANCE.

	Assets.	Liabilities.
Cash,	$ 181.59	
Bills Receivable,	7,877.55	
Balance of loss,	1,581.45	
Reinsurances,		$3,372.00
Estimated losses,		5,200.00
Open accounts,		1,068.59
	$9,640.59	$9,640.59

If the risks now covered run off without loss, there will probably be enough to meet all claims. Should it be otherwise it is to be hoped that, as on former occasions, the accruing business may enable the Directors to meet all claims without asking the Shareholders for funds.

The Directors beg leave again to remind the Shareholders that the record of this Company on the whole is good. Since its opening in 1865, it has paid in cash to the Shareholders, $33,872, and has received back from them in the calls made last year, $7,642, leaving $26,230, equal to $56.54 per share, as a clear profit realized and paid.

A statement has been prepared showing the amount of premiums received by the Company from its commencement on various risks, and the profit made on each class. The information thus gained may be of decided advantage in the future business of the Company.

The old Board of Directors, composed of the following gentlemen, was re-elected:—R. Longworth, Esq., President; Hon. L. C. Owen, Thos. Handrahan, Esq., G. R. Beer, Esq., D. R. M. Hooper, Esq., B. Rogers, Esq., S. Mutch, Esq.

Burning of the Nice Opera House.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE CALAMITY—GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

The burning of the Opera House at Nice proves to have been one of the most appalling disasters, so far as loss of life is concerned, that has happened in Europe.

The fire began shortly after the performances commenced. It originated from a gas explosion behind the stage. The house was immediately plunged into darkness. Men and women were crushed over the seats and the house became a vast den of struggling wild persons. At this juncture the fire broke out, the light and inflammable scenery catching first, and the flames leaping from point to point and rapidly extending towards the body of the house over the heads of the screaming, shouting, terror-stricken, people. Many were trampled to death. The panic was uncontrollable when the peril of death by fire was added to the danger from the maddened mob in the darkness.

When the fire first broke out most of the artists were in the dressing rooms, and were aware of their danger, but it was too late to escape. The choristers rushed along the narrow passage in the darkness, many of them presumably too much disabled in the crush to escape, and it is believed they were all burned to death.

A special cable from Nice says: A man who escaped from the upper gallery by jumping, declares that, with perhaps a dozen exceptions, every person in his part of the house was burned. Some sailors were lost. A number of American and English visitors rendered signal assistance in saving life. The scene in the town is indescribable. One lady whose husband was burned to death committed suicide. Although the Mediterranean washes the shore at the foot of the walls of the theatre, no water could be obtained when wanted, and the beautiful Opera House was a complete wreck.

The audience was composed of representatives of the fashionable world from Paris, London and all parts of Europe. The season is now in progress, and the popular watering place of Nice was never crowded with greater numbers. The first yacht race occurred the day previous, and crowds were present from all parts of France and Italy. The greatest anxiety is felt for all the missing members of families or travelling parties. Most opera singers of the world have appeared on this stage, the performances being chiefly maintained by foreign colonies.

The Race at Lynn.

P. E. ISLANDERS AGAIN SUCCESSFUL—EPH. CLOW, AND FRED BEVAN WIN.

In the 12 hour go-as-you-please race which took place at Lynn, on Saturday, 5th inst., there were 4 entries. The race was well contested and won by Donovan, a Boston professional, who took first place and money and scored 76 miles and 21 laps, while Clow, of P. E. Island, took second place and money and scored 72 miles 41 laps.

In the 5 mile race there were three entries, but Bevan, who is also from P. E. Island, made great speed. It appears that Bevan's previous record in Boston on a five mile spin is down to 28 minutes, but in the present contest, D. A. Gorman, of Boston, who is also a professional, tied Bevan on the finish, so the referee divided the money between them. The time in this race was 30 minutes, 6 seconds. It was a very pretty and exciting race, but Bevan showed by far the most speed, when called upon, and it was thought by many that his friends kept him back, and he tied Gorman. This was done, no doubt, to bring out more money, so it is very likely that ere long, we shall again see another race between those two great flyers, when they will then go for all they are worth.—*Boston Sunday Herald*, 6th inst.

THE MARKETS.

POTATOES.

The price of potatoes in Boston remains about the same as quoted in our report of Friday last. McIntyres are quoted at 65 and Roses at 70 to 75c. Reports from Boston state that the arrivals have been rather freer last week. The enquiry is more especially for good Early Rose, which always bring outside prices, while the stock of Chinangos was confined on the 23rd of March to one cargo, which had previously arrived from Nova Scotia. In New York on the 26th of March potatoes showed a very fair trade. Early Rose, per barrel, were quoted at $2 25@$2.62, chiefly with $2.37 as an outside for State lots; Prolific, Eastern, per double-headed bbl., at $2@$2.25; Snow Flakes, State, per bbl., at $2.25@$2.50; Peerless, State, per bbl., at $1.87@$2.12. Sweet potatoes, Delaware, per bbl., at $2.50@$2.75.

OATS.

The British market for oats, at latest accounts, was inactive. Prices continue the same as quoted in our last report, viz: 20s. 3d. to 20s. 6d. per 304 lbs. for P. E. Island black. In New York, on March 26th, oats were reported stronger. Sales of 30,000 bushels were reported at from 43½ to 48 cents. Western, 45 to 50 cents. In Montreal, on the same date, oats closed easy at from 34½ May, and 33⅝ June. In this city small quantities are coming in and selling at from 42 to 43 cents.

PORK.

The Chicago market on the 26th opened at $15.30 per barrel, and is now $15.52½ for May; opened at $15.40 and is now $15.62½ for June. On the 28th New York reports showed the market to be dull, heavy and lower. Old Mess on the spot was $15.25 per barrel. In Charlottetown a few carcasses are coming in yet. Prices range from 6 to 7½ cents per lb.

EGGS.

The egg market in Montreal, according to *Gazette* report of the 26th of March, rules steady at 17 and 17½ cents per dozen. The New York market on the 26th was freer. Sales were reported at 21½c. per dozen for western; 22c. and 22½c. per dozen for nearby lots.

FLOUR.

The Montreal flour market on the 26th of March was quiet, and while values were fairly steady, they inclined to favor the buyer. Reported sales were 100 bbls. Spring Extra at $5.10; 50 bbls. Strong Bakers' at $5.75; 100 bbls. Medium Bakers' at $5.30; 100 do., at $5 30. The following are the quotations: Superior Extra, $5.35 to $5.40; Extra Superfine, $5.25 to $5.30; Fancy $0.00 to $5.10; Spring Extra, $5.05 to $5.15; Superfine, $4.70 to $4.80; Strong Bakers', $5.65 to $6.20; Fine, $4.20 to $4.30; Middlings, $3.90 to $4.00; Pollards, $3.25 to $3.40.

MACKEREL.

The first new mackerel arrived in New York this week. The arrival consisted of 150 barrels, caught off the Cape of Virginia. They were of medium size and good quality, and they all sold fresh. Being received twelve days earlier than last year, advices state, it is quite evident the market has seen its best price, and if more should be taken, as is probable, the price of old stock must suffer in consequence. The stock of mackerel in Boston market, which was carried over, is now reduced to a small amount, and the advance by holding over, we are informed, has not much, if any more than covered expense of storage and cooperage. Prices of old fish, on the 26th March, were weak—No. 2's selling for $5; 3's for $4.50.

AN ADVANDE IN SUGAR.

The Montreal "Gazette" reports that the price of refined sugar in New York has advanced 3-16 per lb. and some larger transactions have taken place in raw. This has induced a firmer feeling in Montreal.

SALE OF THOROUGHBRED CATTLE.

A sale of thoroughbred cattle, recently imported by the Central Board of Agriculture, took place in Halifax last week. Good Prices were realized, bulls bringing $135 to to 410, cows from $155 to $300 and calves from $55 to $100.

CATTLE TRADE.

The Montreal *Gazette* of the 26th says: Exporters and raisers of cattle are already looking forward to the coming season with an unusual amount of interest, from the fact that a much larger number of beeves is being fed for the English markets than at any prior period in the history of the trade, and also on account of the disturbing rumors which have recently been flying around regarding the more stringent regulations intended to be adopted by the English Government, relative to the importation of Canadian cattle. These rumors have at last been exploded by the recent vote in the House of Commons against imposing any further restrictions than those previously in force. Ontario shippers who have made extensive contracts for forward delivery must have felt considerable relief from such action, as the proposed embargo would have been a serious blow to them. Among the preparations already made by Western shippers are the purchases of large quantities of cattle, and the engagement of a number of steamers from Montreal, for May and June.

Charlottetown, March 29, 1881.

MEAT.	
Beef, (small pieces), per lb	$0.05 to 0.12
Beef, per lb (by the quarter)	0.04 to 0.07
Ham, per lb	0.10 to 0.12
Lamb, per lb	0.04 to 0.09
Mutton, per lb	0.04 to 0.09
Pork, (small pieces), per lb	0.07 to 0.10
Pork, per lb (by the carcass),	0.06 to 0.07
Veal, per lb	0.03 to 0.07
POULTRY.	
Chickens, per pair	0.00 to 0.00
Ducks, (each),	0.25 to 0.35
Fowls, (each),	0.20 to 0.30
Geese, (each),	0.50 to 0.60
Partridges, (each),	0.00 to 0.00
Turkeys, (per pair),	0.90 to 1.50
Brant, (per pair),	0.00 to 0.00
BREADSTUFFS.	
Buckwheat Flour per lb	0.03 to 0.04
Flour, per bbl	7.00 to 9.00
Flour, per 100 lbs	2.75 to 3.00
Oatmeal, per 100 lbs	3.25 to 3.50
FISH.	
Codfish, per qtl	4.00 to 5.00
Herring, per bbl	4.87 to 6.20
Mackerel, per doz	0.36 to 0.56
BOARDS.	
Hemlock, per 100 feet	0.81 to 1.00
Pine, do	1.62 to 2.70
Spruce do	0.80 to 1.90
Shingles, per M	1.50 to 1.55
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Apples, per bushel	0.70 to 1.00
Barley, per bushel	0.65 to 0.70
Butter, (fresh), per lb	0.20 to 0.25
Butter, per lb by the tub	0.15 to 0.18
Calfskins, per lb	0.08 to 0.10
Cheese, (new milk), per lb	0.12 to 0.16
Eggs per dozen	0.10 to 0.13
Hay, per 100 lbs	0.35 to 0.40
Hides, per lb	0.5½ to 0.06
Honey, per lb	0.25 to 0.30
Homespun, (men's wear), per yd	0.65 to 1.05
Homespun, (women's wear), do	0.35 to 0.48
Homespun flannell, per yard	0.32 to 0.36
Lard, per lb	0.12 to 0.16
Oats, per bushel	0.43 to 0.45
Oatmeal, per cwt	3.25 to 3.50
Pearl barley, per lb	0.03 to 0.04
Potatoes, per bushel	0.14 to 0.16
Sheepskins, (each)	0.75 to 1.25
Tallow, per lb	0.07 to 0.08
Turnips, per bushel	0.14 to 0.16
Wool, per lb	0.16 to 0.22

About five hundred rent-payers of Brooklyn met this afternoon to protest against landlords advancing rents. An organization was formed called the Anti-Rent League of Brooklyn. Several German socialists addressed the meeting, insisting that no man had a right to charge rent for what should be common to all. As a means to carry out this object, the League will employ "Boycotting," binding themselves mutually not to maintain any social intercourse, nor to do any business whatever with, nor to buy anything from, nor to sell anything to any person who refuses to accede to the demands of the League.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

PARIS, March 28.

The Nihilist Committee has resolved that if Sophia Perofsky is executed the Czar shall die.

LONDON, March 28.

A monster Land-League meeting was held at Thurles, Tipperary County, to-day. Mr. Dillon, addressed the meeting. He vindicated his attack on Judge Fitzgerald and counselled the Irish tenants not to pay unjust rent except at the point of the bayonet.

A despatch from Berlin to-day says the Post states that the Crown Princess Victoria, has received an anonymous letter declaring that Prince Frederick William will be murdered during the ceremonies at St. Petersburg. The letter bears a Berlin post mark.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 28.

The *Agence Russe* draws attention to the unanimous approval expressed by the Russian press of the resolution adopted by the Common Council of St. Petersburg to request the Russian Government to communicate with other powers in order to adopt measures in common against the Internationalists. All European powers are interested in the question, including Switzerland, which country was constituted in the interests of the maintenance of peace and European equilibrium, and as those interests form sole ground for the existence of Swiss confederation, it will naturally not wish to compromise them.

LONDON, March 28.

The Prince of Wales to-day confers the Order of the Garter on the Czar.

LONDON, March 29.

Lord Beaconsfield had a severe attack of bronchial asthma but the gout having becomefully developed yesterday, the asthma was relieved. Bulletin this morning say Beaconsfield passed a restless night partly because of the pain of the gout; paroxysms of asthma are less severe, but frequent. The Doctor does not conceal the fact that there is considerable danger, especially when his great age is considered.

PARIS, March 29.

Senator Paul Massot is dead.

DURBAN, March 29.

Col. Carrington, wounded in an engagement with the Basutos at Boleka, is progressing favorably.

LONDON, March 29.

The case of Lawson, of the *Telegraph*, against Labouchere, of the *Truth*, for libel, was finished yesterday, and resulted in the disagreement of the jury. Lord Coleridge informed the Court that seven of the jurors stood for Lawson and five for Labouchere. He stated that the case could not be tried again until May, and perhaps before that time the parties might agree.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 29.

All the powers have accepted the Porte's frontier.

DUBLIN, March 29.

A man named Daly who took land from which a tenant was evicted has been shot and seriously wounded.

LONDON, March 30.

Lord Beaconsfield's condition dangerous. The seat of the real danger is in the throat which is much inflamed.

NEW YORK, March 30.

It is thought Cyrus W. Field will accept the Presidency of the World's Fair.

Two thousand immigrants arrived yesterday—1,200 from Germany and 800 from Scotland.

LONDON, March 30.

In the Commons last night, Ashton W. Dilke (advanced Liberal) moved the adoption of the decimal system of coinage, weight and measures. Anderson (advanced Liberal) moved in amendment that a select committee be appointed. The Government opposed the motion, and Dilke withdrew it in favor of Anderson's amendment, but the amendment was rejected.

NEW YORK, March 30.

A London despatch says it has transpired the sudden calling of the Cabinet on Monday was caused by the receipt of alarming intelligence from Ireland. Two questions were discussed by the Ministers, one was the Basuto war, the other a confidential report of the Irish Government.

Mr. Forster announced that the intelligence from Ireland was of the most disquieting character. Although the attitude of the people appeared to be tranquil on the surface, information in the possession of the authorities has caused them to believe insurrectionary outbreaks might be expected at any moment.

Parnell's present attitude is regarded with disquietude. His apparent inactivity was thought to indicate that he *anticipated* the initiation of a movement of a different character from that which he had been conducting. His two visits to Paris are regarded as inexplicable.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 30.

The "Post's" Kansas special says it is reported there, that the "Atcheson, Topeka and Santa Fe, east bound passenger train was boarded by robbers near Alburyuerque, and robbed yesterday. A desperate fight is said to have occurred, and three or four passengers the conductor, engineer and express messenger were shot.

LONDON, March 30.

Lord Beaconsfield's condition is unchanged, his friends express great anxiety.

A Star in the Indian Sky.

WHAT BRITISH RULE HAS DONE FOR BRITISH INDIA.

When the thunderbolt comes down, it appears to all,—is clear to all, and even after it has vanished we see, or think we see, a trailing glory in the skies. In the moral firmament there are discoveries which come before us with equal brilliancy and suddenness; but whether they shall vanish or become fixed lights for all succeeding ages, depends on their inherent truth.

When Holloway announced that in two simple specifics, a box of pills and a box of ointment, he had discovered remedies for all forms of external and internal ailments, the public received his earnest protestation with a laugh, and deemed him one of those will o' the wisps who occasionally appear above the horizon, only to be swallowed up in that darkness out of which their folly induced them to emerge. But years passed on, and still the star of Holloway maintained its place—the only fixed and immutable light amid the drifting clouds of medical fatuity and contradiction. It has enlarged its sphere; it has climbed higher towards the zenith, and now its rank, as the planet of physical regeneration, is acknowledged by five-eighths of the human family; and even those who do not openly profess their faith in it have a secret conviction that in its rays alone can safety from disease be found.

In British India Holloway's remedies were, from the first, received with but little favor. The native population had great prejudices to be overcome; but yet a fair trial of these medicaments failed not to procure for them here as elsewhere, a permanent and prized adoption. Scorning those narrow limits of etiquette which formerly had induced many of the crowned heads of Europe to take no notice of these remedies in public, while privately depending on them, and them alone, for the cure of many ailments either in themselves or families, the Rajahs and Native Princes of British India set a valuable example to their subjects by the public adoption of these invaluable restoratives.—*Free Thinker.*

Murder Will Out.

A few years ago "August Flower" was discovered to be a certain cure for Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint, a few thin dyspeptics made known to their friends how easily and quickly they had been cured by its use. The great merits of Green's August Flower became heralded through the country by one sufferer to another, until, without advertising, its sale has become immense. Druggists in every town in the United States are selling it. No person suffering with Sour Stomach, Sick Headache, Costiveness, palpitation of the Heart, Indigestion, low spirits, etc., can take three doses without relief. Go to your Druggist and get a bottle for 75 cents and try it. Sample bottles 10 cents.

A breach of promise case was before the Magistrate's Court in Halifax, on Saturday, says a despatch to this paper. The parties to the suit are both well connected. The defendant was engaged to be married to plaintiff. After keeping company with her two or three years he broke it off. Plaintiff then threatened to sue him for breach of promise, but defendant compromised by agreeing to pay $200 in yearly instalments of $50. He paid the first instalment, and the action was brought to recover the second $50. Judgment was given for the plaintiff.