

THE DAILY EXAMINER. NOVEMBER 15, 1889.

Health of Charlottetown.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Maritime Medical News,—one whose opinions are evidently worthy of the most respectful and careful consideration,—writes from Charlottetown, over the initials of "J. M." as follows:

"In this city, while much progress has been made in directing public attention to sanitary matters, we have to chronicle a retrograde movement in some very important particulars, notably in the tacit suspension, on the part of the authorities, of the bye-law regulating the keeping of swine within the city limits during the summer season. While Huxley makes merry over the 'bedevilment of pigs' in the Gadarene story, we cannot but deplore the 'bedevilment' of our city fathers, who have the fear of the pig's owners continuously before their eyes. Again, a pure and abundant water supply having been secured, the problem, in the absence of a system of sewerage, of how to get rid of the waste and fouled water has forced itself upon the public attention. Many citizens have soved the question to their own satisfaction by boring wells or using oil ones as receptacles for their fouled and waste waters. It goes without saying that this, in the first place, renders the use of the remaining wells for drinking purposes, highly dangerous. But it is not so clear to the average citizen that, in order to maintain the health of the city, the surface must be kept unbroken, and the ground air and the ground water kept free from every possible source of contamination. How can these two factors at such considerable depths from the surface, they ask, possibly affect the public health? They forget, or do not know, that owing to the slow movements of the ground waters they cannot carry off, with sufficient rapidity, the supplies reserved from sinks and wells, and the level of the ground water rises and falls according as the season is wet or dry; also, that the ground air, (thus polluted and saturated with noxious gases,) which always follows the water movement, is, as the water line rises, expelled to the surface of the ground, and into cellars, and from thence finds its way to the very garrets of the houses."

"I have ascertained, on the very best authority, that the surface of the city does not exceed on an average thirty-one feet above the mean sea level, while in many quarters it is much less. Our wells will also average about that depth, and these, especially, are relied upon to drain the city! The citizens have been asked, through the public press:—'If deep sinks and blind wells or surface drains are safe conduits to carry off polluted water and other waste, why do corporations throughout the world find it necessary to expend thousands and millions of dollars in the construction of various systems of sewerage?' But no reply has been vouchsafed. They have also been reminded that the essential causes of diarrhoea and all intestinal diseases reside, ordinarily, in the superficial layers of the earth, and that the chief sin, in prophyllaxis, is 'to prevent fouling of the soil with matters out of which the material of diarrhoea can be produced; to secure domestic cleanliness, dryness and cleanliness of soil, lowering of ground water, prevention of rise of ground air, etc., etc.' But, notwithstanding these warnings, the pernicious and dangerous experiment is being tried almost universally, and the greater the pity, because the pollution of soil thus effected in one year is more than nature, with all her resources, can undo or remedy in a score of years. And when, sooner or later, the citizens recognize the mischief they have done they will be powerless to undo it. The reason why one city is healthy and another unhealthy, in the same country, owing not to a difference of climate or atmosphere, but to the ground soil, will then be practically but sadly demonstrated."

"Scarlet fever has been prevalent during the last spring and summer, with a very serious death rate. So far as is known, this epidemic owed its origin to an imported case. This fact would seem to point a moral in regard to the necessity of a Federal, if not indeed of International, legislation. But we must walk before we run, and I emphasize the necessity at least of a Dominion law regarding such cases. The disinfection of the premises and of the persons and clothing of patients recovering from scarlet fever is too much neglected in all our cities, and such patients are in the habit of removing from town to town, and from country to country, without let or hindrance. This evidently is a matter for Federal, rather than local, legislation. Is this country ripe for a Minister of Public Health, to whom would be assigned the supervision of all subjects which relate directly to the public health? Are we prepared to delegate to a health department the only advisory but compulsory power? We do not object to inspectors of the revenue, etc., whose powers are almost absolute. Is the public health a matter of minor importance? Do not the facts I have given of the wanton pollution of the soil of one of the hitherto healthiest cities of the Dominion indicate that some intelligent authority should be constituted, and clothed with ample powers to indict the perpetrators of such a crime against not only this, but future generations? What of a Dominion Medical Association composed of delegates from the various Provincial Associations as a preliminary step towards such Federal legislation?"

"I am glad to be able to report that the medical men of this Province have at length formed a Provincial Association, and that their intention is to secure such legislation as will put the profession in this, in every respect, on an equal footing with our brethren of the other Provinces. I intended to refer to our annual visitation of typhoid fever, with the bearing of our water supply thereupon, and other matters, but your space must not be too much encroached upon. I will merely add that Dr. Johnson, the City Health Officer, is making a brave fight for sewerage; but in the meantime much harm, I know, will accrue to the city from its shortsighted and suicidal policy of attempting drainage by means of deep sinks and blind wells."

Here is a decided, authoritative opinion about the matter. We hope that the City Fathers will be able without much further delay to adopt some definite, practicable course regarding it.

The sanitary state of this town was not good before the introduction of waterworks; let us take care that it is not worse after.

New conditions have been introduced here; intelligent and prompt action is demanded in respect to these conditions.

We are decidedly opposed to the idea propounded by the *Patrol* that "we cannot afford an elaborate system of sewerage." If sewerage be needed, we cannot afford to do without such a system as will carry the filth of the town out into the channel on its way to the sea. A system of sewerage—not sufficiently elaborate, to accomplish this end, would be worse than no system at all. We know of many towns in

which there are sewers where the sanitary conditions are worse even than they have been in Charlottetown,—simply because the system of sewers is not elaborate and complete. We ought to have the best system or none at all.

Nor do we think that anything is to be gained by hesitancy and delay. The work—if it has to be done—can be done as cheaply now as at any future time.

It is certain, too, that there is no town in which sewers can be placed at less cost per yard than in Charlottetown.

But it is important that we start right.

First of all, it should be ascertained beyond a doubt whether or not a system of sewerage is really required. We should not be too ready to accept the dictum of this doctor or that theorist. We should know, certainly, that the system of sewage wells for dirty water is fraught with danger to the health of present and future generations of citizens. It is stated in an article published in *Science* of late date that "certain salts contained in the earth act as renovators of all so-called spring waters, purging them, so to speak, of the foul matters held both in solution and in suspension". Is it not possible that these salts also purify the "foul matters" of which the water is purged? We all know very well that though the filth of a century has been poured upon the streets and back yards of Charlottetown, the earth only two or three feet below the surface is perfectly pure and sweet. Dig into the earth beneath a privy or sink, and it will be found inoffensive at a very short distance below. Is it not possible that the filth contained in the water from our kitchens—even if it be not, as many persons, maintain, immediately carried away by underground streams—is rendered innocuous by the salts contained in the earth?

If this question can—after investigation and enquiry by qualified persons—be answered in the affirmative, it will not be necessary to go to the expense of an elaborate system of sewerage, for it will, manifestly, be more economical to establish a dry earth system, including means for the removal of all kinds of solid filth to the country where it can be used as manure, and to insist that sewage wells, subject to official inspection, be provided in each house, for the immediate removal of the foul waters which are made in the kitchens.

If, on the contrary it be found, on investigation, that this question cannot be answered in the affirmative; that the correspondent of the *Medical News* is right; that sewage wells, such as have lately been bored under many houses, are a menace to the health of the city,—then it is evident that these wells ought to be closed at once and action taken immediately towards the construction of such a system of sewerage as will effectually rid the city of the threatened danger.

Our conclusion is that it is advisable to appoint, without delay, a commission to obtain exact information concerning sewage wells and other means which have been adopted for the removal of kitchen slops, and to suggest effective means for the cleansing of the town.

The Ethnology of the Island.

MR. HUNTER DUVAR appeared before the Natural History Society last evening, armed with such a collection of arrows, spears, knives, hatchets, axes and other material for battle as has not been seen in Charlottetown for many a day—not since the prohibitory edict was promulgated in the year upon the banks of the Hillsborough. The object of the learned gentleman was to confer upon the audience assembled some of the benefits he has obtained from his researches concerning the ethnology of this Province. The relations of man toward the animal life, and the relations of that animal life to savage man in the Island now called Prince Edward Island—this was, scientifically stated, the subject of his story. Where the Island came from, is a point which he left to the determination of geologists. Where it is going to, is evident to all—it is going into the sea at the rate of about a foot of its entire coast line each year; so that it will some day be all washed away, although it is probable that it will last for our time!

Regarding animals and birds fit for the food of the red men of the olden time, such as deer, bears, foxes, hares, muskrats, wild cats, partridges, grouse, ducks, wild geese, etc.—Mr. Duvar argued that these were in larger supply upon the mainland than upon the Island; but seals and sea-cows were found upon the shores of the mainland and hunted here.

As to the superior animal,—man—Mr. Duvar had not been able to discover anything in the shape of artificial piles of oyster shells, or clam or mussel shells, bearing marks of fire, to indicate that Indians in large numbers had feasted in this Island, and in the present state of our knowledge no other conclusion can be drawn than that the Island was not peopled by shore-dwellers. Two tribes of aborigines—namely, the Abenakis and the Mikemaks—lay on the mainland south of this Island. If the Island were permanently peopled it could only have been by Millicetes, whose headquarters were at Bay of Chaleur and in Gaspesia, or by Micmacs—whose grounds were along the northern coast of New Brunswick. But taking into consideration the principle that man, whether savage or civilized, seeks that locality where he expects to find the best means of subsistence, and the fact that the food supply of the Indian was better upon the mainland than upon the Island, Mr. Duvar was inclined to the belief that Indians did not, in pre-historic times, make this Island a place of permanent habitation. Indian relics, such as Mr. Duvar exhibited, have been found—notably on the farm of Mr. John Rix, on the shore of Big Mimmingish, Parcel, Lot 2. These prove that Micmacs

of Indians were made here, and that combats have been fought—the savages fighting with weapons similar to those employed by the defenders of England at the battle of Hastings.

It need not be said that the paper was exceedingly well written, and heard with the greatest interest. Complimentary remarks concerning it were made by the President, by Mr. Francis Bain, by Mr. Rothe, and by Dr. Leeming. Mr. Bain, however, disagreed with the opinion that the Island was not permanently peopled in pre-historic times, pointing out that heaps of oyster and clam shells—"kitchen middens," in fact—had been found near Wheatley River, and that the Micmacs, being maritime Indians, drew largely upon the sea for their supplies of food.

Mr. Hunter-Duvar then spoke as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT,—Before the meeting separates I would ask permission to refer to the loss science has sustained by the death of Dr. Honeyman, of Halifax. In earlier life a minister of the Christian religion, he seized every opportunity that his sphere afforded of becoming acquainted with the marvels of nature, that, even to the dullest, show the government of the All Beneficent. Removing from clerical duty, he thenceforth devoted the whole energies of his mind to classify and arrange the mass of scientific material that he had gathered,—and continued to gather to the last hour of his life. Although his knowledge ranged over a wide field his affection remained especially with the land of his birth—the Maritime Provinces—of the natural history of which he was, for years, a chief exponent. We are all acquainted with his published papers, and know that he was one of the main originators of that excellent organization, "The Nova Scotia Institute of Natural Science," which still flourishes, and he was ever ready to take time and trouble to make plain any matter of science to anyone who applied to him. By students of the Natural Sciences his loss will be felt. His whole soul was in his intellectual work. Not long since I had the pleasure of spending an hour or two with him in the museum at Halifax, where, among other* relics of life and things inanimate, he specially directed my attention to a valuable series of coins and medals,—on which collection, by the way, I would like to see a memoir published. While descending on the various coins, the types of various eras, the amount of historical knowledge he showed was really astonishing. I looked with interest at the glow of enthusiasm and wrapt expression on his countenance, and could not but think, "this is, indeed, an Israelite without guile." In private life Dr. Honeyman was all there is of the most amiable, kind, obliging, unworldly. He has left behind him a name to be envied, and adds another to the list of scientific men, of whom these Lower Provinces have produced not a few. I beg to move that "the P. E. Island Natural History Society enter on its minutes an expression of regret for the loss science has sustained in the death of Dr. Honeyman."

This resolution was seconded by Doctor Leeming, and unanimously carried.

The thanks of the audience were then tendered to Mr. Duvar for his excellent paper.

The Prohibition Convention.

MONCTON, Nov. 13.—The Maritime Province Prohibition Convention met in the Women's Union Hall this afternoon. Dr. C. A. Black, of Amherst, was appointed chairman, and Mr. Fowler, of P. E. Island, secretary. After devotional exercises and remarks by the chairman, Mr. J. T. Bulmer spoke for half an hour with great effect. He declared that what was wanted was a reconstruction of parties with the saloons on one side and the churches and temperance societies on the other. He had no experience in either party. Wilfred Laurier, contrary to the traditions of the great Liberal party, was down in the dust vying with Sir John and the Carlings and the Smiths for the liquor vote, but he wouldn't get half as much.

All the afternoon was employed in short speeches by Rev. H. S. Hartly, B. A., and Andre Cushing, of St. John, C. E. Knapp, of Dorchester, C. R. Casey, prohibitionist candidate for Amherst, Secretary Fowler and others taking part.

In the evening the committee on credentials reported upwards of 167 delegates in attendance—104 from New Brunswick, 53 from Nova Scotia and 10 from P. E. I.

Mr. Bulmer from the committee on prohibition, reported the following:—
Whereas, There is a steady growing conviction in the minds of all right-thinking persons that the prohibition of the liquor traffic is the supreme necessity of the hour, and should be made the great aim in politics; and
Whereas, The liquor traffic is thoroughly organized, and by reason of the revenue it gives the Government and the vote and subscriptions it gives the politicians has become a vast machine in the hands of unscrupulous men for bribing, deceiving and confusing public opinion, and its prohibition is impossible without counter organization; and
Whereas, Notwithstanding the overwhelming public opinion in favor of prohibition, we will never be able to obtain it so long as separated into clubs, divisions, etc., all working to the same end but without concerted political action, which when obtained will enable us to sweep the legalized liquor traffic out of Canada in a single campaign; and
Whereas, No existing party has declared for prohibition

Therefore Resolved, That this convention do now organize itself into a Maritime Province Prohibition Party, and take all necessary steps to complete its organization.

The resolutions were debated an hour or more, and finally passed intact. Some favored uniting with the Ontario Third Party, but the majority favored a party with a single plank, and that prohibition. The delegates from the Island are: Grand Division, S. of T. Jessie Burns, Grand Scribe; Rev. Edward Bell, Grand Chaplain; David Aring, representing Lorne Division, Freetown; Albert Wright and Mrs. Wright, Aurora Division, Searletown. Grand Lodge of Good Templars, L. U. Fowler, Rev. Robert McKee, G. C. T.

The convention will continue its session to-morrow for the election of officers, to complete organization, etc.

FOR BOSTON.—The steamer Worcester, Captain Nickerson, sailed for Boston at two o'clock this morning, with a cargo consisting of about 8,000 bushels potatoes, 900 cases of eggs and a quantity of general merchandise. Her passengers were J. A. Christie, B. Webster, G. H. Moore, J. P. Campbell, E. Hobbs, L. Worth, Ellen McInnis, Miss Wade, Miss J. Lee, Miss Toole, Mrs. McAdam, M. McInnis and M. J. McAulay. This, it is understood, will be the Worcester's last trip to this port this year. We congratulate Captain Nickerson, Fursler Sawyer and the other officers of the ship upon their season's work, and trust that next year they will all be to the fore as well as as hearty as ever.

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Charlottetown, Nov. 15, 1889—2aw wky

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SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned, and marked "Tender," will be received until

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, INST., FOR THE SUPPLY OF

- 58,000 Hemlock Sleepers, as per specification. 20,000 Cedar Sleepers, as per specification. 26 sets Sawn Hemlock Switch Sleepers, price per 1,000 superficial feet, loaded on cars. 549 pieces Sawn Hemlock, from 8 feet to 15 feet long, and from 6x8 inches to 12x14 inches, price per 1,000 superficial feet, loaded on cars. 1,500 Cedar Fence Posts, 7 feet 6 inches long, 6 inches at small end. 13,500 Cedar Fence Posts, 5 feet long, 6 inches at small end. 230 Cedar Snow Fence Posts, 12 feet long, 8 inches at small end. 5,750 Cedar Braces, 3 feet long, 4 inches at small end. 40,000 superficial feet Spruce Scantling, 20 ft. long, 3x6 inches, price per 1,000 feet loaded on cars. 25 tons Hewn Hemlock Timber, price per ton, loaded on cars.

Forms of tender for sleepers, with specification endorsed thereon, may be had at all Booking Stations. No forms of tender for other material.

No tender for sleepers will be considered unless made in accordance with and upon the printed form supplied; nor will a tender for a less number of sleepers than 500 be entertained.

No tender will be considered unless accompanied by a deposit equal to five per cent. of the value of the material tendered for, which deposit may be either cash or a certified bank cheque. Uncertified cheques will not be accepted. Should a tender be accepted, the completion of the contract. Should a tender not be accepted, the deposit will be returned by registered letter, at tenderer's risk.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

J. UNSWORTH, Superintendent. Railway Office, Ch'town, Nov. 14th, 1889. nov15-6i eod pat 6i eod jour her 11

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TO R. STEELE, ESQ. I HEREBY challenge you to trot your horse "Dreadnaught" against George Essory's "Whistler," on Charlottetown Driving Park, if we can get it, or Summerdale Driving Park, on November 21st, 1889, mile heats, three in five, to harness, according to the National rules—each one to pick a judge and the track to pick the third—for Three Hundred Dollars a side. I have deposited One Hundred Dollars in A. N. Lurge's hands to show I mean business, and will give until Saturday, the 16th inst., to consider. Put up or shut up! If Mr. Lurge does not suit, in any other man's hands that is responsible. P. S. BROWN.

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