

The Copper Nuisance.

The Local Government is now selling a hundred dollars worth of copper cents for \$90; and the consequence is that this community is being deluged with copper of depreciated value. This morning an account for twenty dollars was presented to a dealer who offered, in part payment, ten dollars worth of cents! Everyone is complaining of these coppers. Being purchased at a discount, they are fast driving silver and notes out of circulation to such an extent that if their issue be not stopped, dealers will soon have to send a horse and sleigh after the amount of an ordinary account; and sellers will have, perforce, to add ten per cent. to the prices of their goods. A merchant who has sold a dollar's worth of goods is now tendered, in payment, a hundred copper cents which the Government have issued for ninety cents in better money. It is needless to say that merchants and dealers can't stand this.

Lord Derby on the State of Trade.

The speech of Earl Derby at Liverpool last week tended to still further depress the state of public feeling with respect to the commercial and industrial future. It is reported that His Lordship made an exhaustive review of the condition of England's trade and the obstacles which stood in the way of its revival. He shows how the increased ability of other nations to manufacture for themselves was constantly diminishing the market for English goods, and how difficult it would be for England to keep on paying large sums of money in return for articles of food which she was compelled to purchase from America and other countries. The only remedy his Lordship said, which suggested itself to his mind after long and anxious reflection, was wholesale emigration to America and Australia, and he urged this with great earnestness.

Grit Purity.

The Montreal Gazette says: "We are getting an insight into the manner in which Ministerial candidates were aided by the Government at the late elections. Mr. Fiset, who defeated Mr. Langevin in Rimouski, owes the Intercolonial Railway \$363 for railway fares. His agents obtained tickets on credit, and gave them to voters at a distance. The railroad agents have dunned Mr. Fiset and his election committee in vain, the latter, as the *Noveliste de Rimouski* says, having understood that the money would never be demanded of them. The change of Government, however, spoiled that game. When Parliament meets the facts in relation to other corrupt aid given to Mr. Fiset will probably be given to the public."

City Council.

The City Council met last evening: present, the Mayor, the Recorder, Councillors Peake, Stumbles, Beer, Morris, Crabbe, Koughan, Byrne, Davy and Hooper. The Chief Engineer submitted the yearly report of the Fire Department, which was received and ordered to be published. Councillor Koughan, Chairman of Committee on Tenders, reported that tenders had been received from parties willing to keep the pumps and wells of the city in repair. The names of the tenderers were: Patrick Hughes, Daniel Gordon, John Murphy and Joseph Lane, Robert Percival and Michael Egan. The report of the Committee was adopted, and the tender of John Murphy and Joseph Lane, being the lowest, was accepted.

MARKET STALLS AND CELLARS.

Councillor Stumbles submitted a report on the sale of market stalls and cellars which took place on the 31st of December. The total amount realized for the stalls was \$966.50, and the total amount for the cellars, including the cellars leased by Edward Needham and Henry Coombs, was \$263.00. Thirteen stalls remain unsold. A letter was read from the Commissioners of the Poor House, stating their unwillingness to admit the idiot child, now in charge of Mrs. Mary Dibbins, into that institution.

FIRE WARDENS.

The Council then proceeded to appoint the Fire Wardens of the City, as follows:—Ward 1.—W. R. Watson, James Peake, and Thomas Handrahan, Esqs. Ward 2.—H. J. Calbeck, John Hughes and Wm. Koughan, Esqs. Ward 3.—J. D. Mason, Lemuel Philips, and Lemuel Poole, Esqs. Ward 4.—John Pickard, S. W. Crabbe and John McPhail, Esqs. Ward 5.—Alex. Brown, H. B. Smith and Angus Martin, Esqs.

BILLIARD AND BAGATELLE TABLES.

A By-Law was introduced by Councillor Davy for the purpose of licensing Billiard Rooms and Bowling Alleys. Councillor Davy said the object of the By-Law is to suppress vice and gambling. Councillor Stumbles said he was strongly in favor of the principle of the Bill, but did not agree with some of the details: for instance, the sum of \$100 for a license is not sufficient; large, if the object is to suppress vice and gambling. Then, again, if any number say two or three form themselves into a club to purchase 11 and tables and play at the game of billiards, the Bill does not provide for taxing or licensing such

He thought it was nothing but fair to tax clubs as well as private individuals. Certain games, such as Faro, Roulette, and Rouget Noir, that are never played in this country, were to be prohibited by the Bill, while the common games used in gambling were not to be prohibited. This he could not agree to, and therefore would not vote for the Bill until amended so as to strike at the evil for which the Bill had been introduced.

The By-Law passed through the first and second reading without any discussion; but when taken clause by clause, the first one was lost, and it was deemed useless to proceed with the Bill. It was accordingly set aside.

MAYOR'S REPORT.

The Mayor stated that the auditors had completed their work in the City Clerk's office, and reported the accounts correct. They are now in the hands of the printer. In accordance with the suggestion of the late Mayor, the heads of the departments had drafted reports, to be published with the accounts. He had drafted one on which he would take the liberty to make the following observations.

CITY'S INDEBTEDNESS.

The indebtedness of the City on the 31st December, 1877, was as follows:—

In Debentures afloat	\$49,518 67
Over Draft	22,570 37
City Assessment due previous to 1877 and still unpaid, for which credit is taken	1,919 43
	\$74,008 47
The indebtedness on the 31st December, 1878, was—	
In Debentures afloat	\$89,555 01
Over draft	10,642 65
	\$100,197 66
Less arrears of City Assessment	12,739 96
City Debt	\$87,457 70

Making allowance, however, for rebate of assessment upon appeals now being heard by the Stipendiary Magistrate, the City's indebtedness will probably be correctly represented by the amount of debentures afloat, viz., \$89,555.00.

On the first of August last the amount of over draft at the Merchant's Bank and checks afloat was \$26,666.31. Towards liquidating this amount debentures to the amount of \$19,500 were disposed of, realizing \$18,380.

During the year debentures amounting to \$48,700 have been sold. Of this amount 29,200 were disposed of previous to August last.

Debentures to the amount of \$8,663.50 had been redeemed during the year, of which amount \$7,013.50 was redeemed previous to August last.

I would urgently recommend that a sinking fund be formed. Were this done, the credit of this city would be enhanced, and its securities not only be disposed of at par, but would be readily sought after as investments of a first character.

THE APPEALS.

Consequent upon the large number of appeals from assessment rates, the receipts from this source of revenue has been but \$13,277.55, \$2,500 of which has been paid over to the City Board of School Trustees—leaving the large sum of \$19,794.97 still to be collected, from which has to be deducted the sum of \$6,955.00 due the School Board, leaving the sum of \$12,739.96 for city purposes, as shown in the income account.

The total ordinary income for the year is \$30,658.10. The total ordinary receipts have been \$20,313.13 leaving the amount just mentioned still to be collected.

The expenditure for the year has been \$11,356.09 in excess of the income.

The assets of the city are represented by—

	1875.	1877.	1878.
Real Estate..	\$61,290.02	\$73,057.51	\$79,029.77
Plant and moveable property	19,505.00	23,579.60	24,736.74
	\$80,795.02	\$96,637.11	103,766.51

The indebtedness of the city was in the same period \$21,081.88, \$74,008.21, \$89,555, respectively.

THE PRESENT OVERDRAFT.

The present over draft at the bank of \$10,642.65, as you are aware, is but a temporary one, and due caution will require to be exercised in the expenditure during the next four months. In fact no new work, unless absolutely required, should be entered upon, so that this amount shall be recouped without having recourse to the proceeds of the coming year's assessment—my meaning here is, that if at all possible, the receipts for the next four months the revenue outside of assessment—should meet all expenditure up to next May.

In the balance sheet of Dec. 31st, 1877, credit is taken for certain monies due by P. McGowan and J. J. O'Rielly—together, \$1,173.02. Having no authority to write off this amount, it appears in this year's balance. There is surely no authority for carrying this sum forward from year to year, and I would recommend that it be written off, unless the Council is prepared to enforce collection.

THE VALUE OF PLANT AND MOVEABLE PROPERTY.

Plant and moveable property is also credited in assets, to \$23,579.60. In this amount is \$2,029 for fire bells and fixtures; \$1,203 for office and hall furniture; \$97 for a safe; \$230 for furniture, etc., for Mayor's office, and \$111 for tin-oil lamps, etc.—altogether \$4,925.08. Taking into account wear and tear—Big Donald, for instance, being only worth the price of old metal—it appears to me that in these items there should be written off at least \$2,925.08. Again, should there not be a large allowance for wear and tear on the assumed value of fire engines, etc., for which credit is taken for \$18,373.72? I should recommend that a revaluation of all city property be made by the incoming Appraisers.

CONSUMPTION OF GAS.

The consumption of gas for the year 1877 showed an average cost of \$39.48 per lamp. The average for the year just closed is \$31.22—including lamp-gatherer's salary and repairs it is \$38.40. Under the old contract it cost the city \$19.44 per lamp. Paying for gas at the same rate as individuals, I cannot conceive any good reason—or any reason at all—why the city should be obliged to light and extinguish at certain specified hours, or so many days before and after the full moon. Why should not the City have the same liberty as individual citizens? This arrangement is altogether in the interests of the Gas Company; and in any new contract I trust the Council will see that a fixed rate per lamp be secured or some additional check in consumption be effected. The former seems to me the more preferable. I may add that the average cost for the quarter ending December, 77, was \$6.10 per lamp; for the quarter ending December, 78, \$9.49—being an increase of 56 per cent.

A SURVEY OF THE CITY.

I would suggest that, as early as practicable, a complete and accurate survey be made of the City and common, and plans prepared, showing not only the "limits," "lines" and "encroachments," "wards and blocks in each," "wharfs," etc., but (with an eye to the future drainage and waterworks of the City) that levels or street grades should be taken and shown on the said plan. The advantage, were this done, would be that persons building will have, by authority, a defined street level or grade from which to build, and no one ought to be allowed to put up any building without first obtaining from the City Surveyor the grade, street-line and level. Action ought to be taken towards defining the side lines of streets, thus doing away with the present zig-zag appearance of some of the street blocks. In this connection I would return to the words of the ex-Mayor,—

"ENCROACHMENTS

on the street is a matter which should not be longer neglected," and when possession has given ownership, "the purchase of such encroachments is worthy of consideration."

REVISION OF THE ACT OF INCORPORATION.

I would recommend that a committee be appointed (to act with His Honor the Recorder and Stipendiary Magistrate) to revise the Act of Incorporation, and to consider what alterations and amendments should be made thereto. Several occur to me, of which I may mention:—

1st. Provision should be made for the election of Mayor and Councillors at a period not later than the last Tuesday in February.

In the words of the ex-Mayor "the adoption of this course would place the responsibility of the work of one whole summer upon the City Council, instead of its being divided as at present." I may add that the contemplated expenditure for the whole of the financial year, having been carefully considered, the Council would be more likely to reach a standard of revenue sufficient to meet the ordinary outlay than in a persistence of the present division of responsibility.

NO CITY TREASURER.

2nd. Power to enable the Council to dispense with a City Treasurer, and authority to open an account with one of the banks where the revenue could be paid in as received, and checked against expenditure, thus doing away with the necessity for a paid officer. Under the present admirable system for keeping the accounts of the City, a City Treasurer is about as much required as a fifth wheel to a coach.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

3rd. That the Act be altered so as to provide for monthly instead of quarterly meetings.

Of course meetings might occasionally be required. These could be called by the Mayor at any intervening period when deemed necessary; and it does seem to me that under ordinary circumstances monthly meetings would be sufficient to overtake all regular business requirements of the city.

There are many other points calling for amendment or addition, which will readily recur to the members of the Council.

HARD LABOR FOR CRIMINALS.

There are one or two other matters to which I desire to call your attention: It is high time that the criminal class of this community should be compelled to make some return for the cost of maintenance while in prison. I would suggest a rigorous enforcement of

LABOR IN THE STREET

and city works, compelling the criminals to carry with them, as a constant companion, a length of chain and a twenty-four pound shot. This would, doubtless, prove deterrent to crime, and teach habitual violators of the law, that jail quarters would not be so desirable in the future as in the past. The Dominion Statute empowers the Local Government to pass regulations for putting the prisoners to work "outside the walls of the jail" I would press upon the Council the necessity of at once asking the Local Government to pass the required "regulations."

A "TREADMILL"

would be a very desirable piece of machinery on which this class might be usefully employed, then treading being utilized in the crushing of horse feed and bones. Drainage and waterworks must, at an early day, call for and receive careful consideration. These, perhaps, for various reasons, cannot be entered upon at present; but there is one subject to which the Council might, I think, give serious and prompt attention, viz.—

A REFORMATORY.

Ex-Mayor Carvell, in his very able and exhaustive report of last year, brought this matter before the Council (as did also His Honor the Stipendiary Magistrate). I am not aware of any action being taken. The number of boys in training for the criminal class is something fearful. A reformatory or industrial home where, during their term of imprisonment, they would be

taught some useful trade, would prove of incalculable advantage to youths not thoroughly hardened in crime, and be the means, probably, of transforming them into useful citizens.

THE COST OF A REFORMATORY.

I am not aware of the cost of such an institution, but if, say \$1,000 or \$1,500 was donated towards erecting a suitable building, and some \$500 granted yearly if required, it would be money well invested. There cannot be the slightest doubt but that many of the citizens would contribute towards its erection and maintenance, a committee of whom might be asked to take the management and control.

A Committee, consisting of Councillors Koughan, Crabbe and Stumbles, were appointed in conjunction with the Mayor, Recorder and Stipendiary Magistrate, to revise the Act of Incorporation.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

LONDON, Jan. 6.

The Allan Line steamer Nova Scotian, from Baltimore for Glasgow, lost her surgeon's room, and had six of her crew injured in the gale—one of whom died.

Weather again cold. There has been a daily increase in the popular distress at every quarter during the week. On Friday, at Manchester, there were 3,000 applications from heads of families to the Relief Committee, and on Saturday 4,000 fresh applications.

LONDON, Jan. 6.

The freight train guards on the Midland Railway are on a strike.

PARIS, Jan. 6.

The morning papers agree that the result of the Senatorial elections is a crushing blow to the Bonapartists.

A Vienna despatch says the difficulties which had arisen regarding Russian evacuation of Dobruja are said to have been smoothed away, and General Todleben has ordered the evacuation to begin on the 12th of January.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 6.

Official confirmation is given of the report that a plague has broken out in Astrachan, said to have been introduced by Cossack's returning from Turkey.

Nothing is known here of the Amerer's alleged intention to seek Russian protection.

LONDON, Jan. 5.

The London Times, in an editorial, says: "The rectification of frontier will probably consist in the retention of Pishann, the Kuram Valley and Khyber Pass, but there is reason to believe that intervening places will not be annexed."

SYRACUSE, Jan. 6.

The New York Central Road Atlantic Express started out of Rochester, on Friday afternoon, drawn by nine locomotives and proceeded by a snow plow, which kept some distance ahead. The plow reached the famous sand cut east of Fairport, where the passenger tracks are raised upon the embankment ten feet above the old tracks, now used for freight traffic, when it left the rails and stopped the way. A terrible collision ensued. The engineer of the forward locomotive met instant death, and the conductor was seriously injured. The roadmaster sustained a broken leg and two firemen and five passengers were injured.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A MEETING of the inhabitants of Rustico and vicinity will be held in RUSTICO BANK HALL, on WEDNESDAY, the 15th inst., at 6 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of discussing the subject of

A BRANCH RAILWAY!

or Harbor Improvements for Rustico. D. MACKAY, ANGUS GREGOR, DOMITIAN GALLANT.

Administrator's Notice.

THE undersigned, Administrator of the Estate of ROBERT ORR, late of Charlottetown, deceased, intestate, hereby notifies all persons indebted to the said Estate to make immediate payment to him; and all persons having claims or demands against the said Estate are hereby required to exhibit such claims and demands, duly attested, to him for payment within twelve months.

JOHN MCPHEE, Administrator. Ch'town, Jan. 8th, 1879—2w 2aw

H. W. Vinnicombe,

Resident Piano Tuner & Regulator, HAS adopted the Dollar system of Tuning, six visits a year, at one dollar per visit. This system is much more economical and satisfactory than any other, as the cost is less, and the instrument is kept constantly in tune and repair.

A visit will be made to all parts of the Island once a year, or oftener if desired. Pianos tuned by Hamilton's system of even temperament.

Music Orders may be left at Mr. Fletcher's Music Store, or at Brenner Bros., Queen Street. Jan. 6, 1879—

DENTISTRY.

THE cry of "Hard times" and "No money" is universal. Yet people lose their teeth, and in consequence their health. Again, recent improvements have cheapened the cost of Dental material;—considering which I have decided to reduce my prices, and for three months from the date of this I will make a set of teeth for Ten Dollars. Parts of sets correspondingly cheap. More than this—I will use good material and guarantee, in every case, a perfect fit. C. L. STRICKLAND. Ch'town, Jan. 4, 1879—

REMOVAL!

J. QUIRK has removed his shop to new J. building, two doors to the right. Ch'town, Dec. 26.—h pres 1m

GREAT CLEARANCE SALE

DRY GOODS!

From this Date, DECEMBER 29, 1878, FOR CASH ONLY,

AT A DISCOUNT OF FROM 20 to 25 Per Cent., FOR ONE MONTH,

Following Goods!

- French Merinos,
- French Delaines,
- French Cashmeres,
- French Twills,
- Parmattas,
- Henrietta Cloth,
- Persian Cerds,
- Brilliantines,
- Lamas, Lustres,
- Russel Cords,

FANCY DRESS GOODS!

- Anglais Merinos,
- Balmoral Crapes,
- Crapes,
- Dress Cloths,
- Mantle Cloths and
- Ulster Cloths,
- Plain, Checked, Fancy and Striped

WINGEYS!

- Silk Velvets,
- Velveteens,
- Black Silks,
- Colored Silks,
- Fancy Silks,
- Ladies' Skirts,
- Corsets,
- Ties,
- Fancy Wove Goods,

SHAWLS,

- ONE HALF PRICE.
- RIBBONS,
- Artificial Flowers and Feathers!
- ONE HALF PRICE.

- Ladies' Ulsters,
- Ladies' Jackets and
- Mantles,
- Blue Serges (all wool),
- Scarlet Flannels,
- Wool Scarfs and Ties,
- Umbrellas,
- Jeans, Tickings,
- Shirtings.

Ladies' Cloth and Kid Gloves,

- Ladies' Skating Gloves,
- Brussels Carpets,
- Tapestry
- 2-ply Scotch
- 3-ply Scotch
- Union
- 4-4 Hemp
- 6-4 Felt
- 4-4 Felt
- 5-8 Stair
- 2-4 Stair
- Felt Crumb Cloths,
- Linen Crumb Cloths,
- Stair Damask,
- Curtain Damask,
- Curtain Reps,
- Table Damasks and
- Table Linens,
- Toilet Covers,
- Blankets,
- Counterpanes &
- Bed Covers.

CURTAINS!

In Muslin and Lace—Very Cheap. Damask, Turkey, Cloth and Felt

TABLE COVERS!

OIL TABLE CLOTH, FLOOR OIL CLOTH. Buff, Green and White

Window Hollands.

- Ladies' Fur Muffs,
- from Fifty-six cents,
- in Musquash,
- Monkey,
- Badger,
- Chinchilla,
- Imitation Seal,
- Grebe,
- Imitation Mink
- and Mink.

Men's Made Clothing, Hats, Fur Caps, &c. Shirts, Underclothing, and a variety of articles too numerous to mention.

J. D. MASON & CO., QUEEN STREET, Charlottetown, Dec. 30, 1878—