

Correspondence.

From our Charlottetown Correspondent.

CHARLOTTETOWN, April 15th, 1867.

MR. EDITOR:

To the Editor of the Journal. I find that I have got myself into business. I must say I was struck all of a heap when I saw that tremendous long letter of a "A Fisherman" in last week's Journal.

I must say I was struck all of a heap when I saw that tremendous long letter of a "A Fisherman" in last week's Journal. So much reading thought I, must contain a great deal of solid sense and sound argument. How in the world am I to answer it? Well sir, I read and read, fearing to find myself knocked into a cocked hat, but to my surprise for half a column I could find nothing but explanations and compliments to my humble self. If there is one thing I hate more than another it is these tiresome explanations. "I said this and didn't say that. You took me up wrong. You are a quibbler and a blockhead." This may be very nice writing for "A Fisherman," but it is very dreary reading for the patrons of the Journal. "Written words stand," and if I misrepresent or misunderstand "A Fisherman," most of those who read the controversy between us will be able to see that I do so without the help of "A Fisherman's" long-winded explanations. The part of my opponent's letter devoted to the subject is very small indeed. He in great part abandons his old ground as untenable and takes up new. He says that as farmers have received encouragement from the state, so ought fishermen. Before I say yes to this, I must be convinced of two things. The first is, is the fishing interest as important a one as the farming in this country, and the second is, would a proportionate amount of encouragement effect a proportionate amount of good? It strikes me that neither of these questions can be answered in the affirmative. "A Fisherman" will not say that the fisheries of the Island are as important as its agriculture. The great bulk of the people derive their subsistence either directly or indirectly from the soil. Those who make a living by fishing are but a very small minority of the population. In giving encouragement to farmers the state benefited nine out of every ten of the inhabitants of the Island. It was not very unfair that an almost infinitesimal part of the taxes paid by the tenth man should be spent for the benefit of the ninth. It appears to me very unreasonable that a considerable portion of the taxes paid by the nine farmers should be expended for the sole use and benefit of the one fisherman. This is hardly consistent with the doctrine of the greatest good to the greatest number which is now acknowledged to be the fundamental principle of all sound legislation. The money too, spent by government for the encouragement of agriculture has been very small indeed in proportion to those who are engaged in farming. The expenditure, taking one year with another, I am pretty sure does not exceed five hundred pounds currency annually. This spread over the whole agricultural population gives but a very small share to each individual. Yet I am quite willing to confess that the amount of good done has been very great. If "A Fisherman" will be content with a similar annual grant to fishermen proportionate to their numbers, I am sure that he will meet with very little opposition from the farming population. Let us suppose for the moment that there are ten farmers for every one who makes a living entirely by fishing on the Island. The fishermen then would be entitled to a grant of one hundred pounds a year; nobody grudges them that goodness knows. But would such a grant do them any good. As it could not be spent in improving the breed of mackerel and codfish, or even in putting a little brains into our Island shipbuilders' heads, I cannot see that the fishing interest would be benefited by a grant of even five times that sum named. But a dollar a barrel on the mackerel caught by Island fishermen would in a few years amount to some thousands of pounds more than have been spent by the state in aid of agriculture since the settlement of the Island.

"A Fisherman's" second argument is very little better than his first. It amounts to this, that as the Yankees have imposed a duty of two dollars a barrel on our mackerel we must give the fishermen a bounty of one dollar a barrel to make up the loss. This is a new kind of reasoning altogether, and if the principle is extended our whole revenue would soon be expended in giving bounties to the farmers and manufacturers the product of whose industry the Americans attempt to exclude by their protective tariff. There is a duty of ten cents per bushel on oats, potatoes, and barley, a duty of twenty per cent on horses and other live stock, so much per pound on wool and so forth. Would it not be a pretty thing to see the farmers sending petitions by the cartload to this spring to the House of Assembly praying for a legislative grant to make up the deficiency caused by Yankee Legislation. Self-interest blinds people wonderfully. If the markets of the United States are closed to our fish dealers, they, like our merchants who deal in farm produce, must look out for a new market. I should not at all wonder if the Canadians like good well-cured mackerel as well as the Americans, and there is always a market for codfish in the West Indies and South Europe. The United States of America, though a very big place, are not the whole world by a long chalk. "A Fisherman" makes a terrible lament about our young men leaving the Island. But does not the same thing take place everywhere? I, for my part, would be very sorry to see many of our smart young men poking about home for the best part of their lives seeing nothing, and doing next to nothing. If our Parliament can by legislative enactment increase the length and breadth of the Island, or could we pile it over to some convenient part of the Mainland, then perhaps there might be some sense in talking about keeping our young men at home. As long as it is the little out-of-the-way place it is, "A Fisherman" may depend upon it that even offering them a bounty to catch mackerel will not keep them from seeking their fortune in the wide and busy world outside of us. Let them go I say, and God speed them. Why should they not strive for the world's big prizes as well as other people, I should like to know? But "A Fisherman's" letter contains the most beautiful instance of a man cutting his own throat—metaphorically I mean—that I have ever seen. He advocates a bounty to fishermen. He confesses that a bounty is only required when an industry is in an infant state—where it is not sure whether it will pay or not. Of course it can be shown that fishing is a paying business—if the quantity of fish caught and the number of persons employed in the business have been steadily increasing—if more and better ships have been fitted out and if these ships are furnished with better outfits than are in a healthy, thriving state, and are in no need of legislative prods to keep them from falling. Now all this "A Fisherman" has done in the last paragraph of his letter. I don't want to see a better argument against bounties than that same paragraph. Let the fishermen acquire skill. Let our shipbuilders learn as fast as they can the art and mystery of building the proper kind of craft, and let those engaged in the business by some means or other procure good outfits as are provided by their Yankee cousins—none of which things, as far as I can see, are impossible to men blessed with an average share of common sense—and in a few years those of our population who find their interest to go a fishing, will have all the requisites which "A Fisherman" himself considers that first rate fishermen ought to possess. The wisest thing our rulers can do in this matter, evidently is to let well alone.

Resolving to express the opinion of the meeting was submitted and unanimously carried. A Committee was appointed to present a complimentary address to Major Pollard. The Committee having reported the address, it was unanimously agreed to, and a Committee appointed to present the same to the Major, both of which you will do me the honor to do. Before the meeting broke up, three cheers were given for the Queen, and three tremendous cheers for Major Pollard. The meeting then dismissed and went in a body to the residence of Major Pollard, and gave him three more cheers. It is difficult to say where this may end. I would not be surprised if the Major is not recalled, to see the whole Volunteer force of the Colony disbanded on account of the treatment accorded by an officer without the least cause to do so. The Artillery company to which he belonged, met on last Friday, together to the number of eighty, and marched in a body to the Captain's residence and handed in their arms.

Times in the city are rather dull, very little disquieting being done in the banks. The burnt district is in some places being rebuilt. The streets in Town this spring are in such a state as to most win for it the right to be called "Muddy Hollow." Charlottetown has at last decided to have a good Hotel, and a company is formed for the purpose of erecting one. There is a great stir in the boarding houses and around the big building. Everything is undergoing a thorough cleaning. Every respectable man is endeavoring to do his best part of their lives seeing nothing, and doing next to nothing. If our Parliament can by legislative enactment increase the length and breadth of the Island, or could we pile it over to some convenient part of the Mainland, then perhaps there might be some sense in talking about keeping our young men at home. As long as it is the little out-of-the-way place it is, "A Fisherman" may depend upon it that even offering them a bounty to catch mackerel will not keep them from seeking their fortune in the wide and busy world outside of us. Let them go I say, and God speed them. Why should they not strive for the world's big prizes as well as other people, I should like to know? But "A Fisherman's" letter contains the most beautiful instance of a man cutting his own throat—metaphorically I mean—that I have ever seen. He advocates a bounty to fishermen. He confesses that a bounty is only required when an industry is in an infant state—where it is not sure whether it will pay or not. Of course it can be shown that fishing is a paying business—if the quantity of fish caught and the number of persons employed in the business have been steadily increasing—if more and better ships have been fitted out and if these ships are furnished with better outfits than are in a healthy, thriving state, and are in no need of legislative prods to keep them from falling. Now all this "A Fisherman" has done in the last paragraph of his letter. I don't want to see a better argument against bounties than that same paragraph. Let the fishermen acquire skill. Let our shipbuilders learn as fast as they can the art and mystery of building the proper kind of craft, and let those engaged in the business by some means or other procure good outfits as are provided by their Yankee cousins—none of which things, as far as I can see, are impossible to men blessed with an average share of common sense—and in a few years those of our population who find their interest to go a fishing, will have all the requisites which "A Fisherman" himself considers that first rate fishermen ought to possess. The wisest thing our rulers can do in this matter, evidently is to let well alone.

Public Meeting. On Monday evening last, 8th inst., a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Charlottetown—numbering over seven hundred persons—was held in the Temperance Hall, for the purpose of taking into consideration the recent dismissal of Major Pollard from the position which he held in the Volunteer Militia. On motion of Hon. George Beer, seconded by Mr. Archd. McNeill, P. W. Hyndman, Esq., was called to the Chair, and P. S. McGowan having been appointed Secretary, the meeting proceeded to the consideration of the manner in which Major Pollard had been treated in having his services so summarily dispensed with by the Commanders-in-Chief, without being granted the privilege of a fair and impartial trial, and without ever having his offence properly stated to him. Several gentlemen addressed the meeting on the part of Mr. Pollard, and though the Chairman called upon any person taking the opposite side to express his views, no one came forward to justify the action of the military authorities towards the Major. After a discussion of the subject, the following Resolution was moved by Geo. Alley, Esq., seconded by Mr. J. Williams, and unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, J. B. Pollard, Esq., late Major in the Volunteer Militia, has been connected with that organization for the past twenty years, and has, in the various capacities held by him therein, largely contributed to place that service on its present footing of efficiency in drill, discipline, and military knowledge, and whereas the Commanders-in-Chief has dispensed with Mr. Pollard's services without an investigation of the supposed charges preferred against him.

Be it therefore Resolved, That this meeting hereby records its disapproval of the course adopted towards Mr. Pollard in thus summarily dispensing with his services.

London & Lancashire Office, P. E. ISLAND, April 9, 1867.

To the Editor of the Journal. Sir—You will oblige by publishing in your next issue the subjoined letter, addressed to me, in October last, and which I would not have inserted in the newspaper, had it not been necessary for the interests of the Company I represent.

The Company commenced its Agency in this Island, through me, in November, 1863. Since that time I have issued a large number of policies, and have paid for losses the enormous sum of six thousand two hundred and twenty-five pounds, currency (£225), and which far exceeds the amount of premiums received here.

The Company has a paid-up capital, in the Fire Department, of £1,000,000 sterling, and in the Life Department of £100,000 sterling. In the year 1865, the fire premiums alone amounted, at the Home Office, and throughout the different Agencies, to the sum of one hundred and twenty-two thousand four hundred and sixteen pounds, sterling, (£122,416), and last year there was a large increase.

I have no hesitation in recommending the Company to the Insuring public as a first class office, being most generous and punctual in the payment of losses, where neither neglect nor fraud can be detected.

I am your obedient servant, CHARLES YOUNG. COPY. CHARLOTTETOWN, Oct. 15, 1866.

DEAR SIR—We the undersigned Insurers, in the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, of London, England, beg leave to return to you, as the indefatigable Agent of that Company, our sincere thanks for the prompt and liberal manner in which you have paid our claims for losses, occasioned by the recent calamitous fires in this city.

OUR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. For many years Prince Edward Island has been, in all matters connected with war, a modern Arcadia. The Islanders have for a very long time looked upon a soldier merely in the light of a consumer of beef, pork, butter, eggs, and other farm produce.

When Volunteering became the fashion, like wearing hoops and waterfalls, it was followed by most for no better reason than can be given by those who adopt these and other whimsicalities and absurdities of the prevailing mode. Some among us liked the fuss and fun of drilling and shooting, and others were gratified by being enabled to strut about in a fine uniform, with a real gun having a bona fide bayonet at the end of it, on his shoulder.

THE PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE VISITORS are upon a stupendous scale. The Tory Ministry are busy getting their reform bill through Parliament—not a very congenial occupation for the high and mighty of the English aristocracy we should think, they are driven to it by a stern necessity. This is sad news on the point of death. It is most melancholy to see a young mother in any station cut off in the bloom of youth. The elevated position occupied by the Princess of Wales will cause her loss to be more generally noticed and deplored; but the death of a gentle, loving, true-hearted woman will always cause deep and lasting sorrow to those over whom her influence extends.

OUR STREETS.

The want of proper drainage on the sides of our streets is, at this season of the year, very much felt. After a heavy thaw or rain, it is almost impossible to get along without getting stuck in the mud. The water, instead of running off, remains on the centre and sides of the streets, and forms a muck that is barely possible to wade through. Now very little expense and time would help much to remedy this evil. It drains were made on each side of the street, and the centre made a little rounding, it would allow the water to run off, and the streets would dry up much sooner than they now do. Last summer a piece of road on each end of water street was laid with stone and, and it has stood well, for while other parts of the streets are almost impassable, this portion of it is quite hard and dry. It would cost but little to have all our principal streets done in this way, as we have the material on our shores.

We would also recommend the laying down of a narrow side walk, with plank, for foot passengers, especially for the ladies.

NOMINATION DAY.

Wednesday last being the day for the nomination of Candidates to fill the vacant seats occasioned by members taking office, the following gentlemen were put in nomination:—

First District of Queen's County—Hon. George Coles, and John Ross, Esq.— Second District of King's County—Hon. Joseph Hensley, No position. Second District—Hon. E. Whelan, Mr. Ed. Rielly, Mr. W. H. McEwen and Mr. A. McCormack.

We have received a fyle of late American papers from James Greenough, Esq., for which he will receive our thanks. In another column will be found a correspondence from the Hon. Charles Young, Agent for the London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Company. The testimony given speaks well for the company and its agent. Persons in Summerside wishing to insure in this Company, can do so by calling at our office.

The last Royal Gazette contains a number of appointments. M. Jas. Johnston is Controller of Customs for Crapaud; John Clark, Esq., for Cascumpe; Charles Green, Esq., for Bedecque; Mr. Harry S. McNutt, for Malpeque; and Mr. William McNeill, jun., for Rustico. Mr. Alex. Howat, is a Commissioner for the recovery of Small Debts at Tryon River. Nicholas J. Brown, Esq., is Postmaster at Saint Eleonor's.

The following gentlemen have been appointed Trustees and Governors of Prince of Wales College, viz.—The Hon. Joseph Hensley, Robt. P. Haythorne, Alex. Laird, Benj. Davies, Geo. W. Howlan, A. A. McDonald, James H. Peters, John Longworth, and J. T. Jenkins and James Roddin, Esquires.

The Mail Carrier, Mr. Sampson, brought a waggon on Monday last, for the first time this season. By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that the Summerside Fishing Company intend offering the Schr. Summerside and effects, for sale. She is a very neat craft, nicely fitted up, a very fast sailer, and offers a good inducement to any person wanting a vessel for the fisheries or a trader.

A correspondent from Charlottetown writes us that the steamer "Princess of Wales" will leave for Pictou on Monday next, and that she goes on the slip there for a short time. We may expect her here the latter part of next week. The steamer "Alhambra" leaves Boston on the 16th, and the "Commerce" on the 23rd instant. The Quebec Morning Chronicle says: "The population of the British Provinces at the starting point of the proposed Confederation, will be about four millions."

ENGLISH MAIL.

The news from Europe is rather scanty. There is likely to be trouble between France and Prussia. This was predicted long ago by the knowing ones. France is jealous of Prussia and envious of the laurels and conquests won by her in the Austrian campaign. Bismarck has been quietly strengthening himself by alliances with the minor German powers, and has made himself so formidable that Napoleon—so report says—has formed a counter confederation. He has prevailed on Holland, Belgium, and Switzerland, to assist him in resisting the encroachments of Prussia, and to lend him their aid in appropriating that slice of Prussia lying between France and the Rhine, which he has so long desired to possess. The Paris Exhibition is to be a very grand affair. All the world and his wife are going to see

anything like an effective body of infantry. The preparations to receive visitors are upon a stupendous scale. The Tory Ministry are busy getting their reform bill through Parliament—not a very congenial occupation for the high and mighty of the English aristocracy we should think, they are driven to it by a stern necessity. This is sad news on the point of death. It is most melancholy to see a young mother in any station cut off in the bloom of youth. The elevated position occupied by the Princess of Wales will cause her loss to be more generally noticed and deplored; but the death of a gentle, loving, true-hearted woman will always cause deep and lasting sorrow to those over whom her influence extends.

We would also recommend the laying down of a narrow side walk, with plank, for foot passengers, especially for the ladies.

NOMINATION DAY.

Wednesday last being the day for the nomination of Candidates to fill the vacant seats occasioned by members taking office, the following gentlemen were put in nomination:—

First District of Queen's County—Hon. George Coles, and John Ross, Esq.— Second District of King's County—Hon. Joseph Hensley, No position. Second District—Hon. E. Whelan, Mr. Ed. Rielly, Mr. W. H. McEwen and Mr. A. McCormack.

We have received a fyle of late American papers from James Greenough, Esq., for which he will receive our thanks. In another column will be found a correspondence from the Hon. Charles Young, Agent for the London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Company. The testimony given speaks well for the company and its agent. Persons in Summerside wishing to insure in this Company, can do so by calling at our office.

The last Royal Gazette contains a number of appointments. M. Jas. Johnston is Controller of Customs for Crapaud; John Clark, Esq., for Cascumpe; Charles Green, Esq., for Bedecque; Mr. Harry S. McNutt, for Malpeque; and Mr. William McNeill, jun., for Rustico. Mr. Alex. Howat, is a Commissioner for the recovery of Small Debts at Tryon River. Nicholas J. Brown, Esq., is Postmaster at Saint Eleonor's.

The following gentlemen have been appointed Trustees and Governors of Prince of Wales College, viz.—The Hon. Joseph Hensley, Robt. P. Haythorne, Alex. Laird, Benj. Davies, Geo. W. Howlan, A. A. McDonald, James H. Peters, John Longworth, and J. T. Jenkins and James Roddin, Esquires.

The Mail Carrier, Mr. Sampson, brought a waggon on Monday last, for the first time this season. By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that the Summerside Fishing Company intend offering the Schr. Summerside and effects, for sale. She is a very neat craft, nicely fitted up, a very fast sailer, and offers a good inducement to any person wanting a vessel for the fisheries or a trader.