

Abolition of the Legislative Council. No one who has taken a practical part...

This, in a practical form, is the question raised by "An Observer."

As to the reply, there should not, we think, be the slightest doubt or hesitation.

The Legislative Council, or rather the majority of its members, are already accountable for the expenditure which has been incurred by it in its present career...

We think we give expression to the views of the people in this matter, when we say that the taxpayers of this Island are not willing to throw away so much money.

And why hesitate about the immediate abolition of the Legislative Council? To have only one Chamber, and that one elected by manhood suffrage, is a parliamentary experiment that no country has yet made.

This reason is based on the belief that men who do not own property should not, in common with the more fortunate fellows, be treated with political power; and, in this Island, it may properly be resolved into this: That farmers who own their farms should be careful not to trust their franchise to those who do not own the farms...

Need we labor over a proposition so very absurd? The proper course to pursue is, we think, clearly this: To carry out the well-understood wishes of the people in this regard, abolish the Legislative Council, and, by so doing, reduce the expenditure of the Government, in the matter of providing the best means of keeping up winter communication with the main land, in due time, irrespective of the stand Mr. Yeo may take in the future.

Commercial Arrangements. The annual meeting of the Ocean Steamship Co. is soon to come off. Would not this be a very opportune time for the gentlemen who compose that company, to take into consideration the propriety of devising some means of improving the "defective commercial arrangements" referred to by Prof. Sheldon in his report of his recent visit to Canada...

This is only one of many instances that could be adduced to show the disadvantages under which the people of this Province labor in this respect, and the necessity that exists for an improvement in the direction indicated.

Now is the time for the gentlemen who control our mercantile marine, to consider this matter in its probable bearings upon the future of our country, and see what can be done towards giving our people improved facilities for shipping live stock, &c., direct to the European markets. By taking energetic action in this matter they would assist in lowering and encouraging our most important industries, and, at the same time, they would, no doubt, be also doing that which would be to their own pecuniary advantage.

The best interest of town and country alike, demand that some steps be taken to give improved shipping facilities, without which our resources cannot be developed as speedily as it is desirable that they should.

Another Objection Explained. In the debate about the Pacific Railway Contract, the Opposition contended that the capital expended would include in the case of the syndicate, the subsidy given by Government in lands and money...

Mr. H. J. Palmer, in the Commons, said Mr. Scott in the Senate, both declared that the objection, now beyond all doubt explained away, was one of the chief defects of the contract. They should be satisfied now.

Much Mutton Wanted.

UNRECORDED DEMAND FOR SHEEP AND LAMBS, AND THE REASON THEREOF.

But for our "imperfect Commercial arrangements" farmers in the Island who have large flocks of sheep, would be in a position this year to reap a handsome profit. The foot rot in England and the great snow storms have destroyed so many thousands of sheep that in the Liverpool market mutton is now reported three pence a pound dearer than it has been for many years.

Forty thousand will be shipped from Toronto and other points west for Liverpool, and these are being bought through the country at five and six cents a pound live weight. The effect of this drain on sheep and lambs, will not only increase the price of mutton, but it will undoubtedly cause a decided rise in the price of corn and the best qualities of this to be found on the continent being grown in Canada.

We have received a report of a meeting held at Cape Traverse on the 25th ult., for the purpose of discussing the question of Winter Communication with the Mainland, which, owing to its length, we are unable to give to-day. We will do so, however, at our earliest convenience.

The meeting was a large and influential one. It was addressed by Messrs. A. Strang, Benj. Webster, J. H. Howatt, D. G. Wright, W. H. Galt, and others. In favor, it is needless to state, of the Cape route.

Among the resolutions passed was one calling upon our representatives in the Dominion Parliament to demand the completion of the Cape Traverse and Tormentine Branch Railways next summer, together with the placing of a suitable steamer at the Capes.

It is not probable that the Government will comply with the request of the gentlemen who passed the resolution referred to during the coming season; but we have no doubt that the construction of these short lines of railway is only a question of a comparatively short time. It is conceded on all hands that an earnest effort should be made to test the practicability of the Cape route, as a highway for keeping up winter steam communication with the outside world.

Importation of Improved Trotting Stock. A FLOCK OF GOOD NEWS. We read the proposal of the Government to import a number of improved trotting and standard breeds of horses, and the laudable enterprise of private gentlemen, this Province at once takes a high stand in the breeding of high-class carriage horses, and first-class trotters. We are informed, on good authority, that enterprising persons in this Province, have purchased from General Withers "LEXINGTON KENTUCK," a fine bay colt sired by that renowned sire of trotters, "ALMONT."

A Moral Reformer Who Lacks Courage. Referring to Mr. J. H. Bell's letter detailing his observations in the Parliamentary smoking room and drinking saloon at Ottawa, a correspondent mentions as a rather notable fact that not one of the members from the Island smoked, and that they themselves, accordingly, well throughout the session. Our friend thinks it very strange that Mr. Bell should have sent his letter all the way here while it might have done much good if published at Ottawa. But then the Chairman of the smoking room and many heavy smokers Mr. Bell did not care personally to incur their displeasure by revealing the secrets of their resort to the inhabitants of this island. The consequence might not have been pleasant for Mr. Bell. No doubt there is much about the Houses of a moral reformer. But Mr. Bell would have done as well to abstain from tobacco to much better advantage than in this Island.

Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of King's County opened on Tuesday last, Chief Justice Palmer presiding. The following list composed the Grand Jury:—

R. Munro, foreman; Richard Westaway, A. C. Stewart, Cyrus Shaw, John McLean, Montague; Joseph R. Macdonald, R. W. Sprague, William Poole, Jas. N. Cogswell, Joseph Dehaen, John McLean, Samuel John McDougall, Peter McDonald, Donald Morrison, Charles McDonald, Charles McEachern, Ronald McCormack.

The Grand Jury found bills of indictment against John Cahill, for an assault upon George Johnson, and Neil Kennedy for a similar offence against Rev. Edward Bell, Montague. Both cases will probably be disposed of before adjournment. In the matter of the death of McKenzie, at Chatham, no bill was found against the accused.

There were only four civil cases on the docket. That of Charlotte McWade vs. Joseph Kennedy, McLean for plaintiff and Davies for defendant; McKay vs. Hayden, Palmer for plaintiff and Warburton for defendant; County Meek vs. McLeod for plaintiff; McLeod vs. McKinnon, Davies for plaintiff. — Advertiser.

To sum it up, six long years of bed-ridden sickness and suffering, costing \$200 per year, total \$1,200—all which was stopped by three bottles of Hop Bitters taken by Mr. J. H. Bell. He has now his own house-work for a year since, without the loss of a day, and I want everybody to know it for their benefit."

"JOHN WEEKS, Dulver, N. Y."

NOTES OF THE PAST MONTH.

By An Observer.

The scenes witnessed in the British House of Commons at the beginning of the past month will stand out in History as prominently as those in the days of Charles I. Speaker Lenthall stood forth at a critical moment, when the most vital interests that can affect the liberty of a Parliament were at stake.

There has been a flurry in French politics over an asserted sale of arms by the Government to Greece, but it has been officially denied. There seems to be little doubt that while the general opinion of the French people are anxious for peace almost any price, Gambetta has more warlike thoughts. His many opponents make it more than likely that he will not be permitted to remain in office for more than a few weeks.

The question of the Greek Frontier still hangs in the air, but it must soon reach a point where a decision will be rendered. The ambassadors of the Powers are endeavoring to mediate between the parties. The Porte is not unwilling to compromise, or to settle the same thing, but Greece will have nothing but the bond, Turkey offers to give up Thessaly and the Southern part of Albania, but refuses to sign the Greek Frontier as it is.

The new regulations for the House of Commons, which were passed on the 24th ult., are a very important one. They will, it is believed, be a great boon to the House, and will, it is believed, be a great boon to the House, and will, it is believed, be a great boon to the House.

One might almost imagine that the great prophet of action and great source of talk, when he saw the great talking shop of the nation, whose infinite clatter and mutterings he had so often denounced, put into the hands of one man, a gag for his unruly members.

Conjectures as to the personnel of the Cabinet, which were made on the 24th March, now fill the United States newspapers. The many superficial points of resemblance between our own political constitution and that of our neighbors are apt to make us overlook their essential differences.

Already the friends of Garfield are beginning to hedge for his second term, although his first has not yet begun. Already a new party is being formed, and the friends of the Grant election, and to consider what must be done with the Blaine and Conkling influences.

There is much to be said for the often proposed change in their constitution, viz: to extend to seven years the period of the President's election.

The leading newspapers do not seem to take much Stock in the Hind charges. One of the leading Boston papers, sending a commission to enquire, gave the matter up. And now the New York Herald maintains that the Hind is a man of high character.

Although it should, properly, have been referred to last month, allusion may be permitted now to another remarkable man who has lately died—Solomon, the actor, who gave us Lord Dundreary. His life was a remarkable one, and he was accomplished by a man who has the courage to go on making failures. Again and again he failed. Again and again he was, by one manager after another, dismissed as incompetent.

Pinafors, or the Pirates of Penzance. They compare most favorably with what is set on the French stage, much of which is downright filth, and too much of which is from the time of the French Revolution, and Charlotteville is as yet too small to attract much that is good in the theatrical line, and the productions of the travelling companies which visit us are not of the choicest kind. It is not to be expected that they will do us any good, but they may be well and respectably managed. Such a one would be a public benefit.

THE EAST. The British seem to be paying dearly for their common error of under-rating the strength of their lesser opponents. They learn in South Africa that five hundred or six hundred men could not match even a battalion of regular troops, and that a small force could make headlong against some thousands of one of the bravest of European nations—men the most closely allied by blood to our nation, of all the Continental peoples.

It is satisfactory to have all parties agree that the country is prosperous, though they by no means agree whether it is so in spite of or on account of the N. P. It has been some years since a Canadian Finance Minister was able to announce a surplus; and the N. P. has had not even a year in which it has not had a deficit. A Protective Tariff may be good. A Revenue Tariff may be better. But a deficit tariff (if the term be allowed) neither gods nor man can do.

As Sir Leonard Tilley said little or nothing in his tariff speech about the "balance of trade being greatly in our favor," it may be hoped that we shall soon hear the last of the fallacy that an excess of exports over imports is an infallible proof of prosperity. It is satisfactory to find that it proves that a country is able to produce enough to pay so much of its annual indebtedness as is left after the profits of its trade have been absorbed; that it would be able to pay its debts in full to outsiders at all; and then the balance of imports over exports would represent the profit of our trade.

Most satisfactory of all is the position of a lending country such as England where imports exceed exports, and where, in consequence, the exports, as other countries have to begin to buy. But this we do not hope for. Sir Leonard Tilley may have remembered that the large amount of money which has been sent into Canada in the next few years to build the Pacific Railway will come chiefly in the form of goods, so that the next few years will show a large excess of imports, as the country is being supplied with the material for the Pacific Railway.

Primo Bismarck coquetting with Socialists is a strange coquetting. Yet something of the kind is evidently going on. The Prince has summoned a sort of Advisory Council to consider the various questions arising out of the Socialists. He turns away floutingly from Parliament where he says political animosities cloud the judgment, and has been (clerically) hectoring with a genuine sting, and expressing his great satisfaction at the results of his consultations with these friends. The Prince has not only at Government Life Assurance, but at some unexplained way in which Government may provide a pension

for every laboring man in his old age, besides taking care of his paternal lands, for these things now left to municipalities. On one point the German Chamber and the Socialists quite agree both are firmly impressed with Hans Prinsheim's great idea. "I don't get any more money for every land, must allow 'em every thing.'" It is rather curious that while the movement in Germany is more and more in the direction of centralization, Mr. Gladstone proclaims a wide extension of municipal institutions as Ireland's great need.

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NOTES FROM THE CAPITOL.

OTTAWA, Feb. 25th.

PARLIAMENTARY WORK OF LAST WEEK.

Besides advancing Bills—Private and Public—a stage, the House was occupied on MONDAY in discussing grievances, as represented by various notices of motion, chief among which was the motion introduced by Dr. Bergen, referring to the inspection of Weights and Measures. Several hon. members took occasion to air their views on this branch of the Inland Revenue.

Deputy Minister Brunel came in for a large share of abuse. One or two members spoke in his defence. The general opinion of the House was decidedly in favor of the Inspection Act, although many spoke strongly in condemnation of some of the inspectors in Ontario. It was conceded that notwithstanding the faulty way in some instances in which the act was being executed, it would not be to the interests of the country to repeal the Act.

According to a return brought down during the statement of Revenue and Expenditure, during the fiscal years 1877-78-79-80, are as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Years, Revenue, Expenditure. Data for 1877-78, 1878-79, 1879-80.

These figures speak for themselves. During the early part of the afternoon Sir John Macdonald, who has been ill for several days, entered the House amidst prolonged cheers from both sides.

The debate on the Budget was resumed by Mr. Plumb, who spoke fluently for over two hours. He dealt with the financial state of the country under the present administration, and the various causes of its tardy inactivity of the late Government. He expressed a hope, which was received with cheers, that at no distant day Newfoundland would be found entering Confederation.

Let the Island Provinces, out in the cold, make a note of this. The exorbitant taxation, the extravagance of the late Government, the present business outlook, etc., were all severely touched upon. Mr. Ross (Middlesex) continued the debate, speaking till 10.30, followed by Mr. White (Crawford). Mr. White spoke of sugar duties, contending that the consumer had not suffered while a valuable industry had been built up.

Numerous instances of what the National Policy had done towards building up the industries of the country were pointed out. Mr. White is a fluent and vigorous speaker, and a rising man likely to occupy a prominent position in the affairs of the country at no distant day.

OTHER BUSINESS. Before these Notes are in the hands of the readers of the EXAMINER, the Speech from the Throne will have been read and our local legislators will be at work. Each meeting of the Assembly brings prominently before the public attention the expenditure of the Government, and the National Policy, and the fact that the House has not yet been able to pass a bill to reduce the tariff on sugar.

It is to be hoped that the Government will be able to recommend an expenditure on the much needed buildings for the Stock Farm, and also for further improvement of the Stock Farm. No expenditure can give a better return—none should be more acceptable to the country generally.

It is to be hoped that the Government will break through the vicious custom inherited from their predecessors, and put to the amount of capital monies received from the purchase of land. To do this is a step which is long overdue for many years. There are, no doubt, expenditures, which might be fairly made from these receipts, such as the erection of the Lunatic Asylum, and the cost of good permanent buildings for the Farm. It may be that the Government will be able to do this, but the public accounts should be carefully distinguished between capital and revenue in both receipts and expenditures.

It is said that Mr. Sewell is pressing the Government to recommend an expenditure on the much needed buildings for the Stock Farm, and also for further improvement of the Stock Farm. No expenditure can give a better return—none should be more acceptable to the country generally.

There has been a very strong feeling aroused in Charlottetown, about the power exercised by the Courts to put a stop to a factory. It is a very serious matter, and the fact has been introduced. No nothing can be more regular and constitutional than what was proposed at the large public meeting—either to appeal the case, or to have the law altered or made clear. This has not been done, and it is to be hoped that it will not be forgotten, that others as well as manufacturers have rights. Our city members claim to be in some peculiar sense the "Mechanical Representatives." Whatever advantages the mechanical industry may have, they may not be found inconsistent with the rights of the residents of the constituency.

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NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Special Dispatch to the Examiner.

OTTAWA, Feb. 23. The French Credit Foncier Companies are restricted by Act of Incorporation from lending money at a higher rate than 6 per cent. This will insure a higher rate for others at a cheap price. This is creating quite a panic among money lenders.

Another account of the fight at Spitokop says, "When the ammunition failed, the slaughter was fearful; the farms were laid waste, and the British position on Spitokop was carried. 2,900 Boers took part in the engagement."

Gen. Colley in this harbor are flying flags half mast for the front. Sir Evelyn Wood has left for the front.

The Times says Colley defied cannot only affect the Military situation at the front, but the morale of the army. A despatch says General Colley was not through the head. The loss of the sixteenth foot is supposed to have been light. A despatch from Lord Roberts says the Boers carried the British position on Spitokop, a rash. 2,900 Boers took part in the engagement.

The Marquis of Hartington intimated yesterday in the Commons that although the Arms Bill will remain separate whenever the Government shall see fit to treat it, though it will be dealt with together as a matter of urgency, some sitting of the House will be taken to supply the time to time that the urgent, unless and until the House specially vote it.

The Standard, whose correspondent is supposed to have been killed or captured in the fight, says that the Boers were not only with impetuosity and with a steady sense of shame that Englishmen have heard their Government negotiating on equal terms with victorious and scantily armed. This is all at an end. There are no more to talk now of terms or conditions until a victorious British General at Pretoria publishes terms which shall be granted to such of the defeated Boers as will accept of them, and one for pardon. There is more to be done than to settle terms with the Boers. The stigma of defeat must be wiped out by the valor of British arms triumphantly vindicated.

Gen. Colley was shot just before the close of the engagement, while giving the order to cease firing. Sir Evelyn Wood has left for the front. Sir Evelyn Wood has left for the front.

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