

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, Jan. 24, 1876.

THE LAND QUESTIONS.

If the recent decisions be just, the Commissioners have either not apprehended the "Land Purchase Act, 1875," or they have been hasty and negligent in the discharge of duties. All the Judges of the Supreme Court agree that the awards "do not satisfy the statute."

The award on the Sullivan estate was couched in the following terms:

"DOMINION OF CANADA.

"Province of Prince Edward Island.

"In the matter of the Application of Emanuel MacEachern, the Commissioner of Public Lands, for the Purchase of the estate of Charlotte Antonia Sullivan, and the Lands Purchase Act, 1875. The sum awarded under sec. 26 of the said Act is eighty-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$81,500).

(Signed) "HUGH COLLINGS EARLY CHILDERS, Commissioner appointed by the Governor General in Council."

"JOHN TUCKER JENKINS, Commissioner appointed by the Lieut. Governor in Council."

The other awards were drawn up in the same form. By the Act the Commissioners were obliged to consider:

"The number of acres possessed or occupied by any persons who have not attempted to pay rent to the proprietor, and who claim to hold such land adversely to such proprietor, and the reasonable probabilities and expenses of the proprietor sustaining his claim against such persons holding adversely in a court of law, shall each and all be elements to be taken into consideration by the said Commissioners in estimating the value of such proprietor's lands; (2) the conditions of the original grants from the crown; (3) the performance or non-performance of those conditions; (4) the effects of such non-performance and how far the despatches from the English Colonial Secretaries to this Island, or other action of the Crown or Government, have operated as waivers of any forfeitures; (5) the rents reserved in the original grants, and how far the payment of the same have been waived or remitted by the Crown."

On the face of the awards it does not appear that the Commissioners have taken any of these circumstances into consideration; and notwithstanding the fact that the law expressly declares that no award shall be declared void for "any reason, defect, or informality, whatever," the Judges have deemed the omission so important, that they have given a decision in the matter, which will render all the expensive proceedings of the Land Commissioners Court of none effect. For it is not to be supposed that the Proprietors will fail to take advantage of the triumph they have gained. No. Every proprietor who thinks his estate has not been valued at as high a figure as his neighbors, every proprietor who thinks he can gain a hundred dollars by worrying the country and quashing the award, will appeal to the Supreme Court.

To laymen it does appear somewhat strange that in spite of the positive declaration of the Act, that with the exception of the power of the Supreme Court to send the awards back, they shall be "binding, final and conclusive on all parties," the judges should take upon themselves to declare them invalid. "Why not?" it is asked, "omit them to the Commissioners with directions to supply the information needed by the proprietors and the Court?" The Commissioners cannot have failed to take all the circumstances mentioned in the Act into consideration; and if so they must have memoranda by means of which it would be comparatively easy to make their judgements thereon appear upon the face of the award. Why put the country to the expense of a renewal of the proceedings? We hear some talk of an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. No doubt a decision of the Supreme Court of Appeal would develop the true form and features of the "Land Purchase Act 1875" in a manner highly gratifying to the lawyers; but the Province—which would have to bear the expense—would not likely gain by it. The conflicting elements which comprise our Supreme Court are agreed—the judges are of one mind—that the awards are invalid; and it is not at all probable that the higher Court would reverse their decision.

We trust the wise and honorable gentlemen who compose the Legislative Council are now satisfied with the result of their patriotic action on the Bill which would have enabled the Government to obtain the estates by voluntary sale on fair and reasonable terms. With that Act and the Compulsory Act both on the Statute Book, the Province would, in all probability, now be in quiet possession of the greater number of the estates; for the proprietors would have voluntarily sold their lands—as they appointed their Commissioners—lest a worst thing should come upon them.

The Local Opposition have learned a lesson—at the expense of the country. They will not likely again give the three months' hoist to a good measure, merely because it does not appear to be consistent with statements made in the preamble of another Act. It may be found that the passage of an Act admitting the possibility of the voluntary sale of proprietary estates is the best method of escaping from the difficulties which now beset the Government in the final settlement of our Land Question. If so, we hope to see no fictitious opposition.

REFORM.

The ready response of the people to the cry we have raised for Legislative and Departmental Reform is a gratifying sign of the times. Truly, it is not too soon to rouse ourselves to action. With the cautious political machinery of ante-confederation times—when we had to collect and disburse the revenues of the colony, when we had to provide for the postal service, to build and maintain light-houses—when, in short, we had everything which the Dominion Government now does for us to do ourselves—when we grappled with the Land Question, and introduced Responsible Government and Free Education—with the same number of Legislators and the same number of Executive Councilors and nearly the same number of office holders we had in those days, it is no wonder that we receive assurances from all parts of the country

that we are doing the country a service when we agitate for REFORM.

Last week we received from the Superintendent of Public Works for Queen's County several documents in which are plainly pointed out the evils incident to our road system,—to the quadronial dismissal of officials, to the appointment of men and the disbursement money with a view to party triumph only, and not to the good of the country,—and, above all, to that gigantic, antiquated humbug—statute labor. Next week we shall have the pleasure of giving these documents publicity.

THE SUEZ CANAL PURCHASE.

NO EVENT in the foreign policy of Great Britain, during the last quarter of a century, can compare in real importance with the Suez Canal Purchase. Regarded merely as a business—distinct from a political transaction, the course of the English Government in this matter would not appear to be founded on sound views. The actual outlay, though a tribute to a wealthy country like England, is very heavy; and the direct profits are very remote. The canal is heavily mortgaged and much money must be spent to place it in an efficient state of repair. Although the traffic is increasing fast, it will yet be many years before the canal can be a paying investment. The Khedive, under the weight of French pressure brought to bear upon him, had given up his claim to dividends on the profits of the canal company, for nineteen years to come. Hence, though the purchaser of nearly nine-twentieths of the stock, it will be long before England will receive any direct pecuniary return for her expenditure. Moreover, some of the French journals argue that, by surrendering for a term of years his claim to profits, the Khedive also surrendered his right of voting in the management of the Company and of exercising a powerful influence in the direction of its affairs. This, if England was as powerless as Egypt to protect her own interests, would be a very serious objection. But she is not powerless; and in her recent action in this purchase has shown herself to be in earnest. She has thus, in a great measure regained that prestige, which, under the late government, she was fast losing. Whatever, therefore, she might do, were the shares still in the Khedive's hands, France can now do no more than submit, which as good a grace as possible, to what is inevitable. These, however, in comparison with the indirect gains and the political advantages acquired, are small drawbacks.

The indirect commercial gain must be very considerable. The control of the canal has hitherto been in foreign hands, while by far the greatest amount of commerce passing through it was English. Hence, we had a vast trade, of which the greater part was British, subject to the control—I was almost saying the caprice—of a foreign country, whose interests were often antagonistic to those of England. Her mercantile interests were, therefore, liable to be disturbed by European complications, by internal disturbances in Egypt, or by probable ruptures between the Khedive and the Porte. This was a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, which Mr. Disraeli's government, by purchasing the stock, have very effectually changed.

It is generally understood that M. Lesseps was striving to procure the shares for France, and that an offer was actually made of them to the French Government; but that they could not agree about the terms, or what is more likely, could not afford the purchase. It is also reported that negotiations were opened by Egypt with Mr. Gladstone's government for the sale, but that the late prime minister, with his usual contemptuous disregard for England's foreign policy, would not entertain the offer. To Mr. Disraeli, however, it presented strong temptations. It gave a chance for that sort of daring statesmanship which has so much charmed the conservative chief. Moreover, it offered a brilliant opportunity of restoring, by one bold stroke of policy, England's fast waning prestige abroad. Hence, when the Khedive's offer was made, it was at once accepted, and with such celerity was the business accomplished, that the first intimation the public had of the matter was the news that the purchase was completed.

The sale must have been a sad blow to M. Lesseps. When he constructed the canal he boasted that he had struck a deathblow at England's mercantile superiority. He believed that the trade of the East would fall into the hands of his own countrymen, and that England's commercial supremacy would be overturned. In this he was disappointed. From the first day the canal was opened, three-fifths of the trade has been in her hands; and, instead of seeing French commerce flourish at the expense of British, he has merely given a new and vigorous impulse to the latter. And now the acquisition, by the Disraeli government, of a controlling influence in the affairs of the canal, has given the final overthrow to his hopes.

To appreciate the political importance of the purchase, it must be remembered, that it gives Great Britain the command of that portion of the highway to her Eastern Empire, which she did not already possess. She already held the entrance to, as well as various stations in, the Mediterranean. From Aden she could virtually command the Red Sea; and now she has secured the connecting link between them. She has also acquired influence in Egypt that foreign powers cannot well disturb; and if the negotiations, said to be now pending, for placing the Egyptian railways in English hands, succeed, her authority there will be complete. Thus, knowing that uninterrupted communication with the East Indies is secured, she will be unaffected by the machinations of the great continental powers for the dismemberment of the tottering Ottoman Empire.

Viewed, therefore, as a whole, the purchase cannot but cause intense satisfaction, not only for the commercial and political advantages it affords, but also as an evidence that a vigorous foreign policy has been inaugurated in the place of that readiness to yield to outside pressure, which was the weakness of Mr. Gladstone's government. A. B. W.

THE JUDGES' DECISION.

Last Monday we opened our columns for the purpose of conveying to the readers the highly important information that the Supreme Court had delivered a judgment which would have the effect of invalidating every award heretofore made by the Commissioners, appointed under the "Land Purchase Act 1875." Everyone is, of course, interested to know the grounds of this judgment. We regret that the opinions of the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Hensley were given orally, while our reporter was out of Court; and that the written opinion of Judge Peters is so voluminous that we have not space enough for the whole document. We will, however, endeavor to give short summary of it.

Appeals from the awards of the Commissioners, had been made in the following cases:

The Commissioner of Public Lands vs. R. B. Stewart.

The Commissioner of Public Lands vs. Hon. S. C. B. Fane.

The Commissioner of Public Lands vs. Charlotte Sullivan.

These were, by consent of both parties, argued as one case—subject to some exceptional questions, applicable to some or one of them singly. "The cases themselves," remarked the learned Judge, "from the interests involved, are important, while some of the points involve discussion of constitutional questions of the highest importance; and, I must say, that during the argument of four days, the Counsel on both sides have displayed a research and knowledge of principles of law, backed by a calm, dispassionate, but close and able reasoning, right creditable to them, and which has greatly assisted me in coming to a conclusion on the many different parts on which I am called to express an opinion."

Judge Peters then relates the general and well-known facts involved in our land question, and gives a short analysis of the "Land Purchase Act, 1875," which we need not reproduce. He then devotes his attention to the objections raised by the Counsel for the proprietors—E. J. Hodgson, Esq. The first objection was that the award does not show how the Commissioners have adjudicated on matters they were bound to adjudicate upon. On this point, the Judge argues that it is necessary, to give validity to the award, that the Commissioners' decision on the matter of adverse holdings, non-payment of quit rents, and non-compliance with the conditions of the original grants, should appear on the face of the award,—because, under the Act, the Commissioners were specially required to adjudicate upon these matters. In such cases silence will not do; and the Commissioners have been silent. Moreover, the proprietors are permitted to appeal to the Supreme Court within thirty days; and they should at once be informed of the grounds on which the award was made, so that they may, if dissatisfied, come to the Supreme Court and ask to have it remitted for reconsideration and correction before the thirty days expire. Judge Peters remarked that a great many squatters appear to have been examined. Some say they held a hundred acres; some fifty acres. One says he had twelve acres cleared or fenced twenty years ago.

The law as to acquiring by adverse possession is briefly this: A squatter is not considered in possession of anything except what he has fenced, cleared or cultivated or appears to occupy in some way. It must appear that each acre claimed has been so held for twenty years; and if it appears that he held five acres in that way for twenty years and the next five only for eighteen or nineteen years, he can only hold the first; and the proprietor (if he can make out a *prima facie* title) can recover the other. It does not appear that the Commissioners took any such circumstances into consideration.

QUIT RENTS. "But there is another and distinct point made by Mr. Hodgson as to the quit rents. He contends that the quit rents are a charge on the land; and, therefore, unless the Commissioners gave an express decision, finding that none are due or that they have been taken into account in awarding compensation, the proprietor might be sued for them; and therefore the proprietor was entitled to have this fact found. The Counsel for the government contend that the rent is merely a charge on the land, and that no action will be taken against the proprietors. After showing that there was a question whether these quit rents were due or not, Judge Peters said that quit rents are a charge on the land there is no doubt. But although they are only a charge on the land, yet the proprietor may be indirectly liable; for if he is a tenant or purchaser with whom he has covenanted for quiet possession or against encumbrances, either could maintain an action against the proprietor. The tenant, if distrained on, or the purchaser for that, or because the land being liable for this rent was not free from encumbrances. . . . In the present case, the omission, for the reason already stated, affects the proprietors' interest in the whole subject matter, and also fails to provide him with a protection against future claims on account of quit rents, to which, under the Act, he was liable."

DESCRIPTIONS. The third ground is, that the award is uncertain because it gives no description of the lands in respect of which compensation is awarded, and which are to be conveyed by the public trustee to the Commissioner of public lands. The Counsel for the plaintiff argued that, as the award states the compensation to be given for all the lands owned by the proprietor on the township named and the Commissioner of Public Lands' notice of intention to take, it is sufficiently certain, inasmuch as the lands to be conveyed by the public trustee can be ascertained, by showing what lands the Proprietor owned at the time of making the award. But Judge Peters maintains, that under the Act, the Commissioners were bound, in their award, to give such a description as would enable the public trustee to fill up the form in the manner directed by the Act. He quotes and argues at length on this point.

SETTING ASIDE. Assuming the awards to be invalid, Judge Peters next considers the question "How is the Supreme Court to deal with them?" "The 4th Section, in the most emphatic manner, declares that no award shall be deemed void for any reason, defect, or informality whatever; that no appeal shall be made to any tribunal, nor shall the award or proceedings be removed by *certiorari* or any other process; but, with the exception of the power of the Supreme Court, to send it back, it shall be binding, final, and conclusive on all parties. No doubt such restrictions are binding on this court, and prevent its inquiring into any decision made by Commissioners on subject matters within their jurisdiction, and which, it appears by the express words of the award, or by necessary implication, they have decided upon. But the whole current of authorities show that when an arbitration exceeds its jurisdiction, by taking upon itself to decide on a matter over which it has no jurisdiction, or declines or neglects to exercise a jurisdiction which it should have exercised, a statutory prohibition of this

kind does not apply, and the power of this court to interfere remains unrestrained." This position Judge Peters sustains by a learned argument. He concludes: "I think, therefore, that the awards must be set aside: First, because they do not show how they decided the several preliminary matters they had to consider, before ascertaining the amount of compensation. Secondly, for not deciding the question of Quit Rents, so as to protect the Proprietor, after being stripped of his land, from suits in respect of its liability to those rents. Thirdly, for not setting out in their award, or by reference to any particular plans or documents, any certain description of the lands claimed before them by the Commissioner of Public Lands, under his notice to the proprietors, and adjudicated by them to be transferred to him; and in not showing, for or in respect of what particular parcel of land, the compensation mentioned in the several awards was respectively given. The setting aside of these awards may, I am well aware, cause much disappointment as well as render useless the large expense attendant on the proceedings. But though this is, to the words of Lord—, 'a consideration that certainly ought to induce great caution in assuming jurisdiction, it certainly cannot justify us in declining it when the law has lodged it with the Court. We have no more right to refuse to any of the Queen's subjects the redress which we are empowered to administer than to use against them such powers as the constitution has not conferred on us.' In *Hodges on R. W. 324*, it is remarked that as laymen are frequently selected as arbitrators and umpires there cannot be any doubt that professional assistance should be obtained in conducting the proceedings and preparing the award; and, I must say, it is very unfortunate that in such an important matter as this, the Commissioners should not have been authorized to engage such assistance, at least in drawing up their awards—a matter with which they could not be supposed to have much acquaintance.

THE IMPERIAL ACT ULTRA VIRES.

The next objection is that under the provisions of the British North America Act the Island Legislature had not the power to pass this Act. "By the 22nd section of the Imperial Act, (British North America Act) it is enacted that 'in each Province the Legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to matters coming within the classes of subjects next hereinafter mentioned; and the 13th class mentioned in this section is 'Property and Civil Rights in the Province.' Mr. Hodgson contends that the power of making laws in relation to property does not give the right of taking away the property of one person for the purpose of giving or selling it to another; that the power is restricted to the taking of private property for public uses, only when a public necessity for doing so exists, and that the existence of such public necessity is a condition precedent to the right to exercise it; and that no such necessity existed with regard to the subject matters dealt with by this Act. The Attorney General on the other hand contends that the Legislature are the judges whether such necessity exists; and therefore have a right to pass any law they please. If the Provincial Legislature is restricted by subjects coming under what American Jurists call 'the right of Eminent Domain,' it seems to me that this Act, at least in some of its provisions, would be an excess of Legislative power." The Judge dilates upon these contentions at some length, and declares that "no amount of compensation can condone the impropriety of taking private property when no public necessity exists; for the right to take is founded on public necessity alone," and that no Court could hold that any public necessity existed for giving the Government of this Island such power over private property, as the Land Purchase Act, 1875, gives. "It must be recollected that when a constitutional question regarding the validity of an Act of this description is raised, the Court are bound to decide on what it finds within the four corners of the Act, not importing anything that is not there, and not excluding anything that is. The Imperial Act has done and done well. But like the dry bones of the valley it has yet to be clothed by many a judicial decision from all parts of the Dominion, tempered and corrected by the Supreme Tribunal before its true form and features will become perfectly developed; and, therefore, every question concerning its construction should be carefully considered. And amongst the many questions that may be raised, none, perhaps, will be more important than those concerning the distribution of the Legislative power. Now, it seems to me that if this Island had been a new country, or one on its entry into the Union, possessed of a new Legislative power, a grant of power to make laws in relation to property would be understood to apply to regulations respecting property still continuing vested in its owners, and would confer only a limited jurisdiction—as contended for by Mr. Hodgson. . . . But this Island had a constitution similar to that of the other B. N. A. Provinces, when it entered the confederacy; and the powers of its Legislature over property and civil rights were as sovereign as those of the British Parliament itself—save only when their enactments happened to conflict with the Imperial statutes, or were repugnant to the established law of England. . . . The B. N. A. Act of 1874 does not abrogate these Provincial institutions, but merely withdraws from them the power of making laws regarding certain matters—enumerated in 91st section—over which they previously had jurisdiction. But as to all matters not so withdrawn, the Provinces remain in their state of 'old Dominion,' and retain their jurisdiction over them in the same plight as it previously existed, and, therefore, we cannot hold this Act to be *ultra vires*.

STEWART'S DEEDS TO CHILDREN.

Turning to the point applicable to the particular case of R. B. Stewart, Esq., Judge Peters addressed himself to the question whether or not Mr. Stewart could—after receiving the Government's notice of intention to purchase—convey to his children certain portions of his estates. It appears before the case came before the Commissioners for hearing, Mr. Stewart conveyed 1,499 acres of land on Lot 7,—500 of which were leased and 999 unleased,—to his son, James F. Stewart. He also conveyed 4000 acres on Lot 30 to his son Robert Stewart. On this question Judge Peters disagreed with his brother Judge. The notice of intention to purchase, in his opinion, does not, so far as any provision in Act is concerned,—except as regards the arrears of rent—in any way interfere with the proprietor's dominion over his property. There is not a word in the Act which prevents his selling, leasing, or disposing of it.

DOMINION NOTES.

The next question is, that when the Treasurer gave his certificate, the money had not really been paid in—as required by the Act—the fact being that the Government, under a mistake of the law, supposed that Dominion Notes were a legal tender here, and the amounts were paid to the Treasurer in those notes. He (Judge Peters) would be very unwilling to permit this

mere mistake to upset the proceedings if they were otherwise valid. But at the same time the judges must take care not to add to injustice by allowing unnecessary delay. Judge Peters thought, therefore, "that the injunction should be continued for a very short time, and if, at the expiration of that time, the Treasurer shall not certify that the \$7,500, in lawful gold coin, has been paid into the court in this case, that then Mr. Stewart may move to have the injunction made perpetual."

FEUTRE AWARDS.

Referring to awards which may in future be made, Judge Peters said:—"As I understand there are still a large number of awards not yet made, I will, therefore, before closing, briefly state some particulars which I think the awards, to be made valid, must certainly contain. I think there should be a distinct finding that the breach of conditions in the original grants were waived or that they were not; and if not, whether any deduction (I don't say that it need state how much) was made on that account. And the same with regard to quitrents. I think it should also, by reference to schedule or otherwise, show the names of each person who they hold has acquired a title by possession, and the quantity and particular parcel he has acquired by bounds. I think it should also show the names and quantity held by squatters, who have held for less than twenty years, and whether anything (I don't say how much) has been deducted on their account. There should also be a schedule showing the amount of arrears due for each tenant and how much of these arrears has been allowed to the proprietor in each case. I think this last necessary. There are two lines in the 23rd section of the Act which I think have been very much overlooked. They are these: 'And the facts which they are required to ascertain in order to carry this Act into effect.' The meaning of these I take to be in fact, which it is their duty to ascertain in order to give full effect to this Act. This goes far beyond what they themselves have to perform. It points to all that has to be afterwards done by others to carry out what they have begun; to what the public trustee has to do, and to what this Court has to do in making distribution. I see it stated that in one case the arrears are assigned to Cardinal Manning. If the award finds a lump sum, and the Cardinal's claim comes in to participate in the distribution, how could we ascertain how much of the lump sum was awarded in respect to the land, and how much in respect of the arrears of rent? We could make no distribution in such a case, and the same thing may happen in other cases when arrears are due to a deceased proprietor, and the present proprietor is not his personal representative, we would be compelled to hold the award void in such a case, because the Commissioners had not made it so that the Court could carry it into effect. Whatever may be thought of the character of this Act, I think it very unfortunate that such important and expensive proceedings should be rendered nugatory for want of proper care in conducting them; and I have made these last observations in the hope that they may assist in preventing those yet to be made from running on the rocks which their predecessors have suffered shipwreck."

THE DYNAMITE FIEND.

DID THOMAS DESTROY THE "CITY OF BOSTON." During the inquiry respecting the explosion of the infernal machine which destroyed so many lives on board the steamer *North*, at Bremerhaven, a suspicion arose that the "end Thomassen" (or whatever his true name was) destroyed the Inman steamer *City of Boston*, which sailed from New York, and subsequently from Halifax in 1870, and was never afterwards heard of. The name of the *City of Boston* was mentioned to Thomassen before his death and he answered, "Oh, yes, an Inman Steamer—I knew her well." The supposition is that he may have obtained insurance on fictitious shipments by the steamer, put an infernal machine on board, came to Halifax in the steamer, and then left her, and that the infernal machine exploded while she was at sea and totally destroyed her. The proprietors of the Inman Line have thought the matter worthy an inquiry, and have instructed their New York agent, Mr. J. G. Dale, and their Halifax agents, Messrs. J. & R. B. Seaton, to make all necessary investigations. Detectives have also been employed to work up the matter. It has been learned that a person named Thomas and wife, left New York in the Inman steamer *City of Brooklyn*, on the 4th June, 1870, and reached Liverpool, G. B., on the 16th. Persons of the same name went to the Adelphi, Liverpool, on the same day. This would tally with their going to England after obtaining insurance moneys on account of the *City of Boston* loss, in March 1870. Thomassen is described as "a tall, fat, broad shouldered fellow, of about 45 years of age, with a common looking swarthy face and dark red whiskers, bearing always golden spectacles on his nose and looking over them. He had a number of aliases—Alexander, Garcia, Hendriksen, &c. The names of Killmore or Stillmore, and J. S. McCutcheon are mentioned as those of supposed accomplices. Nothing has yet transpired in Halifax to show that Thomassen was ever here. A photograph of the fiend, together with a *fac simile* of his handwriting, may be seen at the office of Messrs. Seaton.—*H. Chronicle*.

MEETING AT FORT AUGUSTUS.

At a meeting held at Ten Mile House, on the 18th inst., the following resolutions passed:—Resolved, That in view of the recent decision of the Judges of the Supreme Court respecting the awards of the Commissioners, it is now more than ever desirable that the Legislature shall be summoned to meet without delay for the despatch of business, in order that all causes which have rendered the Land Purchase Bill inoperative may be made known to both branches thereof, and an opportunity be thus offered to their united wisdom to devise suitable remedies. And be it further resolved that a memorial be addressed to the Executive Government requesting them to advise His Honor to summon the Legislature accordingly.

On Thursday last, the deputation waited upon the Government. The chairman of deputation presented a memorial. In reply the Hon. Mr. Haviland, Provincial Secretary, said, as there was only a minority of the Council in town at present, the memorial would be submitted to a full meeting and they would be guided in the matter by what they believed to be the best interest of the country.

CHARLOTTETOWN DEBATING CLUB.—At the meeting on the 21st inst., the question "Had the colonists sufficient cause to revolt against the British Government in 1775?" was opened by the Secretary. After a short discussion it was decided in the affirmative. The question for debate on Friday, 28th inst., will be "Should the policy of the Dominion Government in respect to the Pacific Railway be endorsed by the people?" to be opened by Mr. D. C. Martyn.

THOMAS W. MAY, Secretary.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

To Reading Room and Examiner.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—The *Empress of Germany* has made elegant presents to the English ladies in recognition of their kindness to the passengers and crew of the wrecked steamer *Schiller*.

The Dublin police have discovered that Thomas, author of the Bremerhaven crime was charged, in 1866, with scuttling a ship on board of which he had goods insured in England for £1000. He was arrested, but subsequently effected his release.

The Archbishop of Cologne has taken refuge in Holland where he lately met the Bishop of Badenborn.

Five hundred and fifty packages will be shipped from Calais on the 15th, for the Continent.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—Two hundred operators have been thrown out of employment by the burning of Carpenter & Co's. mills, at North Hook.

OTTAWA, Jan. 23.—The Governor General entertains the Board of Trade delegates including those from the United States—at a dinner at tomorrow night. The Minister of Customs entertains them to-night.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—The reported death of Henry the English novelist, proves to be incorrect. Lord Napier has been appointed Governor of Gibraltar. The Papal Nuncio has been instructed to obtain a clear definition of Spain's intentions in its relations with the Papacy.

A German paper publishes an article declaring that the formation of the French Squadron on the Mediterranean, and collection of military stores at Nancy, should warn Germany of danger.

OTTAWA, Jan. 21.—Peter White, the conservative, was elected in North Kenton to-day.

F. Dore, clerk in the agricultural department, has been appointed to take charge of the Emigration office, London, temporarily, vice Mr. Jenkins, resigned.

The Dominion Board of Trade closed proceedings to-day.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—The *Lancet* says that on Friday the Pope, after a fatiguing reception, complained of being unwell. He had an Epileptoid seizure lasting forty minutes. Since then he has been confined to his bed, though his health requires the doctors it is vigilant care.

The grave reports circulated about France are groundless. The military dispersed the Gambetta meeting at six o'clock on Tuesday, causing great excitement. In the Assembly Committee yesterday, M. Buffet refused to answer questions or discuss any national affairs. There is a doubt whether the conservative victory in France, will prove as complete as reported. Gambetta has arrived in Paris.

The Prince of Wales arrived at Lahore yesterday.

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.—Gold 113 to 113 1/4.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

INDUCTION.—The Rev. Mr. Bain was inducted into the pastoral charge of Murray Harbour, on Tuesday last.

ENTERTAINMENTS.—Rochford Theatricals, on Tuesday evening; Masonic Entertainment, on Wednesday evening.

CIGARS, TOBACCO, MEERSCHAUM, BRIAR and Fancy Pipes, Pipe-fixings, Stems, Pooches, Cigarettes, Razor straps, cheap at the Union House, 28 Queen Street. 3in

LOST OVER-BOARD.—John Murchison, of P. E. Island, was lost over-board from the Pictou barque *Glencola*, on the 8th of December, on the voyage to Charleston, S. C.

BRIDGE ON WEST RIVER.—The people of West River are agitating for a bridge at or near McPhee's wharf. A deputation has been appointed to wait on the Leader of the Government to aid their claims.

CHARLOTTETOWN MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—THE ANNUAL MEETING of the shareholders of this company was held on the 11th inst. The Directors report only one loss during the past year. The following gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year.—W. E. Dawson, G. R. Beer, Wm. Brown, H. J. Calbeck, D. R. M. Hooper, J. Stumbles, and J. Scott.

A NEW GAME.—The railway officials in this city, have organized a Curling Club. This is an entirely new game to the inhabitants of the Island. We hope that they will not be backward in following the example of the railway officials, but will form clubs of their own, and by practising well this winter, be able to take part in the inter-Provincial matches in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. There was a grand match between the two Provinces last Thursday. We have not as yet learned who were the winners. Perhaps by next winter Prince Edward Island will be included, and come off with flying colours. We must have winter steam communication first, however.

SHIP-BUILDING AT SUMMERSIDE.—The *Journal* says:—"We are glad to learn that Angus McMillan, Esq., purposes building two vessels this winter. One of them will be a ship of 1000 tons, which is to be built under cover, and he is now erecting a shed 250 feet long by 50 wide, for the purpose—the other will be a small vessel of 200 tons. Hon. John Lefurgy, we understand, is to build a large vessel of over a 1000 tons and one or two smaller ones. He is now busy at work extending a break-water which will when completed, give him ample accommodations for carrying on the extensive business he is now engaged in. Mr. John Ramsay has also a vessel on the stocks. Times will, no doubt, brighten up, and a great many will procure employment who otherwise would find it difficult to get along were there no ship-building."

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF E. J. HODGSON, ESQ.—Last week Mr. Hodgson was so unwell as not to be able to attend Court. On Wednesday, contrary to the wishes of his medical adviser, he was compelled to attend the meeting of the Montreal Assurance Company, the case lasted over until the next day. Mr. Hodgson looked pale and ill, but after the conclusion of the case would not return home. In the next call on, he was for the defence. We learn that Mr. Hodgson's illness is a complete prostration to the nervous system brought on by over work, and that probably several weeks will elapse before he will be able to leave his room.

We clip the above from the *New Era* of Saturday. We regret to learn that Mr. Hodgson is still so weak that he is only able to see his immediate relatives.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE ROCHFORD THEATRICALS. NEW PLAYS. TUESDAY, January 25th. The Rochford Theatricals! TWO PUDDINGFOOTS! AND BOX AND COX! Tuesday, January 25th. January 2, 1876.

St. Patrick's ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY. LECTURE. THE VERY REV. DR. McDONALD will Lecture before the above Society, in ST. PATRICK'S HALL, ON Thursday Ev'ng. January 27. SUBJECT: "A TOUR THROUGH IRELAND." Admission 10 cents. Doors open at 7 o'clock. Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock. JOHN HUGHES, Lecturer. MAURICE BLAKE, Lecturer. Committee. Jan. 24, 1876.—111

MASONIC. REMEMBER the annual Tea and Entertainment, under the auspices of St. John's Lodge, on Thursday, February 17th. The Committee would recommend all parties wishing an evening's enjoyment, to bear this in mind. Further particulars next week. SIMON W. CRABBE, Sec. of Committee. Jan. 24, 1876.

CH'TOWN DEBATING CLUB LECTURES. A COURSE OF LECTURES, in connection with this Society, will be delivered during the Winter. REV. G. W. HODGSON will deliver the second lecture of the course, on THE LOYALISTS, in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, at an early day. Tickets 10 cents. By order THOMAS W. MAY, Sec'y. Jan. 24, 1876.—2w

OPENING OF NAVIGATION CLASS! AT COMMERCIAL COLLEGE. WE would respectfully notify all persons interested, that we are now ready to teach NAVIGATION, and will prepare MASTERS and MATES for passing the Marine Board of Examination, at moderate rates. As there is to be a Local Board appointed for the Port of Charlottetown, at an early date, those desiring to qualify need not now leave the Island to do so. The Winter Course of Lectures on Commercial Law will be commenced in a few days; open to Students only.

EATON, STRAZER & REAGH. CH'TOWN, Jan. 24, 1876.—111.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE. This is a beautiful Quarterly Journal, finely illustrated, and containing an elegant colored Frontispiece with the first number. Price only 25 cents for the year. The first No. for 1876 just issued. VICK'S FLOWERS AND VEGETABLE GARDEN 35 cents; with cloth covers, 65 cents. JAMES VICK, Rochester, N. Y. Jan. 24, 1876.

Prince Edward Island Railway. CHANCE OF TIME! ON and after MONDAY, January 17, trains will run as follows:—

TRAINS GOING WEST.			
STATIONS.	Express.	Mixed.	
Georgetown	Dep. 8.45 a.m.		
Cardigan	9.10		
Mount Stewart	10.25		
Rochford Junction	11.35		
Charlottetown	Arr. 11.57		
Charlottetown	Dep. 8.15 a.m.	Dep. 2.30 p.m.	
Rochford Junction	8.41	2.54	
North Wiltshire	9.40	3.47	
Buxter River	9.56		