

Public Schools.

A PUBLIC EXAMINATION of the pupils of these schools is going on as we write. It pleases us to report that there are many visitors; for the fact shows that the public mind is at last awake to the great importance of public schools.

Winter Communication.

We regret that we cannot, on behalf of the travelling public, compliment the Railway authorities on their "Winter Arrangement." After all the money spent on the Railway and its expensive staff, our people should be able to travel faster than at the rate of ten and a half miles an hour.

The distance, by rail, from Tignish to Charlottetown is 117 miles; and the time to be occupied on the way is ten hours and five minutes! The distance between Georgetown and Charlottetown is 35 miles, and the "Railway time" is to be three hours and thirty-five minutes!!

But slow trains are not our only cause of complaint. We complain because we cannot travel from one extremity of the Railway to another, in one day. Travelling at the moderate rate of twenty miles an hour, this could be accomplished, without giving too much trouble to train hands.

Then there is another "arrangement" which is still more outrageous. The "Napoleon of Railways" has taken it into his head to delay mails and passengers from this Island for New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Keewatin, Governor Laird's large domain (worse than all), British Columbia, the whole of the United States—in short, for the whole American Continent—in the town of Truro twenty-four hours!

In respect to winter communication, we have all along been humbugged and cheated by the Dominion Government and its officials. It is time the people, by a strong expression of opinion, showed these gentlemen that such tactics must not be continued.

Indignation Meeting.

At the Sturgeon meeting on November 30th the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the school teachers' salaries be increased and paid in full by the government; and that it is the opinion of this meeting that there should be an alteration made in the road service; and that the steamer now plying on the Georgetown ferry be removed, as she does not give the public the accommodation which one sailboat did.

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The Superannuation of Public Officers.

[From the Toronto Mail.]

Superannuations or "State pensions" were denounced by the old Liberals, and the Rouge party some years ago inserted an anti-superannuation plank in their platform. But the views of the so-called Liberals on this as on all other questions relating to the government of the country have radically changed since the party took office.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1871: \$12,880; 1872: 38,842; 1873: 54,025; 1874: 64,442; 1875: 77,298; 1876: 101,627

For the year ending the 30th June, 1877, we have of course no official figures as yet, but we venture to place the amount at \$130,000, an increase of \$80,000 under the gentlemen who in opposition denounced State pensions.

The system was established for the benefit of deserving public servants; but the men now in power are using it almost wholly for party purposes. What more indefensible act can be imagined than the superannuation of Mr. LeSueur, the head of the money order branch of the Post Office Department, an excellent officer, and to-day as strong mentally and physically as ever he was? It had a purpose, however, which it would be too barefaced to reveal at the moment.

The conduct of the Government in this respect is unjust to those superannuated, because if an officer has been drawing \$1,000 as salary, his pension seldom exceeds \$600, and unfair to the country which has to pay \$1,600 where \$1,000 would suffice.

Mr. Bright and the Bishops.

The Bishop of Peterborough at a church meeting at Loughborough made a very amusing reply to Mr. Bright's recent Rochdale criticism of the Church of England. Mr. Bright, said the Bishop, was something like Lord Chancellor Eldon, who seldom came inside a church, but boasted that he supported it as a buttress from outside.

The Rebellion in Cuba.

The rebellion in Cuba is not yet ended, and if the reports now being received from the island are true, the insurgents, instead of laying down their arms, are fighting desperately and achieving victories. A letter from Havana announces the capture, on the 25th ult., of a valuable Spanish military train, composed of 106 ox carts, in charge of 800 men.

CHARLES CHIPMAN, a noted American forger, of Georgia, was arrested in Fredericton on the 18th. He is known to have forged \$100,000 on his father's banking house.

Latest by Telegraph.

WAR NEWS.

[By Telegraph to Reading Room and Daily Examiner.]

LONDON, Dec. 21.

General Todleben has been appointed Commander of the Russian army before Rastchak.

It is rumored that the Earl of Derby is about to retire.

The Parliament is to be summoned in order to increase the armament to a war footing, vote the purchase of the Turkish fleet, the Khedive's shares in the Suez Canal, and the Porte's sovereignty over Egypt.

The Duke of Manchester succeeds the Earl of Dufferin as Governor General of the Dominion of Canada.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions or statements of Correspondents.

To the Editor of the Examiner:

SIR,—The Government organs have at last been roused into an attempt to defend their patrons. In articles feeble and labored, embellished with dreary columns of figures, they endeavor to prove that they were no worse than their predecessors. This discussion of comparative merits will not now satisfy the people; the fact that the present party first resorted to direct and heavy taxation is unquestionable, and we wish their apologists to show that, before resorting to a measure which should only be adopted as a last resource, they had made every effort at retrenchment; that they had reduced the number of officials; that they allowed no man to accept an office for which his antecedents totally unfitted him, and draw a large salary for doing next to nothing; that they took measures to prune the cumbersome and expensive machinery of legislation down to a point dictated by our actual wants; that they entered into no contracts for public buildings that could possibly be dispensed with; that they passed no act placing a burden on the Province which should be borne by the Dominion; that they gave no grant to a public work which it was the duty of the General Government to attend to.

I am told that Mr. W. D. Stewart has held me up at public meetings as a political agitator, stirring up the people. I need scarcely say this is like most of his statements—inaccurate. That man must be blind indeed who fails to perceive that the existing excitement is the spontaneous feeling of indignation in a people awakened to a sense of the fact that they are ruled by a selfish, reckless and incapable party. My experience of politics has not been such as to induce me to re-enter public life, and should I ever do so it will be in opposition to both my inclination and interests; nevertheless I shall, as one of the people, always hold it my privilege, and never fail to take the liberty, to express freely and without fear of the result (though I hope without asperity), my opinions of public men and their political actions.

December 21, 1877.

[FOR THE EXAMINER.]

An Item in favor of the Darwinian Theory.

MR. EDITOR.—Some years ago I had a sister killed by a snowball! This may appear incredible to some, but it is a positive fact. The missile struck her directly on the jugular at the throat. A transfusion of the blood through the whole body was the result; and in a few days she was a corpse. I have been reminded of this disaster by the monkey pranks of some juveniles of this town last evening. At 8 o'clock I was passing up Prince Street, and as I approached a low corner house opposite Mr. Hutchison's grocery store, I saw a lady coming to meet me. Just as she came in front of the said corner house, down came a volley of snowballs on her devoted head. I don't know how many of the snowy pellets hit her target, but the lady could not have escaped them all. I looked up, and, popping from the opposite side of the roof, I saw two juvenile skulls, the faces of which I recognized. Their play was to fire a volley of well hardened balls at the passers by, and then adroitly dodge behind the ridge of the roof. I knew my turn would be next, and fortified my back to meet the result. Sure enough, down came the nivous shower, but only one shot took effect, but it did not prove fatal. How many more than the two hopefuls I recognized were so amusing themselves, I don't know; but these two I have marked, and if I catch them at the same play again, I shall put them under police discipline, which I might have done ere now only for my respect for the feelings of their parents. Our police should have a good eye after these young genies; for they give a great deal of annoyance, and sometimes damage to persons unsuspectingly passing by.

A CITIZEN.

Ch'town, Dec. 21.

A Temperance Reform Club was organized at Princetown on the 12th. H. S. McNutt is the President.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

A CHRISTMAS SALE

will be held in the Lecture-Room of the Prince-st. Methodist Church.

Friday, the 21st December,

Sale to commence at 2 p. m.

HOT SUPPER FROM 8 TO 10 P.M.

Some very handsome Christmas Presents will be sold at low prices. Come and see them.

ADMISSION, . . . 10 CENTS.

Dec. 20, 1877.—Zin

1877 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR. 1878

FRESH RAISINS, CURRANTS, ALMONDS, PURE SPICES, NUTS, GENUINE ESSENCES.

HERBS, CANDIED PEELS, GELATINE, MARMALADE, JELLIES, DRY SWEET GINGER.

MACCARONI, VERMICELLI, PICKLES AND SAUCES, PURE PORT & SHERRY WINES.

HENNESSY'S BRANDY, &c., &c. W. R. WATSON.

Dec. 20, 1877.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

THE VERY LATEST, RECEIVED THIS DAY,

HARVIE'S BOOKSTORE.

Dec. 20, 1877.

A FANCY TABLE

OF ARTICLES SUITABLE FOR

Christmas Presents,

WILL BE SHOWN AT THE

LONDON HOUSE,

ON

SATURDAY NEXT,

AT EXCITING PRICES.

Dec. 20, 1877.

NOTICE!

NEVER in the history of the "LONDON HOUSE" have we been selling DRY GOODS so LOW as at present, and we would invite those in Town and country, who have not participated in the EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS we are giving, to call at once.

We only ask a personal inspection to show that we are, in good faith, SELLING OFF at the LOW PRICES advertised.

GEO. DAVIES & CO.

Dec. 13th, 1877.—cod2w

CHEESE—75 Boxes excellent quality. CARVELL BROS.

Dec. 5—pat 3i

WHITE BEANS—20 Barrels in stock. CARVELL BROS.

Dec. 5—pat 3i

HENKES' GIN—On Consignment 30 Casks, 30 Qtrs. and 100 Cases. CARVELL BROS.

Dec. 5—pat 3i

45 TONS IRON!

ALL SIZES, at

BEER & SONS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

"SANTA CLAUS."

1878!

Cheap, Stylish, and Unique!

Having purchased a choice lot of

FANCY GOODS!

at auction, at a tremendous discount on cost, I am now offering the same at prices that defy competition, the Goods being marked from 25 to 50 per cent, cheaper than any others in the City.

The Stock Embraces in Part:

Photo and Scrap Albums, (newest and latest styles), Purses, Portemonnaies and Pocket Books in endless variety, Field Glasses, Opera Glasses, Paintings, &c.

Every Article Suitable for a Xmas Gift.

FRED'K LEPAGE.

Glasgow House, Queen St., Dec. 21—5i pat 13

DIGBIES!

100 BBLs. FRESH DIGBIES, For sale CHEAP. F. S. HANFORD & CO. Ch'town, Dec. 21—2i

Codfish Sounds.

KITS OF CODFISH SOUNDS (choice), for sale by F. S. HANFORD & CO. Dec. 20, 1877.

Tea. Tea.

A FEW CHESTS of good CONGOU, very cheap. F. S. HANFORD & CO. Ch'town, Dec. 20, 1877—2i

SPECIAL INDUCEMENT.

IN ORDER to obviate the crash which must take place on

MONDAY NEXT

A LIBERAL DISCOUNT WILL BE ALLOWED TO ALL PURCHASERS AT

Hazard's Bookstore

THIS WEEK.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

AND NEW YEAR'S GIFTS!

IN GREAT ABUNDANCE, AT HARVIE'S BOOKSTORE.

Ch'town, Dec. 20, 1877.

TOYS!

(IN GREAT VARIETY.)

ALBUMS, All Prices.

CHRISTMAS CARDS!

&c., &c.

Cheapest and Best in Town.

AT

HAZARD'S BOOKSTORE,

West Side Queen Square.

Ch'town, Dec. 20, 1877.

Labrador Herring!

JUST RECEIVED,

230 BBLs. LABRADOR and Boone Bay HERRING. 24 Hf. Bbls. do.

B. WILSON HIGGS.

Ch'town, Dec. 19, 1877.

TEA. TEA.

80 Chests and half chests CONGOU TEA.

B. WILSON HIGGS.

Ch'town, Dec. 17, 1877—3i

FLOUR.

600 BBLs. FLOUR, in Fancy, Spring Extra and Superfine.

B. WILSON HIGGS.

Dec. 19, 1877—3i

International Hotel!

(FORMERLY RANKIN HOUSE) Corner of Pownall & Sydney Streets, CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

Private and permanent Boarders can be accommodated on very moderate terms, during the winter season, at the International.

D. MCISAAC, Proprietor.

Dec. 19, 1877—2m