

The Daily Examiner

FEBRUARY 27, 1885.

Editorial Notes.

The nature of the agreement made between the Dominion and Manitoba is this:—The Dominion agrees to pay Manitoba \$100,000 annually in lieu of public lands, to base the per capita debt on a population of 150,000, and to waive its claims for reimbursement of costs incurred in the government of the disputed territory lately awarded to Ontario.

Mr. Tupper's Bill respecting the duties of Justices of the Peace provides that in summary convictions and orders "the reasonable charges and expenses of conveying the offender to prison, where imprisonment is awarded, or ordered in default of payment of any fine, compensation or costs, shall be defrayed by the Government; and when the offence consists of cutting down or stealing valuable wood or timber on unimproved or timbered land, the complaint or information may be made or laid within twelve months from the time when the matter thereof arose."

The House of Commons having, by a vote of 87 to 55, affirmed the principle of Mr. Cameron's bill respecting the law of evidence, it is not improbable that persons charged before our courts with crimes or indictable offences will in future be permitted to make statements on their own behalf. At present, as everyone knows, a prisoner's lips are sealed, and a case against him must be made out by the evidence of other persons. But if the bill should become law, he will be allowed to tell his own story, and thus assist in his conviction if he is guilty, or his release if innocent.

The amount of Dominion notes in circulation at the close of January was \$16,664,160 an increase of \$265,000 during that month. This fact, says the Montreal Gazette, points to a more active trade movement, and if the joint stock banks have also enlarged their circulation, the beginning of an improvement in the general business of the country will be manifested. No other statistics more accurately gauge the condition of trade than those of the bank and government circulation. Compared with January, 1884, the Dominion note issue outstanding shows a contraction of \$271,000.

It is stated that Gordon, before his departure on the Sudan mission, told a personal friend that he entertained a presentiment that he would never return from Khartoum. Gordon said the presentiment was distinct and intense and he could not put it off. Throughout his entire life, he said, he had been strongly and correctly affected by presentiments, but never even in the more critical moments of his eventful military career had he expected death. His friend asserts that in pursuance of his belief in the presentiment which covered him with a shadow before he started for Khartoum, Gordon bestowed upon his chosen friends all his trinkets and mementoes.

Mr. Ross, the Treasurer of the Provincial Government of Ontario, (Grio) announces a deficit at the close of the past year of \$387,334. He made a three hours' speech, in which he contended that the Dominion owed Ontario and Quebec over five millions more than either Province had been claiming, and, consequently, he placed half this amount among Ontario's assets. He claimed the right of Ontario to an increased Dominion subsidy on the basis of increased population. He dealt with some new Indian claims lately preferred against the old Province of Canada by the Dominion, under the treaty of 1820. He denounced the system of special grants to the provinces by the Dominion instancing the grants to Quebec on account of the Quebec and Ottawa railway. If confederation was to continue this system must cease. He admitted a large over-expenditure, but pleaded hard times. He estimated for a deficit this coming year on current expenditure, and announced his intention of meeting it out of the surplus.

A BANKRUPTCY ACT.—The following letter, which is self-explanatory, has been received by the Secretary of the St. John Board of Trade from the chairman of the House of Commons committee on bankruptcy and insolvency:—

OTTAWA, Feb. 29, 1885. SIR: I beg to say that the committee on bankruptcy and insolvency this morning resolved, by a large majority, that it was expedient to provide protection against undue preference to be accompanied by facilities for the discharge of an honest debtor, who has made a full disclosure and delivery of his assets. It is understood that the bills which are being introduced in the House will all be referred to the committee; and I am authorized to say that the committee will be pleased to receive any representation which the St. John Board of Trade may desire to make, either by representative or in writing. I am, Very truly yours, J. J. C. ABBOTT, Chairman.

UNHAPPY FREDERICTON.—Says the St. John Globe: A Fredericton paper makes some complaint about the conduct of "some of the men connected with the military school." There was a great struggle between Moncton and Fredericton for the possession of this school. Fredericton triumphed, and has been unhappy ever since.

WHILE felling trees in the woods near O'Leary, last week, Mr. James Gay had his leg broken. The O'Leary woods seems to be a dangerous place to fell trees in—only a week or two ago young McKinnon was killed there.—Journal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

City Taxation.

SIR,—That our city taxation must be increased if our town is to be decently habitable, is evident; that it may be equitably adjusted is much to be desired. Some of "Taxpayer's" suggestions are good, but others are objectionable, from the want, I think, of considering some principle by which taxes should be levied. It is a principle laid down by the best economists that every man should contribute to the taxes in proportion to his ability, i. e. to his income. Income is always the proper subject of taxation. In estimating a man's income, the real estate owned by him is one of the best guides so far as it goes, and as there can be no deception or concealment about it, an assessment should be levied upon it. But evidently we should not stop here, otherwise a large, probably the larger number of persons will escape altogether, which is manifestly unjust. Direct taxes being the only ones that the city can levy, we are almost compelled to an income tax, though it is open to the serious objection that it gives both temptation to great frauds and facilities for their commission. Some such plan as "Taxpayer" suggests may be designed for the assessment of incomes, but, I think, his scheme might be somewhat amended. In the first place, which, taking his figures, would be about 1 per cent. This would not leave the anomaly of a man with \$1000 a year paying the same as the man with \$1500. It is also worth considering whether (at all events) in the case of incomes up to \$1500 the first \$500 should not be exempt. Further, income arising from real estate in the city already taxed, should not be included, otherwise it will be taxed twice over. Taxation of a merchant's "turnover," as a very unfair increase from capital, and then the capital itself, is very heavy and, and would cripple business terribly. Besides, it seems to me that such a tax would be an indirect one, interfering with trade, and so outside the scope of municipal taxation. Furniture is quite unproductive. A tax upon it might be levied, because from a man's furniture you may roughly approximate his income; but where you have otherwise satisfied yourself of his income, and taxed it, there can be no excuse for taxing his furniture. This tax, apart from its general unfairness, would fall most heavily upon the poorer classes, and would be a direct discouragement to them in improving and refining the surroundings of their homes. Then the Poll Tax should be made a reality, and collected. It is now an utter absurdity. It is not in human nature to pay a tax voluntarily, and now no one is compelled to pay it. An election brings in something from this source, mainly on account of those who have so little self-respect as to allow it to be paid for them. The whole system, or rather want of system, is thoroughly vicious and should be put upon a proper footing. The Poll Tax is primarily intended to reach those who pay no other taxes; but as the amount paid by each individual is small, those who are taxed in other ways probably would not object to pay the Poll Tax also, provided it were generally collected; but it would be outrageous to collect it from them only. Another reform is greatly needed. Unoccupied house property should not be taxed. I mean the house as distinct from the land on which it stands. If a person holds unimproved land for his own convenience, or awaiting an increase of value, it is all right that that should be taxed as at present. But if he puts upon it a house, the tax should not be increased until it is occupied, and whenever unoccupied for any length of time the tax should go back to the former rate. Otherwise you are taxing unproductive capital, not income. The ill effects of the contrary system are quite apparent in our town. While it is true there are some unoccupied houses, it is also true that it is very difficult for a person of moderate means to rent a moderately sized, convenient house. Capitalists are slow to build houses to rent, for though they may be willing to take the ordinary risks of such an investment, they will not face the further possibility of having to pay a tax on capital which is bringing in no return. It is bad enough to lose the interest on their money; it is quite too bad to pay a tax on it.

When the increase and readjustment of taxation come, it is to be hoped that these two principles will be borne in mind: (1) Income is always a proper subject of taxation; non-productive capital never; and (2) Do not tax twice the same income. It would also be desirable that our taxes were more specific than they now are, i. e. such a rate for general purposes, then so much for schools, so much for streets, perhaps also so much for police. These suggestions are offered in the hope that the questions may be thoroughly discussed in your columns.

W. Ch'town, Feb. 26, 1885. CIVIC TAXATION. SIR.—I have read, with some degree of interest, the letter of "Taxpayer" in your issue of the 24th, but I fail to agree with him in his production of figures. First, "Taxpayer" begins entirely too high in his "classes," both in regard to "income" and "furniture." As I view the matter, and by the way, I may say, that I am neither a proprietor, nor yet in any sense, a man of wealth, I am simply one of those who have to toil hard to make both ends meet. Still, if "Taxpayer" will permit a suggestion, he may feel somewhat disposed to amend or revise his scale. Although by no means attaining to his class in the line of furniture, I am still willing—for the sake of seeing some radical improvements effected by our City Fathers—that a pro rata should be placed on what there is, say \$400 worth, providing that "Taxpayer" will take another class of the community under his notice, who are just as able to bear a tax on income as I am, and some of whom no doubt are ambitious enough, or in time may be, to take a seat at the Civic Board. I refer now more particularly to a very large class of young men, say from eighteen to twenty-one years of age, who enjoy all the benefits without incurring any of the costs of our City Government, and here I fully

endorse the sentiments set forth by "Merchant." I would have an eye to those who take not only the time to use, but employ their means to procure shooting-sticks. This leads me also to notice very briefly another class of the same age, whom "Taxpayer" would exempt from the proposed change, these are they who can afford large sums of money to gratify a vitiated and depraved appetite by the indulgence of strong drink and tobacco. If these classes were taught a lesson in this respect, I am strongly inclined to believe that many of them, for their own honor and the city's welfare, while enjoying all the privileges, will not complain in being called upon to bear a small portion of the cost.

By the adoption of some such measure, "Taxpayer," to my mind, would come out much better in the end than he seems to do at present. As this may become a burning question in the near future, I entertain the opinion that all writers on the subject ought to come out over their own names, so that whenever a change might take place our citizens would be in a much better position to know the men on whom they could depend in such an event. This has been written entirely in the interests of this, my adopted city, and with the hope that such a system may become practicable. I remain, Very truly yours, JOHN SCOTT. Ch'town, Feb. 26, 1885. P. E. Island Railway.

Mr. Schreiber reports no improvement in the traffic of this Railway during the last fiscal year, the gross earnings having been, in fact, slightly below those of the year 1882-83. Until the country is much more thickly settled than at present, no material improvement can, he fears, be looked for. He says during the greater part of the year the business is very small, the regular trains running very light. It is only during the autumn months, while the movement of the crops continues, that any considerable amount of traffic offers, and for about six weeks at this season, the rolling stock, almost idle for the rest of the year, is taxed to its utmost capacity. The earnings were \$144,504.12, against \$146,170.42 in 1882-3, showing a decrease of \$1,666.30. The working expenses, though still heavy, were less than during the previous year, having been:—

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes Gross working expenses, Less indemnity in connection with accident in 1880, While in the previous year they were, Gross working expenses, Less indemnity in connection with accident in 1880, Decrease, The actual results of the year's operations were therefore:— Earnings, Expenses, Loss on the year's operations, This result is far from being so satisfactory as could be wished, but the field of operation is so very limited that there is no room for a more vigorous canvass for business. I therefore, as I explained before, have no hope of any material increase in the earnings; but I trust that a better exhibit may be made in future, as regards expenditure, and that the two sides of the account may be more equal. The permanent way and road-bed were never before in such a fine condition, and the same may be said of the rolling stock, with the exception of the original freight cars, which are falling to pieces from age, and are being rapidly got rid of. It is proposed to build forty-eight box cars and ten platform cars during the current fiscal year, and thirty-two box cars and twenty platform cars in 1885-6. This will bring the rolling stock to an adequate figure, and the cost of working the Mechanical Department should then be very light. The rolling stock consists of:— Engines, 1st class cars, 2nd do, Post and smoking cars, Box and cattle cars, Platform cars, Conductors' vans, Paymaster's cars, Snow Ploughs, Flangers.

Trotting at Corran Ban. GOOD SPORT. A very large number of people assembled yesterday at Corran Ban Bridge to witness the races. The inhabitants of the surrounding settlements had worked for several days clearing tracks for the trotters, but the depth and hardness of the snow-drifts on the Bay, rendered it impossible to complete a sufficient number to accommodate all the classes. Two good mile tracks were however constructed for the match races. The first was a match between Mr. Henderson's mare and Mr. Dougan's stallion, Abdallah Boy. Both horses were much admired, and proved not only close matchers, but steppers and stayers as well. The first heat was won by the mare; the second and third by Abdallah Boy, which gave him the race. The second was a match between Mollin's Island Chief colt and Mr. McGrath's Abdallah colt, Jack on the Green. It was easily won by the latter in two straight heats. Mr. McGrath's colt shows great speed and has every appearance of becoming a very fast horse. The Committee has decided to continue the races on another day, of which notice will be given, and an opportunity afforded the many horses which were yesterday debarred by the condition of the ice. The drive to Corran Ban is a pleasant one, the people are hospitable, and the horses good. Our sporting men should not fail to attend their next "merry meeting."

INDIA TEA, fifty cents per pound, at Beer & Goff's.

MARKED. At Mill River, on the 28th ult., by Rev. A. F. Carr, M. A., Allan Hunter, of Bloomfield, to Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr. Peter Gard, Mill River, Lot 5.

DIED. On the 21st Feb., 1885, at Truro, N. S., at the residence of his son-in-law, W. B. Alley, Mr. Kenneth McKeown, in the 83rd year of his age, a native of East River, Pictou County, and for many years a resident of Charlottetown, P. E. Island. [Other papers please copy.]

At St. John's Newfoundland, on the 12 inst., Mrs. William McLaren, aged 44 years, leaving a dreconsolate husband and three young children to mourn their loss.

At Annapolis Ridge, Nov. 15, Mr. Robert Ogilvie, aged 67 years leaving a wife, two sons and three daughters, to mourn the loss of a kind husband and loving father. He died in hope of a glorious resurrection. The deceased was a native of Scotland, Parish of Athol, Perthshire.

In Summerside, on the 20 inst., Mary E. beloved wife of Mr. David Schuman and eldest daughter of the late Wm. McEwen, Esq., aged 39 years.

CHALLENGE. I AM not satisfied with the race between James Duggan's Abdallah Boy and my filly Careless Jane, as I had to go to his own door on a heavy track. I will trot him for \$100 against \$75, and meet him half way, first good ice. (Signed) BARRETT HENDERSON, Bannockburn. Feb. 27, 1885—11 wkly li pd

NOTICE. A SPECIAL Meeting of the Shareholders of the Citizens' Skating Rink Co. will be held in the Rink Building, on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 8 o'clock, p. m., to take into consideration the advisability of making certain alterations to the Rink. By order, W. W. STANLEY, Secretary. Ch'town, Feb. 26, 1885.

CITY OF CHARLOTTETOWN. TENDERS. SEALED TENDERS will be received at the Mayor's office, until noon of Saturday, the 23rd day of February instant, from parties willing to contract for the removal of the building at end of Queen and Water streets to its former position on Queen's Wharf, according to a specification to be seen at this office. The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender. By order, A. H. MACPHERSON, City Clerk. Ch'town, Feb. 24, 1885—31 tu th fri

FOR SALE. ABOUT Two Acres, a little more or less in the village of Stratford, opposite Charlottetown, well adapted for an hotel, with good bathing and excellent water can be procured on the premises. Terms:—25 per cent. down, remainder on lease for 10 or 12 years, at five per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly. For further particulars apply to the owner, J. P. PICTON. Ch'town, Feb. 24, 1885—6i

NOTICE. A PUBLIC Meeting will be held at Cape Traverse, on Monday, the 2nd March, at 2 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of considering the necessity of building a breakwater and dredging the channel; also, other matters. The Commissioner of Public Works is invited to attend; also our local representatives. By order of the committee, ALEX. STRANG, Secretary. Ch'town, Feb. 21, 1885.

On Consignment. Iron, Tin Plates, Pig Lead and Ingots Tin. 20 Tons Round Iron, sizes 1/2, 3/4, and 1 inch. 150 Boxes of Tin Plates, suitable for lobster packers. 2 Pigs Lead. 2 Ingots of Tin. PEAKE BROS. & CO. Ch'town, Feb. 14, 1885.

DR. S. R. JENKINS, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. OFFICE: AT DR. JENKINS, RESIDENCE, PRINCE ST. Ch'town, Jan. 26—wed fri

WANTS, LOST, FOUND, &c. WANTED.—An experienced Salesman (liberal salary) at Dorsey Goff & Co. feb 25

LOST.—On Saturday last, a hunting case I Watch. The finder will please leave it at the EXAMINER office. feb 23

FOR SALE.—A Wanassee "C" Sewing Machine, nearly new, in first rate order; cost \$45, will be sold at a bargain. Enquire at this office. feb 19 10i

FOR SALE.—One very fine Berkshire Boar Pig, 12 months old. feb 11 tf

LOST.—On Friday, the 20th inst., a Plar. The finder will be rewarded by leaving it at the EXAMINER office. feb 21 tf

TO CASH BUYERS!

SPECIAL LINES IN

DRY GOODS

WILL BE OFFERED AT THE

LONDON HOUSE

Until the opening of navigation, to make room for

Spring Importations

Scotch, Brussels and Tapestry Carpets at very Low Prices.

Table with 4 columns: SCOTCH CARPETS, WORTH, 95 Cents for 70 Cents, 100 " " 78 " " 118 " " 92 "

TAPESTRY CARPETS FROM 40 CENTS UPWARDS BRUSSELS " " 85 " " "

Loom Table Linens at 16c., 18c., 20c., and upwards.

Special Lines in Cotton Towels at 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 8c, and upwards.

Special Lines in Linen Towels at 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c, and upwards.

BLEACHED AND UNBLEACHED SHEETINGS,

PILLOW COTTONS, BEDTICKS, SHIRTINGS, ETC.

REMNANTS IN DRESS GOODS!

A LOT OF WINCEYS SELLING VERY CHEAP.

Black Cashmeres (42-inches) 28 Cents and Upwards.

REMNANTS IN TWEEDS, DOESKINS AND OTHER CLOTHS.

REMNANTS IN FLANNELS, &c.

The balance of the 3,000 pieces White and Grey Cottons advertized in December last, at the same prices then offered notwithstanding the market has advanced from 15 per cent. to 17 1/2 per cent.

Table with 2 columns: In Lots No. 1, 24 inches, at 3 Cents, " " 2, 30 " " 5 " " 3, 34 " " 6 " " 4, 35 " " 7 " " 5, 36 " " 8 " " 6, 36 " " 9 " " 7, 36 " " 10 " " 8, 36 " " 12 " to 25 Cents.

BALANCE OF MEN'S AND BOYS' OVERCOATS AND ULSTERS AT COST.

A LOT OF MEN'S UNDERCLOTHING AT A BARGAIN FROM 32 CENTS TO 65 CENTS.

WHITE AND COLORED COTTON WARPS, (BEST MAKES.)

Choice TEAS in half-chests and packages of 5, 10, 15, and 20 pounds—Wholesale and Retail. Ch'town, Feb. 20—taw wkly 2mos