

**THE DAILY EXAMINER.**

MARCH 20, 1884.

The Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Piers.

The *Patriot* of yesterday has an article occupying a column and one-half, devoted to a defence of Mr. L. H. Davies' action in regard to the piers and wharves of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The organ attempts to draw a straw across the EXAMINER'S track, by alleging that the Leader of the Government, in his speech in the Assembly, had suppressed the fact that in asking the question regarding those piers, Mr. Davies was merely acting for Mr. King, of New Brunswick. Mr. Sullivan did not suppress that fact. On the contrary he stated it most distinctly, and added that if the question was asked in the interest of New Brunswick, Mr. Charles Weldon (an abler man than Mr. Davies) would have looked after it in Mr. King's absence, or if the question affected the interests of Nova Scotia, Mr. Vail or some other member in the Opposition from that Province, would have been asked to attend to it. Mr. Sullivan's argument was that the question was not brought up at that time in the interest of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, but for the purpose of weakening the Island claims. If the representatives of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were aware that these Provinces had similar claims to the one being pressed by Prince Edward Island, their course would be to wait until the Island claim was settled, and then make their demands. Mr. Davies and his defenders may multiply all the words they please in discussing this matter. The fact remains that at a critical time, in the consideration of the subject, after the Chief Engineer had reported, and while the Ministry were deciding upon that report, an attempt was made, in which Mr. Davies assisted, to alarm the Ministers against granting our demands, by threatening similar demands from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

The *Patriot* argues that if the contention of the present Government is correct, viz: that under the articles of Confederation all our piers became the property of the Dominion, then our claim could not be prejudiced by the question asked by Mr. Davies. This contention will not exonerate Mr. Davies. While our Government justly hold that all public piers passed to the Dominion at Confederation, the refunding of the Provincial expenditure upon them could not be legally enforced. That was a matter for equitable adjustment between the Dominion and this Province. While the equitable adjustment was being effected, Mr. Davies attempted to frighten the Ministers against doing what was right to our Province by threatening big demands from the other Provinces.

**Mr. Rogers' Letter.**

THE ill-tempered and ungrammatical letter which we publish to-day from Mr. Benjamin Rogers is characteristic of the man. In his opinion it is grossly "impertinent" in THE EXAMINER to call in question any of the public actions of so great and good a man as he is. His bold and bald denial of facts known to the whole community, should, he thinks, be accepted without inquiry, and he should be constituted final expounder of "general impressions" in all matters which relate to himself. In the face of Rogers' "comprehensive explanation," we repeat that he was not recognized by his own colleagues in the Council as their leader during last session, and consequently his assumption of that position was an usurpation. Notwithstanding his denial to-day, we are prepared to prove that he admitted in the presence of Government supporters in the Council, at the close of last Session, that he was not recognized as leader by his own colleagues. Further comment on this point is needless. His denial lacks the "essential element," and he knows it.

The *Pioneer*, published in Summerside, takes part with Mr. Benjamin Rogers in regard to the Chaisson dismissal, the usurped Leadership in the Council and other matters. There can be little doubt that the *Pioneer's* article was either written or inspired by Rogers himself. Is there any other man who would write or cause to be written anything like the following:—

"Mr. Rogers is chargeable with possessing greater ability and independence than perhaps any other man in the House, and is therefore singled out for silly attacks by the Government organ."

Let his Grit colleagues in the Council read the above over carefully. Let them mark, learn and inwardly digest it. If after doing so, they still decline to recognize the man of "greater ability and independence" than themselves as their Leader, it will at once be apparent that they are a thick-headed set of men. We predict that the submission will be prompt and complete.

The brewers had another interview with Sir John Macdonald a few days ago. They demand that light wines, ale and porter shall be allowed to be disposed of in counties where the Scott Act is in force. It is argued that this will not only increase sobriety by doing away to a large extent with the use of ardent spirits, but will encourage the manufacture of home products instead of importing our liquors to such an extent as at present. The annoyance caused to the trade by the Dominion and Provincial Governments attempting to control the trade was also discussed. The brewers state that the interview was highly satisfactory.

**The Great Battle of Suakin.**

DESPERATE EFFORTS TO BREAK THE BRITISH LINES—A BRAVE FIGHT VILLAGERS MET—GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGHT—THE BREAK IN THE SQUARE ACCOUNTED FOR

A desperate battle was fought on the 10th inst., by General Graham's forces and the Arab hordes of Osman Digma. The British had abundant forewarnings of the imminent fray. On the 9th they were not permitted to rest in their camp, eleven miles distant from Suakin. It was a bright moonlight night and Osman Digma's skirmishers prowled around the picket lines and kept up a rattling fire that made everyone uneasy in apprehension of a night attack in force, a manoeuvre perfectly feasible owing to the brightness of the night. At one o'clock on the 10th a more persistent attack of these prowlers startled the camp. The long roll was beaten and the forces were marshalled and prepared for a desperate encounter. The enemy lost their opportunity to make a movement in force with any hope of success, and after a few fierce rallies retired to cover. The desultory fire of their skirmishers was kept up, however, until daybreak. The British did not reply, as

THE SHOOTING WAS WILD and they were suffering little or no loss, only one officer and two men being wounded and one man killed during the entire night. When day broke Gen. Graham got a couple of guns unlimbered and flung two or three shells among the squad of Arabs in his front and hovering about his outposts on all sides. The enemy dispersed to cover in haste under this fire, the range of the artillery being very accurate and the shots visibly effective. At five o'clock the enemy's skirmishers being silenced the British forces, which comprised a strong detachment of sailors, took a hasty breakfast in the field, and breaking camp with all the marshal formalities of a parade, took up the advance towards the Arabs' position. The men formed in a square with General Graham and staff, the camels and stores in the centre. They marched on in quiet and without opposition for nearly half a mile, when suddenly a hot fire was opened on them from the rebels who were posted in force in trenches and rifle pits in their front. The force that thus opened the fight was very strong. They clustered thick under cover and impeded each other to get in their shots at the advancing host. The men began to fall under this hot fusillade, but the General urged his men on without ordering a return fire and they obeyed and

COOLLY CONTINUED THEIR ADVANCE with all the steadiness of a field day parade. Finally the British force found itself under a still hotter and increasing fire. The force in front was estimated at about three thousand Arabs, but there was still greater numbers showing themselves at all sides of the square. Then General Graham commanded his men to begin firing, which he did with a will. This was at nine o'clock, a.m. The troops poured volley after volley into the enemy's position, and maintained a rattling fire at will that was murderously effective. Osman Digma's forces now developed in great strength on all sides and came out boldly, charging in mobs upon the unwavering lines of the troops. They were swept away as by whirlwind, so deadly was the fire of the cool well disciplined soldiers. The halt was for but a few minutes and the bloody episode over, the bugles again sounded the advance. The enemy was not subdued, however, nor his spirit quelled. As the forces of Gen. Graham again advanced, closing up the gaps in their ranks there was frequent attacks and rushes of small detached bands on all sides. Men would spring up singly and in squads of half a dozen from their covert, often only two hundred yards distant, and rush on the troops, brandishing their spears and huge shields. Thus armed they would rush upon the British.

CHARGING WITH RECKLESS BRAVERY. They were laid low by dozens in these ferocious, struggling charges, the troops maintaining their furious fusillade without a pause as long as one of the enemy was visible. Thus fighting their way at every step the troops reached the Arabs' earthworks, breast high entrenchments, where the enemy was posted in force. Here the fire became fiercer than ever and General Graham commanded a charge. His forces stormed the works with a rush. The gallant rebels stood their ground manfully. Manifesting no fear and without a thought of seeking safety in flight, they resisted the advance of the foe until they were beaten down singly and in squads in a terrible slaughter. They bravely opposed their shields and spears to bayonets and bullets until the trenches they had occupied were fairly filled with their corpses. After three hours of this desperate fighting the English remained masters of the position, their brave opponents being dead on the field to the number of over 2,000, but the gallantry of Osman Digma's untrained forces did not go altogether for nothing. The victory was not easy after all, and the fortunes of the day were several times in doubt. The fierce charges of the rebels at various times during the fight, and at unexpected points were not without their success. One of these charges was made suddenly on the front of the second brigade of the British troops.

THE ARABS CAME ON WITH FRENZIED CRIES OF PASSION, shouting and yelling, and utterly reckless of their lives, dashed themselves against the bayonets of their foes. By their impetuous rush they shook the firm line. It wavered and fell back, but stubbornly rallied to the appeals of the brave line officers. But before the tide of the charge could be stemmed, the enemy had swept round and captured all the Gatling and Gardner guns belonging to the brigade. General Graham ordered a charge for their recovery, and the troops dashed headlong at the superior force of the enemy, engaging in a furious hand to hand fight, in which bayonets, revolvers and spears and clubbed rifles were the weapons employed. After a most furious encounter the British regained their captured guns. Following up the advantage gained in this effort, General Graham ordered his men to press the rebels who would not run, but retired slowly, contesting the ground inch by inch, with their faces defiantly set towards their trained and powerful antagonists. They were driven through and beyond their camp, and then General Graham called a halt. This camp of Osman Digma was full of loot, of varied descrip-

tion, including a part of the military stores and plunder captured from Hicks Pasha. The British counted up their losses here at a total of 100 killed and 150 wounded. The rebel loss was commuted at 2,400 killed. The enemy still remain defiant, and there is no rest for the outposts of the British, who are kept constantly on the alert by the attacks of straggling bands.

THE BRUNT OF TO-DAY'S BATTLE fell on the detachment of sailors and the Black Watch regiment and the Lancaster regiment, whose losses are the heaviest in killed and wounded. The rebels in the mountains are quiet, but it is expected that they will attack the camp on the 12th. As soon as the successes of the British troops had been assured, General Graham ordered Colonel Burleigh, of his command, who is also correspondent of the *Central News*, to ride back to Suakin with official despatches announcing the victory over Osman Digma. When the battle was over Gen. Graham occupied the afternoon in re-organizing his forces and in making an inquiry into the causes of the temporary successes of the rebels in the charge, which resulted in the capture of the artillery and the bloody fight for its recovery. It was ascertained that it was the Sixty-fifth foot that bore the shock of the first charge, and, wavering, fell back upon the marines, throwing them into confusion. In spite of the efforts of their officers the marines were carried away from their guns in a rush, and had retreated several hundred yards in a confusion that was alarmingly like a panic before their gallant officers could rally them. At this time the force had been divided into two squares, that of the first and second brigades. The second brigade square was entirely broken by this stampede and the outlook was decidedly dismal. The first brigade square, however, held firm and made itself a rallying point. This

SAVED THE FORTUNES OF THE DAY. While the second square was reforming the first covered it and did some hot fighting. It took the force two hours of desperate battling to recover the guns and beat off the Arabs, who, flushed with their success, made repeated charges, hoping to break the second brigade and throw it into confusion, as they had done with the first. The men fought for their lives, and carried all before them after the most desperate opposition. When the shattered second brigade had reforming in square it was forced to fight every inch of the way in advance to the support of the first against the hordes of frenzied enemies. It transpired in the course of an inquiry that the demoralization of the sixty-fifth regiment was checked by a few scores of marines and Highlanders, who retired back to back fighting steadily. The confidence which these men inspired materially assisted in restoring order.

**Provincial Rifle Association.**

The annual general meeting of the Provincial Rifle Association of Prince Edward Island was held in the Stipendiary Magistrate's Courtroom last evening, the President, Major Peske, in the chair. A short annual report, embracing an account of the finances of the Association, was submitted by the Secretary, which was received and accepted, and the report adopted. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—

President—Major James Peske, re-elected. Vice-Presidents—Col. Beer, for Prince County; Major Irving, Queen's County; Capt. McRae, King's County, re-elected. Members of Council—Major F. Dogherty, Capt. Passmore, Capt. Stewart, Lieut. McDougall, re-elected, and Major Mabon, for Queen's County; Capt. Owen, and Lieut. Frazer were re-elected for King's County; Capt. Ives, re-elected, and Capt. Maxfield, for Prince County.

The Secretary read the minutes of council for the past year, which were adopted. The report winds up with the encouraging fact that the team from this Province took second prize in the match fired for by teams of all the Provinces at the Dominion Rifle Association meeting at Ottawa last September.

A vote of thanks to the Secretary, and also to Captain Passmore, as Range Officer, for their services during the past year, was passed unanimously. At a meeting of Council held immediately after the annual meeting, the President of the Association was re-elected Chairman of Council, and Major G. L. Dogherty re-elected Secretary and Treasurer.

**The Russian Advance.**

The attitude of England as regards Merv is generally condemned in diplomatic circles in Berlin, and surprise is manifested at Mr. Gladstone abandoning the ground won with difficulty by Lord Beaconsfield. At the Russian legation much enthusiasm is manifested over the appointment of Captain Abkanoff as Governor of Merv. In an interview with an attaché of that legation in regard to the annexation of Merv, that gentleman said: "The event certainly improves our strategic position in Central Asia, and it is also of the highest importance from a political point of view, for should another difficulty with England occur like the one in 1878, we shall be able to show our teeth. Had we been as near Herat in 1878 as we are now, Lord Beaconsfield would have been obliged to moderate his policy, and we should have been spared the defeat of Berlin. The eastern question will be decided in Central Asia. Herat is the key of the Bosphorus as well as of India. Nor is this the only advantage to us of the annexation of Merv. Our rule in the Caucasus has only been made secure by the submission of the mountain tribes, and the submission of the Turkomans will restore peace and order in our territories beyond the Caspian Sea."

**Our Advertisers.**

Norton Bros. are the agents for the Island for J. & S. Taylor's Safe Works, Toronto. All orders with which they may be favored will be carefully attended to. Lord's Wharf, together with all buildings thereon, will be let for a term of years. Particulars can be obtained from David Sterling, Architect. N. J. Campbell, auctioneer, announces a trade sale of groceries, boots and shoes, and dry goods, at his salesroom, on Wednesday, the 2nd of April next, which affords a good chance for country merchants to buy goods at their own prices.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**

Letter from Mr. B. Rogers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MARCH 19, 1884.

SIR,—I observe by to-days issue that you are very anxious that I should notice your impertinent interference in the matter of the Leadership of the Opposition in this House. In order to ease your troubled mind, I beg to say that the most comprehensive explanation of the matter I can give is, that every utterance of THE EXAMINER on the subject is utterly devoid of truth. And I may add that the general impression is, you knew them to be false, and that you published them in order to give vent to the "wrath" of a certain individual, "cursed and kept warm" since some time in April last. I think this covers the whole ground.

Yours, etc., B. ROGERS.

Mr. Chaisson's Dismissal.

LETTER FROM JAS. NICHOLSON, ESQ., M. L. C.

SIR.—In a letter addressed to the *Patriot*, Mr. Rogers says:—"The statement that I approached the Grit supporters with the suggestion that an exchange of places should be made between McBeth and Chaisson, is untrue. Knowing that the Government Party, as well as the Opposition, were anxious to get rid of Chaisson as messenger, I suggested to two supporters of the Government, that McBeth be appointed messenger, but said nothing about appointing Chaisson as door-keeper; these gentlemen concurring." etc.

I suppose I am one of the two supporters of the Government referred to, and I feel compelled to say that this is not a true account of what occurred. I understood Mr. Rogers' proposal to be that an exchange of places should be effected between McBeth and Chaisson, and not that Chaisson should be dismissed from the service of the Council. If the proposition was absolutely to dismiss Chaisson, why should Mr. Rogers have made any communication at all to the supporters of the Government? Mr. Rogers says that he knew the Government party were anxious to get rid of Chaisson; and, therefore, he made the suggestion to us. I am sorry in having to give this statement an emphatic denial. As far as I am concerned I was not dissatisfied with Chaisson. I believe all the supporters of the Government were satisfied with him, although some were of opinion that an exchange of places between McBeth and him would be an improvement.

It is quite true that, when Mr. Rogers proposed McBeth for messenger, Mr. Burns asked if it was intended that Chaisson be appointed doorkeeper, and that Mr. Rogers gave an evasive answer, and Mr. Dodd remarked that another person would, probably, be named for doorkeeper. This was the first intimation the Government party had that the intention of the Opposition was to absolutely dismiss Chaisson. While the Leader of the Government was consulting with his colleagues, the President put the motion. I have no hesitation in saying that, up to Mr. Dodd's intimation, the Government supporters were misled as to the intentions of the Opposition, and that not one of them approved of Mr. Chaisson's dismissal. The fact that all the Government supporters in the Council voted for appointing Mr. Chaisson doorkeeper is a sufficient answer to Mr. Rogers' statement that we wished to get rid of him.

I am, yours, etc., JAS. NICHOLSON.

March 18, 1884.

**That Speech.**

SIR,—That speech of Mr. Louis H. Davies', on the Government loan to the syndicate, about which such a flourish of trumpets was made a few weeks ago by our local Grit press, is now being distributed for the edification of the Grit faithful. Stale reading it is, to be sure, but then it is our duty, we suppose, to read it with as much patience and forbearance as we are sometimes called upon to exercise while reading a column or so about the virtues of St. Jacob's Oil, or that other equally celebrated panacea, Warner's Safe Cure. We can, perhaps, overlook the great length of the speech in question, seeing that the weather is cool, and reading matter not as abundant as we could wish it; but the big words, or more properly speaking, the jaw breakers, which it contains are decidedly alarming—at least to those who have not a copy of Worcester's unabridged to aid them. Authors on composition and rhetoric tell us that simplicity of expression is as essential to sublimity, as conciseness, and that high-flown expressions are to be as carefully avoided as low, mean, trivial ones. Mr. Davies, it may be urged, belongs to a new and advanced school of oratory, in which big words or accumulated epithets are supposed to constitute real sublimity of style. Possibly there may be something in this. We are inclined, however, to believe that Mr. Davies' great capacity for words will never place him higher than a certain class of parish politicians, whose stock in trade consists in volubility, strong adjectives and jawbreakers generally. We have taken the trouble to select a few of his latest deliverances—as they appear in what Mr. Laird is pleased to call his "great speech"—on the syndicate loan. They are as follows:—"H" (referring to Mr. Woodworth) "should have so altered the phraseology, and clothed it in such coarse and vulgar language that, I think, I would scarcely be able to recognize it." "our political history travestied," "rest in oblivion for the present," "the glossary the hon. gentleman has put upon his language is intended to minimize that language." "had we the promulgation and formation of the land laws," "diatribes delivered," "chorus of reciprocal malignity," "the role of exaggerated nonsense," "degrade the praises of his native country into a farce," "besmeared it with praises that do not belong to it," "in lamentations compared with which the lamentations of Jeremiah were feeble." These expressions, it will be observed, are on a par with "the quagmire of millions" of which Mr. Davies talked so glibly when on the stump not long since—an expression, by the way, taken from one of Miss Edwards' love stories. The above few extracts will give your readers some idea of the "great speech" lately published in Mr. Laird's two papers, the *Patriot* and *Evening News*. "Give us a rest," brother Laird.

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Ch'town, March 6, 1884.—dy wklly

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**CORNER QUEEN AND SYDNEY STREETS,**

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Ch'town, Feb. 22, 1884.

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Ch'town, March 8—1m cod

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George Carter, See Isman, Ch'town, March 10.

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Enquire at Merchants Bank of P. E. Island.

W. McLEAN, Cashier. Ch'town, March 14, 1884.

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Feb. 18, 1884—dy 4i wky 2i pd

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