

NEWS ITEMS.

One hundred recruits for the Manitoba Mounted Police will leave Ottawa for the scene of their labors in the West. The men are all said to be of fine physique and young.

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."
Frederickton Inundated in 1831.
Sir,—In looking over some old letters of my father's recently, I met with several written to him from Frederickton in 1831, by Mr. Cottrill of the Rifle Brigade. A portion of these, dated April 13th, will be interesting to many of your readers:—

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICKTON, N. B., APRIL 20, 1879.

A Sort of Political Parallel.

Political parties act very much in the same manner everywhere. The outs when the condition of the country is bad, charge the government with bringing it about, either by doing nothing, or intermeddling policy, as the case may be, and in the next breath, when a large force of Zulus surprised Colonel Woods camp, and a fierce hand to hand combat ensued, but the attackers were repulsed with great slaughter. The loss of the British is variously estimated at 400 killed and wounded; that of the Zulus at 2,500.

In England it is the liberal party, now looking forward with hope to a general election, which accuses the government of having produced the continuous state of depression of trade and agriculture by their imperial policy, by their policy of interference in the affairs of other nations, by their increased expenditures and taxation. The government totally deny the imputation. The question of the depressed state of trade and agriculture in England, which is likely to have the most bearing on the fortunes of political parties, was raised, lately in the House of Lords by Mr. Sturges Bourne, who inquired if it was the intention of the government to institute an inquiry into its cause by a select committee or Royal commission.

It is reported that the Duke of Connaught will have a taste of soldiering at Aldershot, the command of his battalion, before he quits the Rifle Brigade. The Duke of Connaught's officers there shall be instructed to make no difference in his Royal Highness's favor, but to treat upon his equal every garrison duty which is assigned to him. The Duke of Connaught, after vacating his command of the Rifle Brigade, will go for a short time to the cavalry, and thence on to the Staff as Assistant Adjutant-General in the district. Ultimately, he will, it is believed, be given a short spell of service at the Home Guards, and afterwards get a brigade.

From those recently made in India with the Martini-Henry rifle, the arm used by the infantry of the English army, it is shown that the range of the rifle is much greater than has commonly been supposed. The range of the rifle is shown to be 2,100 yards, and this was perfectly effective at 2,100 yards, and hence all that was required to secure this vast increase in the offensive and defensive power of the infantry was the purely mechanical change in the apparatus for sighting at long distances.

Many of the existing customs of the Russian peasants are relics of the old times of paganism. Thus, in the province of Saratov a season of drought the peasants still resort to the ancient fashion of attempting to draw down the rain. In each of the villages every resident, old and young, tries to throw a pailful of water, or anything else, upon some ungodly tree or building. Men, women, and children, drenched to the skin, and armed with buckets or scops pursue each other through the streets, amid uproar and laughter. Thus, according to tradition the gods of the clouds are propitiated and send rain.

The Zulu Campaign.

The eagerly expected intelligence of the result of the advance of the relieving force was received on Monday, and was, happily of a cheering nature. On the 4th of April (Elova pronounced Echoway) was relieved, and the success of the movement to his aid, has lifted a load of anxiety from many hearts, and will further rouse the spirits of the inhabitants of Natal, which were much depressed after the disastrous day of Isandula, and which only recovered a better tone on the arrival of the British reinforcements.

Sugar Beets.

The Sugar Beet Seed imported from Germany by the Department for Agriculture was being pretty well distributed, so that farmers can obtain it with as little trouble as possible. Agricultural Societies and others who have not already sent their orders to the Secretary for Agriculture would do so as soon as possible. We would urge every farmer in the Province to give the Sugar Beet a fair trial, so that they may know from actual experiment the cost of raising it. This information is necessary before a company would go to the expense of erecting a factory.

City Council.

There was a special meeting of the City Council on Monday night. An order was passed for the issue of debentures, to the amount of \$4,000, for permanent Exhibition Building, stating mode of payment; and an assessment of \$500 was ordered to provide for payment of interest on loans and debentures in aid of said building. The city officers, (the same as last year,) were appointed with no change in salaries. Ald. Gunter making a single and desperate effort to have them reduced. Constables and surveyors of lumber were appointed. No action was taken on report submitted by the Mayor with regard to the St. John Relief Fund. A motion was made by Ald. Burchill to grant a wholesale license to sell liquor to Mr. Alex. Burchill, and it was carried 7 to 3—Aldermen G. H. Simmons, Smith, and Babbitt voting in the negative. The license was granted by authority of sub-section 8 of Section 99, of "The Canada Temperance Act," as follows:—

"A Stranger."

Some busybody who signs himself "A Stranger," wrote to the Morning News on Monday, after the fire on Brunswick Street that morning. "Stranger" is no stranger, for what object could a veritable stranger have in writing to St. John about a matter that did not concern him, that took place in Frederickton? The stranger pretence is evident. The letter is no doubt, the production of some one in the habit of cooking up sensational bits of news for the "dailies," careless as to what wrong statements he makes or what wrong impressions he creates. He exaggerates in saying, that the fire that morning threatened to spread disastrously, but if he had not commenced on that key, he could have had no excuse for abusing the Fire Department, and alarming the citizens of Frederickton. He tries to throw ridicule on the tardiness shown in turning out the engines, and their being dragged by men and boys to the scene of the fire, which he arrived ten minutes after the alarm was given. He thinks it especially funny that the horses were not available at the time, and were brought at a hand gallop by the teamster in time to be too late to draw the engines. With regard to the horses he may say, that nine times out of ten fires break out at night, and are not of frequent occurrence at any time. It is absurd to suppose that the city could keep the horses always in the stalls eating their heads off, for the chance of a fire occurring; so that there was nothing to be done on Monday morning, when the killing at work that the engines were dragged to the tanks, it must be remembered, that it necessarily took some little time to carry the alarm from Brunswick Street to the Engine House, yet the heavy engines were not dragged by "men and boys" to the tanks according to "Stranger's" own statement in ten minutes from the time the fire was discovered. As the fire never was alarming, and was all but extinguished by hand by the time the engines were ready to work, it would only have been playing with the horses, and making them fat, to make "men and boys" to make "men and boys" for the slow and clumsy way they forced a ladder against the house, the fact being that owing to a quantity of snow by the door against which the ladder was placed, it was difficult to obtain a steady footing for it.

New Brunswick Penitentiary.

Among the numerous "Bluebooks" prepared from Ottawa, is the Report of the Minister of Justice as to Penitentiaries of Canada, 1878. J. G. Moyle, Esq., Inspector of Penitentiaries, reports an increase of crime in 1878, over the preceding year. In 1878, there was a convict population in the several Penitentiaries—Kingston, St. Vincent de Paul, St. John, Halifax, and Montreal—numbering 11,300, against one in 1877, of 10,819, being an increase of 781. He attributes the increase of crime to the increased population of the Province, and to the fact that he has prevailed all over the Dominion and the consequent dereliction of employment. He found the St. John Penitentiary much overcrowded. 163 convicts and common prisoners were registered on 15th of August 1877, though there are only 88 cells in it. This overcrowding raised apprehensions of an epidemic during the hot weather, and of deeper demoralization among the unfortunate inmates, owing to the difficulty of exercising a strict and continuous supervision with a limited staff, over a large number of evil-disposed persons brought into close contact and associations under cover of night. When the Dorchester penitentiary, the first wing of which is opened, the convicts in the St. John institution, will probably be transferred to it. Owing to the large increase of convicts since the Dorchester penitentiary was first commenced, all the convicts in the Maritime Provinces cannot be taken to it until another wing is built, and Mr. Moyle recommends that it should be commenced immediately.

The Queen's Journal.

The Queen's Journal Agricultural Society has done a good work during the last two or three years, by furnishing lime to the farmers of New Jerusalem, at a very low price, and of an excellent quality. Mr. Webb, the Secretary, has sent us an account of the lime, and the cost of producing the lime which may be interesting to others, and induce them to adopt a like course. The Society intend building a new kiln, which is to be constructed of good stone and in workmanlike style, and to be finished by the 1st of May. It will be sixteen feet high, five feet round at the bottom, widening to ten feet at half the height, and sixteen feet to the top. The walls will be five feet thick at the bottom and 2 feet at 8 feet high and to the top. The contract was given to the lowest tender for \$101. The kiln, on what is known as the Clowes lot, has been lengthened nearly three feet, and it will now burn from thirty to forty hogheads more than before. The cost, including repairs, &c., was in all \$54. It is the opinion of some people, that the form or plan of the new kiln is not good; that it will not burn all the lime; that more or less raw stone will be left after each burning. The Secretary says if these opinions prove to be correct he will not fail to make the fact known for the good of others.

The New Jerusalem Lime Kiln.

The Society costs the cost of production of lime, at the expense of wood, quarrying, burning and delivery. Mr. Webb, says, 20 cords of wood will burn 110 hogheads, cost of wood per cord, \$1.50; or other work, \$3.33—in all \$22.50. The lime at 50 cents per hoghead will bring \$55, which leaves a balance of \$2.50, which goes towards repairs.

An Invitation to the Governor-General.

John Smith and others, on behalf of the residents of the villages of Argyle, Wainnabago County, Illinois, formerly tenants of the Duke of Argyll, have addressed the Governor-General, petitioning and requesting His Excellency and Princess Louise to honor their settlements with a "visitation during the week of our great exposition, which will be inaugurated on the 15th of September, 1879." They say, "that it would afford Your Highness inspiration and joy to interweave such a picture of experience with the responsibilities of your official life. The occasion of your visitation would constitute a sublime episode in the history of our settlement." The Governor-General in reply courteously declining the invitation, says, nothing could give him greater pleasure than to see there those who have left the Duke of Argyll's castles in Scotland to settle in Illinois, but next to the satisfaction he would have in seeing them, is the joy to hear that they are happy and prosperous in the land of their adoption. The closing sentence of His Excellency's reply reads like a gentle reproach to the residents of Argyle for choosing the protection of the stars and stripes instead of the old flag. He tells them that the soil of Illinois most resembles "the districts of Canada in the Northwest where a large number of our Highland and Scottish countrymen are finding unequalled soil, the resources of which, now being actively developed, promise a prosperity as great as can be found in any part of the American continent."

LEASE OF WATER.

LEASE OF WATER.—Yesterday the lease of the city wharves for the year, 1879, was sold for \$270, being an increase of \$50 over the amount obtained in 1878.

READY FOR FIRE.

READY FOR FIRE.—Edgcombe & Sons who purchased No. 5 hand fire engine from the city have it now in first rate working order, and supplied with 100 feet of new rubber hose in addition to the old leather hose which is perfectly serviceable yet. There is plenty of water about and around the premises. Judging by the trial performances, No. 5 will be able to do "yoeman's service," in case fire should unfortunately break out in the Edgcombe Factory, or any of the contiguous premises.

Call at Edgcombe's Dry Goods.

Call at Edgcombe's Dry Goods. The public are invited to inspect the New Goods daily opening at Edgcombe's. All new, choice, and at very low prices.

At five minutes past eleven.

At five minutes past eleven, on Thursday night, the last of the tariff resolutions were passed in the House of Commons, Ottawa, amid loud cheering, which, we presume, came from the Ministerial benches. A Bill founded on the resolution, was afterwards introduced.

EXHIBITION DEBENTURES.

EXHIBITION DEBENTURES.—The Debentures for the Permanent Exhibition Building to the amount of \$4,000, the order for the issue of which was made at the special meeting of the City Council on Monday, were all disposed of yesterday.

Mr. Eli Perkins has for sale a new patent.

Mr. Eli Perkins has for sale a new patent chisel, invented by Mr. George Barker, Sheffield, which seems well adapted for its purpose. It is worked by rotary motion, by junction of cog and balance wheels, so easily that a child might manage it.

PERMISSIVE BILL IN CARLETON CO.

PERMISSIVE BILL IN CARLETON CO.—On Thursday, the vote was taken in Carleton County on the Permissive Bill. The returns as far as given show 1178 for and 49 against it; and it was carried by a vote of 857 to 233.

I. O. O. F. Celebration.

Last night the Victoria Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows celebrated the sixth anniversary of the foundation of the institution of their Order in this city, by a Grand Promenade Concert and Bonnet Hop. The attendance of members of the Order from St. John and Moncton was not so large as was at first anticipated. Gilbert Murdoch, Esq., Grand Master of the Lower Provinces, and a few brethren from St. John were present; otherwise the attendance was large, the members of the Victoria Lodge being there in full numbers, and the ladies of Frederickton largely represented. The interior of the building was well lighted with large reflector lamps in addition to the gasaliers, and decorated with words of "welcome," and the watchwords of the Order. Banners with the names of the different Lodges throughout the Province were hung around the galleries. On the floor were drawn the hand and the three mystic circles of Fidelity, Love, and Truth, connected by links.

WITCH-BURNING IN RUSSIA.

WITCH-BURNING IN RUSSIA.—The St. Petersburg Correspondent of the Morning News reports that last month a woman named Agrafena Ignatieva was burned as a witch by the peasants in the village of Wratsovo, in the province of Moscow. The woman, a native of such a dread of her powers of mischief that they endeavored even to anticipate her wishes, and although an absolute pauper she lived in a grand mansion, and was distinguished by a girl from a distant village, brought some presents to burn the witch and so release her from her sufferings. At an assembly of hundreds of peasants, the village was resolved to extinguish the source of mischief. They proceeded to her hut, which they found fastened up. They broke open the window, discovered the wretched woman, and she was immediately burned to death. The whole crowd remained until it was quite consumed.

THE FRENCH COLONIST.

THE FRENCH COLONIST.—When a Frenchman is forced to plant himself as a colonist in some corner of the globe, (he does not like doing it,) his mode of settling to work is very different to an Englishman. He does not mix with the natives, he is not above mixing with them in a friendly, neighbourly way, and picks out any peculiarities of dress, living, or habit which he can make use of to place him on a level with the natives. He will copy his ways, so manifestly superior to their own, adopting them freely, and handing them down from father to son as an advantage of his Englishman, on the contrary, under similar circumstances, looks down on them and their customs as barbarous, and he himself remains still an Englishman, wears a top hat, and carries with the thermometer at 65°, and sticks to beer and spirits, even when light claret is outside of his reach. 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