



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF JABEZ SNOWBALL WHO IS DEAD IN THIS COUNTY.

SPIRIT OF LATEST DEFATCHES.

Mr. T. B. Hannington has been appointed census commissioner for New Brunswick.

The discussion over the Government contract still continues with its usual life.

There are from 10 to 17 feet of snow in places near London—on the level. The loss of life is slight, but the damage to property is great.

WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT OF BUILDING THE CANADIAN PACIFIC.

With so many published opinions respecting the Government's Railway Policy, it is hard for those who have not settled convictions, to make up their minds which side is right and which is wrong. For

In law what plea so tainted and corrupt But being seasoned with a gracious voice Obscures the show of evil? In religion What damned error but some sober brow Will bless it and approve it with a text?

Some will maintain that the step the Government has taken, will bring ruin upon themselves, and chains upon the North West, while others as strongly maintain that the consummation of the scheme will be the dawning of a new and prosperous day for unretarded provinces in the West, and a policy of which the Government may be proud. So that those who run and read have just to follow the teaching of common sense, to reach a proper conclusion.

All are agreed the road has to be built, by some one or another; every Government yet in power in Ottawa has made exertions to that end, and the only question tormenting the public mind now is the method of building. The Government formed a Syndicate, to which they offered \$25,000,000 and 25,000,000 acres of land for building the road, deeming the burthen of building too heavy for the Government to bear, and considering a company of capitalists with branches in various parts of the world, in a better position to carry out a scheme of immigration—immigration being the end desired both by the Syndicate and the Government. To those who may say, the Government ought to be able to carry out this scheme as well as a Syndicate, the answer is, that companies can get as much done for 75 cents as Governments can for a dollar; that as the Syndicate is formed solely to build this road and promote immigration, they could do far more towards settling the country than the Government could who have a thousand other irons in the fire.

When the terms of the Syndicate became known, the Opposition press as in duty bound decried them and assailed the Government; and then informed the country that a new Syndicate had formed the day before and were prepared to submit terms that were equitable and right. It is this new Syndicate, which, thrown into the fire of debate, has created the late blaze of excitement at Ottawa.

Sir John Macdonald and his party denounce the New Syndicate as a plot resorted to by their opponents in desperate straits, and there seems much reason for the Government's contention. In the first place the scheme was originated by some of the most abandoned men in Canada; and secondly the scheme in itself is such, that if passed it imposes neither obligation for the performance nor penalty for the non-performance of the work. Its aim is therefore to defeat the Government Contract and with it the Government. And mind you the men who schemed out the contract, were cunning knaves, who knew full well they were framing a formidable weapon against their opponents. The Government offered the first Syndicate 25,000,000 acres, the new Syndicate offered to do the work for 22,000,000; the Government offered \$25,000,000; the new Syndicate offered to do the work

for \$22,000,000; and remember the cry the demagogue may make about the Government "squandering three million acres of land, and three million dollars" is not an easy one to silence. But the common sense of every man in the end must show him that a Syndicate might have been formed any time, and it might be terms still, since the object was to raise a cry against the Government. It is easy to make an offer,—but not so easy to carry out that offer. The New Syndicate may be able to scrape up two million dollars "security," an amount beyond what the Government asks from the other Syndicate, but what does that signify? Mr. A. Gibson has put in half a million himself, and three or four others have put in the rest; but the capital of these gentlemen is about at an end by time the "security" is satisfied. Let us be plainer. Getting two million dollars as a security to the Government is one thing; getting twenty times that much money to build the road is quite another thing. The Government must take this view of the case, and no doubt they will. When the Government ask for tenders for the construction of a great work they announce that they do not bind themselves "to accept the lowest"—for it may often occur that parties unable to carry out the contract, tender for work and furnish the Government "securities," to whom it would be madness to entrust the contract.

So too with the Syndicate. The Government have no doubt at all about the financial abilities of the first Syndicate, they have grave doubts about the financial ability of the second Syndicate; and therefore in justice to the trust reposed in them should not give such a gigantic work as the construction of the Canada Pacific to the "lowest bidder," for the reasons stated if there were no others. But it now transpires that there has been at work a hidden hand. The Northern Pacific Company see themselves menaced by an all-through Canadian line, and are therefore working with might and main to have the through road abandoned, and the Sault Ste Marie branch built instead. This hidden hand crops out in the New Syndicate offer, but Sir John Macdonald mercilessly exposed it. He said our business was to build up Canada; that we wanted no Sault line, nor any other line that tapped and bled our country, and carried our products over the roads of the Republic. We had a country which we called our own and we wanted a railroad too.

There is another way of looking at the question, which brings our duty home to us clearly. Observe you how craftily the new contract is drawn. It provides that the all through idea may be abandoned, and only the prairie section built, and connexion made with the American system by the Sault Ste. Marie branch. Now then: if the House passed the new proposal, the Gov't would have to go out, and the Blake Party would come in, and take the option given them in the new contract—BUILDING THE SAULT STE. MARIE BRANCH, and abandoning the through line. Then indeed might the new Syndicate well go on with their contract, for they would have only to build over the prairies; they would have a short road to run prime lands to select and would make a fortune. The great idea of a National road would be hopelessly destroyed, the future of our North West, the life blood sapped out of it by American roads, would be not worth contemplating, British Columbia would secede from the union, and the Blake dream would be realized. Will the country accept such degrading conditions? O no; that is not the direction in which Canadian ambitions lie. The Government measure will be carried by nearly two to one.

WHAT WILL FLOW FROM THE NEW ROAD.

Supposing our readers will follow us beyond the Rubicon while we make a few calculations. Suppose we set the population of the Dominion down at 4,000,000. Early next spring the New Syndicate will go to work, and within five years a railway will run through our best lands to the base of the Rocky Mountains. Branch lines running through good lands, will here and there join the main line. It is only fair to assume that everywhere a railway runs, there will settlement also be. So far, the immigration to our North West, has been as the pattering drops which precede the summer shower. People will not come to a region where there are no railways. But once let the news get abroad that there is a fertile country containing hundreds of thousands of acres of the best of land untaken and railways running through it, and emigrant ships will have more than their cargoes. Within the next ten years, it will be found, that the number of emigrants to the North West in that time, will not fall one short of the number of the whole population of Canada today, Ireland will send us thousands by the hundred; Danish Colonies are already on the move; Germans will flock in here,

French settlers finding so many of their own race in the Dominion will flock in in goodly numbers, and we need not think the Dutch who have shown some enterprise in the way of roving wild slight us either. Let us then reduce our reasoning down to a smaller compass. Let us suppose—

Our total Dominion tax for 1879 was \$20,000,000 per year.

To pay that tax there are 4,000,000 people.

This makes the per capita tax \$5.

In 1891 our population will be 8,000,000. But all our great national works have been accomplished and we may expect but a small addition to the \$20,000,000. But instead of four million people having to pay these taxes, there will be eight millions of people to pay them. Where one pays \$5 a year now in tax he would have to pay little over \$2.50 then.

It follows then that such a reduction of import duties could be made, that instead of paying an all-around duty of about 30 per cent, the tax would not much exceed fifteen per cent.

But this is not all. In the North West would spring up a market for the products of the Maritime Provinces. Nature gives us, and we manufacture down here by the sea what they will not have in the North West. The peoples there will be chiefly employed in agriculture and the raising of flocks and herds; save in the towns, where the manufacture of hides, the grinding of grain, and the manufacture of imported raw material will be carried on. Our fish will find a ready market in the North West, and we need not send it abroad; our valuable iron mines will pay the smelter, for the level prairie does not afford iron ore,—our now unvalued hard woods will be turned into use making chairs, and tables, and the various articles in wood in domestic economy, for the prairies afford no wood but poplar. When that day comes, as come it will, it is then our people will be blessing the Government for building up a tariff barrier along the frontier; for with our North West markets open to the Americans across the line, with Mr. Blake's Sault Ste Marie Branch running twice a day from American to Canadian territory there would be little indeed for us from the Provinces to sell to our prairie brethren. It is the Americans not the Lower Province Canadians who could then profit by the North West. The future of our country depends upon our yet great unsettled territory, and to no portion of the Dominion is its settlement of greater importance than to the Maritime Provinces. Then speed the Government Syndicate.

SAID THE WORTHLESS DUTCH SOLDIER: "IF I CANT BE ANYTHING ELSE, I CAN BE A DESERTER." IT IS THE SAME WITH SNOWBALL.

PROFESSOR HIND AND HON PETER MITCHELL.

Those who have read the Star lately, have our opinion about Prof. Hind, and it is not necessary we should state it again. We dealt at much length with this subject when other Provincial papers gave it a mere passing notice; because we felt at the time that if the statements made by the Professor, were to receive any credence, the effect would be the reopening of the question of the fishery award, "a consummation devoutly to be wished for" by the Americans, and a subject that has quite too long already been disgusting the people of British North America. That our fears were but too well founded, subsequent events go to prove. Professor Hind boldly stated that several documents willfully misstating several important features of Dominion trade, were placed in evidence before the Commission at Halifax, and used as the basis upon which the award was granted by the arbitrators. He was employed himself to collect statistics, and tabulate items; and he professes to speak as one who knows what he is talking about, and threatens to reveal rivers of black dishonor.

His story has got into the American papers, and created a wonderful noise; and the latest we learn upon the matter is that it has got into the English press, and the Home Government, zealous of the reputation of Colonial Government declares that the matter must be sifted to the bottom.

It was not because Mr. Hind is a philanthropist or a just man that he threatened to disclose "rivers of black dishonor" but because

(a) The Government would pay him no more for compounding the tables—the fraudulent tables too if there be any;

And because

(b) Mr. Pope would not take his broad hint and give him a position in the Fishery Department.

The Opposition press of course took for granted that the sin and the black dishonor mentioned by Mr. Hind, lay at Conservative doors; and the Toronto Globe did not beat much about the bush to lay it to the administration of Hon. Peter Mitchell. To this Mr. Mitchell writes the following reply in the Montreal Gazette:—

Sir,—In your paper today under the head of "The Hind charges," you quote an extract of the Toronto "Globe," in which it gives as a motive for shielding Sir Albert J. Smith, a desire to protect some one nearer home, and who understands to what our contemporary refers, "you state that you have seen a statement made in some quarters, that if any errors or frauds were committed, the fault is due to the Hon. Peter Mitchell, formerly Minister of Marine and Fisheries, under whose administration of the department it is said that the case for Canada was prepared." I may state that I have never seen such a reference made to me, though such doubtless has been the case as you state it, and I would feel much obliged if you could furnish me with a copy of the document, and you may rest assured I will reply to it.

As to the facts of the case, they are simply these: You are justified in saying that I prepared the case which was substantially the one upon which the award was obtained, and for which Sir Albert was rewarded by his Sovereign. I also am responsible for the official reports of the Department up to the 30th of June, 1872. From that date the late Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Sir Albert J. Smith, is responsible, and signed the reports for the next five years, during which time the award was made at Halifax. Professor Hind charges that from the fall of 1872 the reports of the Department were wilfully and deliberately falsified, and that fraudulent returns and statistics were submitted by the Minister having charge of the Department, Sir Albert J. Smith, for the purpose of such award. I do not believe such a statement to be true, but I am not in a position from absence of information either to verify or contradict the statement, nor is it any part of my duty to do so, as the Professor does not impugn my acts or conduct. One thing, however, I will say, when charges of so serious a character are made, reflecting alike upon the National honor, as well as upon the personal reputation of the Minister, it was his duty to defend the honor of his country and at the same time to clear himself from the disgraceful imputation that Professor Hind's charges have attached to him and which much to his discredit, he has allowed to remain unanswered. If he did not desire to avail himself of the columns of the press to deny or explain the disgraceful imputations made which he has allowed his own honor and that of the country to lie, he should from his place in the House have at least given some explanation of his conduct. It is true that the knight received his honors from his sovereign for labors in the cause, the preparation of which I was the author; and if he elects to flaunt his borrowed plumes before the public he should at least be prepared to defend his conduct and meet the disgraceful charge made alike against himself and our common country.

I am, sir,

Yours,

P. MITCHELL.

This is plain enough even for a grit Editor—and since its appearance no attempt has been made to put the saddle on the wrong horse. But we think Mr. Mitchell very happy in his reference to Sir Albert Smith. Clearly the fraud of making false returns, if such a fraud there be, it is at the door of Sir Albert Smith and of no other man. If Sir Albert be not guilty, then he surely sets high prize enough upon those spurs he so proudly boasts, to make some answer to the heinous charge now made against him. Confronted by such a charge, and upon a subject to which the press of the world gives its attention, the silence of Sir Albert, if not suspicious, is certainly unbecoming—But then ye Gods, that explanation had better never come. Justice to American pockets, and Canadian honor should forever be withheld rather than should it turn out, those spurs the knight so proudly boasts were won by fraud and dishonor.

HE HAS DISGUSTED FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE BY HIS DESERTION.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We received too late for this issue, a letter from a gentleman dealing with an unprovoked and unjust newspaper attack on Mr. Thos. Crimmins; and we must apologize for being obliged to hold it over till next.

Some editorial matter, the conclusion of the Council doings, a large quantity of local news, a mass of Ottawa matter, several other communications, etc., we cannot possibly use till next issue.

SIR S. L. TILLEY'S speech is the subject of high compliment all over the union. It was happily conceived, and a piece of convincing and able argument. We shall refer more fully to it at another time.

The County Council of Gloucester administered a nice rebuke to Mr. Anglin by endorsing the Government contract with the Syndicate unanimously.

LONDON INUNDATED.

The aspect of London today is amazing. No one remembers any such scenes as are presented. They are almost indescribable. Vehicular traffic is entirely abandoned, and omnibuses and cabs have ceased attempting to run. The only method of transportation is by underground railroad and the elevated road on the Surrey side of the river. The tide in the Thames is the highest ever known. The docks, Blackfriars bridge, Lambeth, and the southern district of London, on the Surrey side, are overflowing through the violence of the gale and the unprecedented rise of the river. Telegrams from all provincial towns along the sea coast report great damage. Numerous disasters to shipping and to property along the shore. Some loss of life has occurred. The damage by flood in the Thames is estimated at \$2,000,000. The storm is the worst that has been experienced there for 20 years.

The Thames has flooded the House of Parliament. Many of the members were unable to reach Parliament, so that there was an exceedingly slim attendance when the speaker of the commons wanted to open the session. There were so few members in their seats that the House narrowly escaped being adjourned for a day and thus losing time which in the present stress of public affairs, is very precious.

The Thames has risen on the Surrey or south side to a height of ten feet, flooding the entire districts. Houses have been invaded by water to such an extent that they are rendered uninhabitable.

Hundreds of people have been made homeless. Great damage has been done to the poorer sort of houses and there is danger of some of them being totally destroyed or so badly injured as to make them unfit to live in after the water subsides. The people are taking refuge on the roofs and are in momentary terror lest their lives should become a prey to the rising water.

A number of barges have been sunk in the Thames and several lives lost. The record of casualties cannot fail to be fearful, and it is probable that a great many will be found to have been drowned. [The storm has subsided now and the danger is past. Ed.]

Communications.

A CORRECTION FROM TRAGADIS.

Some time ago sir, I saw a report of a lumber operation said to be carried on by a Messrs Smith and McDonald. There is no such concern down here. Mr. McDonald is the gentleman carrying on the operation; and Mr. Smith named as his partner, is only a sub—an under contractor of his. Mr. McDonald has 12 teams instead of 6 as published—and about 80 men. The amount which it was said 6 teams would get out, will be got out by the twelve 4,000 feet. In publishing lumber items, it is well to put down 750,000 to a team—and you would then be not far astray.

THE GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

[For the Star.]

I have taken the following item from the papers laid on the table of the House of Commons. The I.C.R. is the railway that Hon R. Hutchinson once declared would not pay for the grease on the wheels. Neither did it when the Grits had it. But read its present story:

Table with 3 columns: Earnings 1879, Working expenses 1879, and a third column with values.

Very little behind the Chatham Branch!

Yours, etc.,

RAILWAY MAN.

Chatham, Jan. 21.

THE COUNTRY PROSPERS.

[For the Star.]

When the Grits were out on their last canvass they said. If you return the Conservatives they will ruin the country; and when the National Policy was adopted they sat down and began to prophesy commercial destruction. They all foretold it, from the greatest down to the meanest—the Globe foretold it, the Freeman foretold, our deserter Snowball foretold it, and here are some facts: a comparison of '80 with '79 to show the rate at which we are going back:—

Dan. Wiman & Co. make the following return of failures in Canada for last year—

Table with 3 columns: Province, No., and Amt of liabilities.

In 1879 the total number of failures for Canada were 1,902, with liabilities of \$29,347,937. In 1878 the number was 1,697, with liabilities of \$23,908,677. In 1877—1,892 failures and \$25,523,903. It must be borne in mind that since the repeal of the insolvent Act there is no stated channel through which the failures come, consequently some are never heard of outside of their creditors, but it is fair to assume they would form a small percentage of the whole.

The poor Grits! and our poor gulled voters.

Yours,

VOTER.

Miramichi, 20 January.

A COMPLAINT FROM ALNWICK.

The following is the letter which came without the writers name enclosed; and which we held over in consequence. Having the writers name we publish:— "Seeing you take a lively interest in the welfare of the county you may like to know how our Parish magistrates and authorities conduct the affairs of the Parish. There is only one licensed tavern in the Parish of Alnwick, and the authorities are in the knowledge of it; but in many cases they go to those places where liquor, or what the vendors call liquor is sold and buy the very liquor the sale of which as magistrates they ought to stop: but in most cases drink when others buy. To show the injustice that is done to the man that pays his license regularly there are eleven hotels in full blast selling away. Complaints have been lodged on oath to some of the magistrates of the fact, still they will not act. If those eleven vendors of rot-gut were fined the fines would more than pay half the sum the Parish was assessed for County contingencies; or one third the Alms House assessment. I hope I have not taken too much of your valuable space. You will hear from me again if there is no action taken in the matter.

Yours,

RATEPAYER OF ALNWICK.

A LETTER FROM M. T. CRIMMIN.

To the Editor of the Star.

Sir,—On taking up the Advance today I was a little surprised to find that, despite the pressure on its columns of the report of the great debate on the Syndicate, annual school meetings and County Council reports, the magnacious editor of that redoubtable sheet could devote nearly a column of his space to undiluted Billingsgate, and scurrilous abuse of your very humble servant. I never expected such an honor, and hereby tender sincere thanks to the editor for his gratuitous advertisement. I might rest content with the honors poured on me, if it were not for the mean and false and unfounded insinuations in which, true to his nature, the editor indulges. I must therefore crave your permission to place before the public a plain statement of facts.

After the regular business of the late school meeting was disposed of, I made a few remarks about a proposal for amalgamating the three districts of the town, which proposal had been placed before the trustees by the Inspector, by order of the Board of Education. In doing so, I stated incidentally that the report of the trustees which appeared in the Advance had in my opinion done injustice to the Inspector. My reference to that paper consisted simply in that, and these few words form the text for nearly a column of puerile and slanderous abuse. The editor was present and "meek as a sucking dove," merely asked what paper I referred to. I told him, and gave the reasons for my statement. A charge had been made against the Inspector, had been repelled, and was withdrawn. This amongst gentlemen should have ended the matter. But some one had been guilty of at least a breach of good manners, and the editor makes a simple explanation an attack on the respectable (?) press.

In his report of the meeting this champion of RESPECTABILITY states that I said the Inspector apologized. Now, I never said this. I said that he explained he never had the intention imputed to him. Will this "respectable" editor apologize for the misstatement, or must we, to use his own elegant language, classify him as "meadacious"?

His personal insinuations I can pass over as pointless. The statement that I am a sub rosa correspondent displays the true reason of his unprovoked attack. The statement is false. The only correspondence I have with the newspapers consists in supplying them when requested, with statistics of trade, etc. Except this I have never directly or indirectly been implicated in any newspaper correspondence during the past three years.

In this connexion I may mention that time and again, and often at considerable personal inconvenience, I have provided these returns for the Advance. Will the editor prove his insinuations, or will he apologize for the slander?

The reference to a "respectable" paper is to say the least, unhappy. Politics, unfortunately, give rise to bad feeling, mutual reproaches, ill neighbourhood and ill will. Never, however, in the history of this county was more ill feeling engendered or more personal strife caused, than in the last Dominion election. The cause of this can easily be traced by unprejudiced persons to the "Gospel of envy, hatred, malice and all uncharitableness," preached by the Advance, from its advent to its last un-called for attack on your humble servant.

The question of the union of the districts is a comprehensive one, and can best be discussed without reference to such a humble individual as I, or even to such a respectable person as the editor of the Advance. It affects the ratepayers of the town, and can best be left to their judgment. If the expectation of \$500 a year is my motive, I can only say, that I will not take it till it is earned, and hope never to receive pay for services I never intend to perform.

That "Respectable" journalism consists in personal vituperation, is another apothegm evolved from the editor of the Advance and borne out by the practice of that journal.

Regretting that I have occupied so much of your valuable space with a matter that cannot be of great public importance,

I remain,

THOS. CRIMMIN.

District No. 1, Chatham. Secy.

Chatham Markets

CORRECTED AND REVISED FOR THE STAR.

Table listing market prices for various goods like Flour, Higher Brands, Oat Meal, Corn Meal, Beef, Prime Mess, Pork, etc.