

LOCAL MATTERS.

THIS IS THE THIRTY EIGHTH DAY.

Remember the Sacred Concert on Tuesday night.

Sudden Death. A man named Michael Crown of Northesk died suddenly at his residence last week.

Social Postponed. The regular weekly social dance in Masonic Hall, will take place on Wednesday of next week instead of Monday.

That's Right. The new commissioner was out with his snowplough on Thursday and succeeded in making the streets passable.

Snow. There are three to four feet of snow on the Northwest. It is thought some of the smaller lumbering parties there will have to discontinue operations in consequence.

A Funny Case. The Halifax Chronicle says eight chinamen cutting timber near Dogherby's mill in Santa Cruz, were buried alive by the mill falling on them. Ten of them it says escaped.

Fishing Tots. Mr Daniel Desmond of Chatham has entered into the smelt shipping business. He intends to buy up about fifty ton of smelt for shipment to the States. Smelts are at present plentiful.

Sacred Concert. In another column will appear the advertisement of a Sacred Concert to be given by the choir of St. Michael's Pro-Cathedral in the Masons Hall, on Tuesday evening next. The following is the programme:

PART 1st. Instrumental.....Orchestra. Chorus "Be Joyful in God".....Merr. Duet "Ave Verum".....L. Bordese. Quintette "Marvellous Work".....from Haydn's "Creation".

PART 2nd. Instrumental.....Orchestra. Chorus "Magnificent".....Est Solo soprano, "Ave Maria".....Gustave Smith. Quartette and Chorus "O Give ear unto me O Lord".....Schumann. Solo and Chorus "Tantum Ergo".....Magary. Bass Solo. Duet "God is Love".....Webb.

The pieces are certainly well selected and from what we hear of the choir since our coming here, we have not the least doubt that the concert will be a success. Such an addition too, as that of Mr. Lantulum of St. John, will contribute largely to the enjoyment of the evening. We think that the affair ought to be well patronized.

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The Railroads

Yesterday was Mr McLennans eighth continuous day on the road from Campbellton to Moncton. He informs us he has never before seen it so difficult to run trains, but owing to his prompt attention to business the track has been kept passable through all the storms, and we have heard of no delays or mishaps on his section. The accommodation yesterday was the first train, save the express trains, for the week, that went without a snowplough. After the road has been opened up for the trains and the steam ceased, Mr McLennan takes out the wing plough, which eats off the ice itself from the road, and sometimes clears from 4 to 5 feet at each side of the rail.

Our poor old spavined engines are as usual, stuck. As if it were not bad enough to have one rattle trap on the Branch, they now have two, and verily the second condition of the man is no better than the first. Yesterday morning, exipulis gratia, they left the station, both of them, in high feather, puffing and rattling away at such a rate, that one might think if they struck the base of the greater Himalaya they would upset it. In a few minutes it was all over.

Not a stir in the air. Not a sound o'er the sea. That train was still, as a train might be. A pile of snow, and two melancholy smokestacks are all the spectators saw; and now it is proposed to organize a party and go look for the smothered rattletraps.

We have been at some pains lately enquiring about this "new engine" which the scribes have been telling us was going to "be put on the Chatham Branch," and we find it is a cast off old trip for which our patriotic member paid something less than \$4000, and which would not be put on any other road in the Dominion save on the Chatham Branch. Its lungs are gone, its bronchial tubes are affected, it is diseased all over, and what Mr Snowball will have paid in the next two years for "blacksmithing" on it would, added to the \$1000 the other day, have purchased a respectable engine. The branch has no snowplough to make matters worse, and the Government will not, nor ought they, lend Mr Snowball one.

One would think since the pair of old traps have got into the slough of despond Snowball's employees ought to have some way of bringing passengers from St. John to Chatham, from Newcastle, but on arriving at Newcastle the unfortunate traveller, though he pays for a ticket to Chatham finds he has to chit for himself. We have seen as many as five or six who bought tickets for Chatham, but who had to make their own way here from Newcastle, and the only satisfaction of course they will be able to get is the prospect of the branch who so proudly pointed it out to the Marquis of Lorne as "my property," to court.

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NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

DIFFIN VS. DOW.

A correspondent who has watched this important case closely writes us: In the case of Robert D. Diffin vs. Harve D. Dow, tried before Judge Duff at the Nisi Prius Sittings of the Supreme Court, the facts as alleged and proved by the plaintiff are that in September 1874, plaintiff having both of his eyes affected with cataract, contemplated going to the Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, to be treated, and with that object in view came to Fredericton with a friend named Kirkpatrick to sell a horse to raise money to carry out his intentions. Kirkpatrick in trying to sell the horse fell in with Dr. Dow, and on mentioning the object of the sale was requested by Dow to bring Diffin to him. Kirkpatrick took Diffin to Dow's office who immediately pronounced the case "cataract" and said he could easily cure it. An appointment was made that Diffin should go home and arrange his domestic affairs for a two weeks absence and return to Fredericton to be operated upon. This arrangement was carried out and early in October Dow operated on both eyes for cataract resulting in the total loss both of the sight and form of the eyes, after 6 months agonizing suffering by the patient; and the action is brought to recover damages for mal-practice in the treatment. Dow sets up the defence that he did not treat for cataract but for gon. oph. and that the plaintiffs suffering and loss of sight was the result of his unsound condition which was too far advanced when he saw him to be benefited by any treatment. The evidence I think was most damaging to Dow's fair name.

He was put on the stand in the plaintiffs case to see what he could say was the ailment and treatment, when he swore that the first he saw of Diffin he was driving along the road in Harvey about 6 weeks before the operation within 3 miles the other side of the Hatch place, when a woman hailed him to "come in and see a blind man." He entered the house and there saw D. Diffin BLIND. He told him he had lost his sight and that there was no hope that he gave him some powdered medicine for the gon. oph. that Diffin afterwards came to town and sent for him, that he visited him at Hoyt's Hotel and found his eyes in a fearful condition from gon. oph. that he fearfully removed the festered matter from his eyes with an instrument and gave him a wash and had never seen him since or heard of his name until sued; and he denied the request to Kirkpatrick to bring Diffin to him. Mr. Gregory asked him if he had not received a telegram from Mr. Diffin 24th Nov. and answered it 25th Nov. and gone out shortly after to see Diffin and say he was "doing nicely." He denied this positively.

Mr. Gregory then proved that Diffin did not live at Harvey until 3 weeks after the operation and then he moved to the Hatch house. Diffin and his wife swore that Dow had not seen Diffin before the operation anywhere and that after they went to live at Harvey they telegraphed for him and he came out and visited him and said he was "doing nicely;" and a neighbor named White swore he saw Dow there.

Mr. Gregory then put Dow back again on the stand and he swore that what Diffin and his wife said was untrue, and that he had seen White there; but that he (White) was mistaken about the time and occasion, that it was on the 25th September he was there, and he went out to see a man named Doherty who was living at the Hatch place; and he produced a telegraph despatch of the date from Hatch calling him out there.

Mr. Gregory then sent after the telegraph operator at Harvey, John Rutherford, who produced his record and swore that a telegram had been sent to Dr. Dow by Mr. Diffin 24th November, and answered 25th.

Mr. Gregory put Mrs. White on the stand and she said she saw Dr. Dow at the Hatch place in September visiting Doherty, and again after sleighing, visiting Diffin.

Mr. Gregory sent all the way to Maine, and brought Frederick Davis in who swore that at Diffin's request he went to Harvey Station to meet Dr. Dow and drove him to Hatch place, 3 miles, to visit Diffin, and after his staying there about 2 hours he drove him back to the station.

Dr. Coleman the St. John oculist swore that the facts stated by Diffin and his witnesses indicated unquestionable "cataract" while he could not tell what the case was from Dow's statement of the symptoms, but that whether cataract or ophthalmia the treatment was improper.

C. H. B. Fisher counsel for Dow. The case was commenced Thursday morning 20th, and continued from day to day till Thursday evening 27th, and now stands adjourned till the first day of March, when to be continued.

FARMER'S PARLIAMENT.

The fifth annual session of the Farmers Association was called to order shortly after 3 o'clock in Chignecto Hall, the 3rd inst. Mr S. L. Peters of Hampstead, Queens, (the President) was in the chair, and seats on the platform were occupied by Messrs Wedderburn and Inches, who was invited thereto by the meeting. The Secretary, Mr Howard Trueman, being called on, read a paper referring to the various topics that would be discussed at the present meeting. He congratulated the country on the increased prosperity visible in nearly all the branches of business, without saying whether or not this prosperity was due to the National Policy or to other causes. Dealing with the question of the cultivation of wheat, Mr Trueman spoke of the importance of having full information on the subject. He pointed out the necessity of raising the best cattle at

minimum cost. As to whether beef or butter and cheese, is the most profitable to the farmer he was of the opinion dairy produce left the most profit. Mr Trueman considered no importance should be attached to the exorbitant statement—as it has been going on for forty years. The people of Canada are not inferior to those of the United States and the progress and development of the country must still continue to go on. As to annexation nobody wants it. He declared it would be a bold man indeed who looking at the great resources of the country, would say that when the 250th birth day of the commercial capital of New Brunswick arrived, Canada would not be as wealthy and as populous as the neighboring republic. Many of these sentiments were loudly applauded.

SPEECH MAKING.

being in order, the President called on Hon Mr Wedderburn, and Mr Inches. These gentlemen made brief speeches. The Provincial Secretary intimated that the Government has the importation of stock for

THE MODEL FARM UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Col Beer, from the committee appointed to bring before the Provincial Government the question of establishing a model farm, reported that they consulted the agricultural societies through out the Province, and had received favorable responses from all heard from except Charlotte. In view of the erection of new parliament buildings and for other reasons it was not considered prudent to press the matter on the Government, but they recommended that the project be again taken up, and it was hoped favorably entertained. A letter from the Provincial Secretary stating that he laid the memorial before the Governor in Council was appended. The report was received. While the Secretary was taking the names of the delegates present, Hon. Mr. Wedderburn reminded the chairman that the representative of the United States at St. John, a gentleman who was interested in agriculture and in the Provincial Exhibition and in the Pet Stock and Poultry Exhibition, and indeed in everything that is of advantage to St. John, was present, and he thought the members would like to hear him.

GEN. WARREN.

being called upon by the President, a bill he had been too highly flattered by the Provincial Secretary. He was utterly unprepared to make a speech. He had been interested in agriculture all his life, and he had come to the meeting simply to obtain information—not alone for himself but for his Government. What interests Canada interests the United States; it was a mistake to think their interests were not identical. (Loud applause.)

The election of officers was then proceeded with, the following were chosen: Howard Trueman, of Point du Chene, President.

O R Arnold, of Sussex, Secretary.

R. E. McLeod, of Studholm, Treasurer.

Vice-Presidents.

Kings—E B Beer, Sussex.

Westmoreland—W F George, Upper Sackville.

Queens—G L Colwell, Cambridge.

Sunbury—W. D. Perley, Manegerville.

York—L Estabrooks, Prince William.

Carleton—E. Stipp, Jacksonville.

Albert—Samuel Calhoun, Hopewell.

Victoria and Madawaska—F. W. Brown, Grand Falls.

Kent—G A Giroud, Beauséjour.

Northumberland—Judge Williston, Newcastle.

Charlotte—John S. Magee, St. Andrews.

Gloucester—John Sievwright, Bathurst.

Restigouche—W Montgomery, Dalhousie.

Executive Committee.

The officers, and two members from each county as follows:

Kings—A L Hayes, Thomas Beach.

Queens—S L Peters, Charles Slipp.

Sunbury—Geo. A Sterling, George W. Hoben.

York—John H Reid, Charles McGibbon.

St. John—Gen. Warner, Thomas Davidson.

Westmoreland—Samuel Sharpe, H. Humphreys.

The Treasurer reported that the receipts for the year, with the balance on hand, were \$2,732; expenditure, \$2,334.

The newly elected officers took their seats and votes of thanks were passed and speeches were made by the old and the new officers.

Mr. L. Estabrooks read a paper on farm management, with particular reference to tilling and the management of the soil.

Hear Mr. Lantulum sing his Bass Solo on Tuesday night.

TRADE OF CHATHAM JANUARY 1881 AND 1880.

Imported. Consumption. Duty.

1880 2117 2317 650.42

1881 1548 3219 819.21

Exports January 1881 to United States, 265,596 lbs. fresh fish.

A Wrestling Reporter.

Mr. F. H. Hueston, the reporter of the St. John News has wrestled with and thrown all the police force, and prize-wrestlers of St. John. On Thursday evening he went over to Portland and there wrestled and threw the entire police force of that town before he came back.

A bundle of our last issue was sent by a gentleman to Newcastle Wednesday evening, but have not since been heard of.

PARISH OFFICERS.

BLISSFIELD.

Assessors of Rates: Samuel Betts, John Mahony, sr., John Moran. Overseers of Poor: Charles Betts, Peter Travis, Matthew Bowes. Commissioners of Highways: James Wallace, David Y. Bamford, Dennis Mahony. Town Clerk: John A. Arbo. Pound Keepers: Edward Connell, James Moran, James Sutherland James Dack, G. B. Mersereau. Bye-Road Commissioners: George Sutherland, Reuben Crocker, Michael Hannan. Collector of Rates: John A. McDermid.

Hog Reeves: John McTear, David A Lyons, Thomas Parker, James Betts, James B Mitchell, James Gilks, Chas. Weaver, Jos. Dunphy. Clerk of the Market: Harry Duff. Constables: William Robinson, Jas T Lyons, Edward Carroll, Robert D Robinson, Michael McGillian, Daniel Aste, John A Mersereau. Timber Drivers: John L Murray, John Wasson. Surveyors of Roads: John Forsythe, Charles Weaver, John Wasson, William Harris, Michael Carroll, Samuel Porter, Geo. Donalds, Bartholomew Hogan, Cornelius Weaver, John McDuff, Michael Murray.

Fence Viewers: Alexander Back J. A. McVoney, Wm. McDermid, Geo. Sutherland, J. Joseph Arbo, T. W. Wasson, David Ward, Nelson Betts. Ferryman: James Betts, Charles Weaver. Surveyors of