

LOCAL MATTERS.

Small Notes.

Seven horse loads of smelt came into town on Monday from Negua. Those belonged to Messrs. Morrison of Newcastle.

Personal.

We regret to say that Senator Muirhead is yet quite unwell, and will from his present appearance, not be able to go to Ottawa.

Baily Burnt.

Mr. Chas. Johnson the young man who attends the steam fog whistle at Miscou was in town New Years day and fell against a hot stove badly burning his eye. If steam whistle engineers stayed home attending to the business for which the Government pays them, they would not meet these accidents.

To Correspondents.

We have received an excellent letter from W. N. W. on the Irish question; but are obliged to hold it over till there is less of a press of matter upon our columns.

We publish a letter from Tabusintac signed "Rose," which is the last letter we will publish upon the subject treated of—whatever the subject may be. It is pretty plain however that the matter in dispute is of a personal nature, and as such it can be neither edifying, or even entertaining to anyone outside the small circle of the parties concerned.

That Judgship.

His Honor Judge Williston is not going to resign so it is now said; though the Judge has not informed anyone why. The truth is the pension list is considered large enough, and so long as Judges or others are able to do their duty in a way approaching what may be called *tolerable*, they will not be added to it. There will therefore be no change made till the other party regains power, and then Mr. Snowball will give the position to a Liberal Q. C!! What wonderful powers truly, Jabez Snowball will possess!—that is Snowball the Deserter.

Purchases.

What was known as the old Kelly homestead lately occupied by J. Harris, Esq., jeweller, has been purchased by Jas. Nichol, Esq. merchant, from Mr. A. E. Killam for \$1,300. It is considered a good bargain—because it cost both Messrs. Kelly and Killam a great deal of hard earned money to put up their buildings!

Dr. Baxter has purchased a 200 acre plot in Napan, near by Cribs farm; on which he intends making large improvements. This money well laid out, and we should like to see others follow Dr. Baxter's example.

The Value of Good Advice

Two and three weeks ago, smelt sold in outmarkets at from 1 to 2 cents per pound, prices ruinous to the shippers. Since then, as before that time, we have time and again urged shippers to hold over their fish till the markets rose. We are glad to say a good many of them did so, and with the following results: On Monday last a fisherman refused 2-3 cents for his fish at the station and in Boston they bring 5 cents per lb! It takes some people a long while to see these facts; but now that they are plain we are sure there will be no more hurried shipments, but that shippers will bide their time, keep cool, hold over their surplus from one week to the other, remembering that one ton is better at 5 cents per lb. than 5 tons at one cent per lb. The wisdom of the new regulation is seen through the above facts.

Ships Built on the Miramichi since 1828,

From the year 1828, when the port was established as a port of Registry under the name of Miramichi, up to the present, 1007 new vessels, of 315,094 tons have been registered here. Some years ago each season from 25 to 30 large vessels were sent to the English markets for sale—many of these vessels were over 1,000 tons. The first vessel of over 1,000 tons registered here was the Atlantic of 1042 tons, built by the Messrs. Jardine in 1846. From at least the year 1828, when the Brig. Amanda of 156 tons was launched from the yard of Messrs. Jardine every year up to the present, one or more vessels have been launched from their yard. A few of the larger vessels built by them were the Fitz-James 1307, Culoden 1370, Lochmaben Castle 1360, Solima 1244, Kent County has done a large share of the shipbuilding of the North, and besides those mentioned we may name the Kingston 1222, McLeod 1365, Chinches 1897, and Giant Causeway 1231, all built in Kent County. On the Miramichi not to go back to "Cunard-time" when there was a great shipbuilding "boom" here, we will mention a few of the larger vessels built during recent years. From the list of vessels built by Hon. Mr. Muirhead we may mention the following:

Aloe 1023 Pegasus 1182, Great Northern 1190, Coriolanus 1224, Tiz 1505, Royal Arch, 1623, Haws and Mitchell built the Golden Light 1182, and the Allendale 1217. John Haws the Sandhingham 1166. Hon. P. Mitchell the Edward Cardewell 1322 and New Zealand 1369. J. C. Gough built the Mistress of the Seas 1240, Knight Snowden 1510 and Caractacus 1512, Hon. R. Hutchison the Lenore 1280, and John Harley the Choctaw 1154. The Bonaventure 1217 was built by Geo. Moffat, Restigouche, and the Patriarch 1215 by John Meehan, Bathurst.

STAR BRIEFS.

—Tomorrow is Old Christmas day.

—Rev. Father D'Onette moved into his new residence, St. Margaret's, Christmas Eve.

—The collection taken up in St Margaret's church on Christmas morning amounted to \$25.

—A meeting of the ratepayers of the different School districts will take place on the 13th inst.

—A son of Mr. Zennie Datcher of Bay du Vin had his foot badly cut a few days ago in a wood.

—Councillor Goggin is enlarging his premises for the spring hum of the N. P. Free trade is no more!

—The interior finishings of R. C. Chapel at Black Brook, which were contracted for last August by Mr. George Cassidy, are nearly completed.

—Mr. Timothy Casey of Morefield, who came to this country 50 years ago from Cork, Ireland, died at his residence, Saturday last. Deceased was in his 82nd year and was universally respected.

—Mr. Johnson, lawyer, was the lucky holder of ticket No. 150 which drew the \$10 cash prize at Colpitt's lottery the 29th ult. The lottery is perhaps the least objectionable of any of the forms of gambling.

Lumbering Notes.

Mr. Chas. Rainsborough, of St. Margaret's has 4 teams and 24 men employed on Bay du Vin and will get out nearly 2,000,000 for Snowball this winter.

Mr. Jubal Wattleton has 6 teams and 30 men employed in Black River and will get out about 2,000,000 for Senator Muirhead.

Mr. William Murray has 84 men and 12 teams employed in Tracadie this winter and is interested in getting out of nearly 10,000,000 feet of logs.

Bass on the Nor' West.

Bass fishing still continues good on the North West, the results of the protective system. It is now quite a common thing for persons working near the fishing grounds to spend two hours at night there when the tide suits to make \$10 to \$50 each in that time. In New York the price for underdrized bass is from 8 to 10 cents, for the merchantable 16 to 18 cents. What a mine of wealth for the county!

Some Indians in Eel ground, Northwest, took between 30 and 100 lb. of bass each for 2 or 3 nights last week. The price for these fish, in the local markets is at present 11 cents per lb.

A Week of Prayer.

This week was and is a week of prayer in the Protestant churches and as follows:

Monday at St. John's Church, Tuesday at Reformed Episcopal Church, Wednesday at St. Andrews Church, Thursday at Wesleyan Church, Friday at St. John's Church.

An Evangelist, a Mr. Parnell officiates during the evening in each church.

An Outrage.

What is wrong about the Chatham Branch that the shippers can't get their fish away? Prices are up abroad, and soft weather may soon come and spoil these fish so shamefully detained.

Newcastle Local News.

You are neglecting us here, or rather your correspondent is. I suppose you see a copy of the *Advocate*, [No.—we have not received a copy of the *Advocate* except a borrowed number for four weeks. Ed.] and you have doubtless saw Major Call's *Telegraph* letter in it. The Major is more patient than I should judge he is, if he allow the writer to use his name as a *nom de plume*. I know it is usual to write under a *nom de plume*, but it is not usual to sign the name of a gentleman alive and well known as a *nom de plume*. For example now you might with propriety sign a letter Don Quixote but the venerable knight is dead, and would not be held responsible; but for anyone to write a letter and send it to the *Telegraph* and deliberately sign Mr. R. R. Call's name to it, a gentleman who did not write a sentence of it, is a little too cheeky: and it shows Major Call's good sense that he has not had it resented.

Mr. Mappin died at the Waverley Hotel Saturday, after a long illness. He had not been a year married. Our sympathies are extended to his young widow.

Christmas sale was held here by one of our worthy church ladies and the proceeds from the same reached I have heard \$184.

I understand bass has slackened a little at present on the North West.

Mr. McDade of the *News* has been here for two or three days. Monday went around and visited the schools, in each of which he encouraged the pupils, praised the school, and complimented the lady in charge of it. He told the children they ought to feel that all these good ladies were doing as much for them—the pupils—as for the ladies themselves, and spoke in eloquent language of the great sacrifice the ladies were making in the cause of Education. He went down to Chatham Tuesday. [Yes; Mr. McDade called upon the Editor, and informed him, that there was a mistake in a paragraph printed in last issue; that he was not married, in fact that he had no very serious inclination that way, and was up now "merely having a look round, to that end." He stated however that "before the fall," he "shouldn't wonder" but he might be furnishing a paragraph. Ed.]

Newcastle, Jan. 4th.

To Hon. J. C. Pope Minister of Marine & Fisheries.

Late this autumn a certain ship called the Nonantum left the Miramichi with a load of deals, bound for a port beyond the Atlantic. As she sailed down the river many a one stopped to look at her, and speculated upon her fitness for the voyage before her. She did not sit the water like other ships, but was much inclined to one side, which in seamen's language is called a list; and because of this condition was said by many, who perhaps didn't know what they were talking about, to be not fit for sea. When she reached the river's mouth, the wide sea before her, the sailors began to tremble and said, "Captain we refuse to go to sea. And if you want our reasons they are that the ship is unseaworthy. We are afraid to put out in her." Immediately the information was communicated to persons representing the owners of the ship cargo, who after consultation, decided upon a survey. There lives in Chatham three portwardens, and these were called upon and asked to go down and see the ship. At the bidding, these went on board a tug, and down to the ship which they found at the river's mouth. It was a dark night, but nevertheless the wardens proceeded to carry out the intention of their mission. Some of them at least, climbed upon the ship, and found her so badly listed, that they could not stand on the deck without holding on to something. They saw the sailors there, quiet and sullen, standing with folded arms. They asked them if they refused to go to sea, and they said they did; and for reasons they gave the same as they had before offered to the Captain. Then the port wardens ordered the men to run down top masts, and top sails, to take down and hoist their boats, to throw off their deckload—and proceed to sea. Then the storm began to whistle through the ship's rigging, the night became more dark and sultry still, and the wardens wrapping their heavy coats about them, darted into the warm cabin of the tug, and the boat put away up river. Their haste was accelerated by Mr. Call the owner of the tug, who shouted to them to "hurry up," and "come away."

Next morning came, and the poor ship Nonantum was nowhere seen upon the coast. She put out to sea that very night and men forgot to talk about her.

A week passed over, a fortnight went, when the tidings of a shocking marine disaster filled the public ear. Despatches came from Newfoundland that a ship had been tossed upon the cruel friendless coast of Georges Bay, that such of her unlucky crew as had not been drowned after undergoing the most terrible agony from hunger and cold, perished upon the friendless unsheltered land. The ship's name was Nonantum. Then the paragraphs that had been published about the ship that "went down the river so crooked in the water" were hunted up, and re-read with searching interest. Men who have some little interest in sailor's lives and who know the laws respecting ships declared unfit for sea, at once enquired if a *lawful survey*, or *any survey at all* had been held upon the ship, and if the sailors had not been deluded into believing that a legal survey had been held, that the law would give them no more, and therefore accepted only a course open to them to go to sea—unless indeed they preferred going to prison. Some boldly said the survey was only a mockery a *make believe* to get the sailors off; and because of these statements, the portwardens are said to feel themselves much belied and the agent of a lumber firm here feels himself aggrieved, and some or all of them threaten to look for justification in a court of law. We deem it then to be the duty of the Marine and Fisheries Department and the public are of the same mind, to *at once order an investigation into this affair, enquiring if the survey was lawful or unlawful, that is if it was a mockery or a reality*. Honorable men should not lie under the horrible suspicion of unlawfully sending an unseaworthy ship to sea, so long as there remains upon the face of the earth any way by which they may establish their innocence. It is considered here, and indeed through the Province generally to be Hon. Mr. Pope duty, to promptly order the investigation.

Epizootic Ravages.

Mr. Thos. Flanagan lost a fine horse on Monday by the epizootic. On Sunday Mr. Matthew King of Douglaston, lost another fine animal also with the distemper.

Mr. John Flett of Nelson, lost a fine horse a few days ago by the epizootic. The fourth for him within a short time.

Ottawa News.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEBATE BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS.—BITTER PILLS FOR THE GRITS.

Sir,—

You must excuse me for my long silence; but I supposed you had Christmas and New Years cheer enough for your columns without my letters. I may tell you that the city by no means lacks political gossip, though the house has broken up. Mr. Blake like Don Quixote of old is tilting against windmills, and charges flocks of sheep and other imaginary foes. In some parts of our Province the people refused to hear him; in some parts they fell asleep listening to him—in a place or two they said, "Let us give him three cheers. The contract wears well, the more it is examined into the better it appears. It is 30 per cent, a better contract than Mackenzie tried and failed to make—and this is the reason Mackenzie is so quiet about it. Have you heard your neighborhood with that fatherless manifesto?

Persons who are very susceptible to sudden changes of weather, will do well to keep a supply of Gray's Syrup of red spruce Gum in the house. This syrup is a sentient preparation of the gum which exudes from the Red Spruce Tree, and holds a large quantity of the gum in perfect solution, never separating. Its remarkable power in relieving certain forms of Bronchitis, and curing obstinate hacking coughs, is now well known to the public at large. No remedy can equal it as a safe and thoroughly reliable Cough Medicine. Sold by all chemists. Price 25 and 50 cents per bottle.

ELECTRIC SPARKS.

At latest the Indians were within 20 miles of the capital of Peru.

There will be a large emigration to Canada from Ireland next summer.

A rifle brigade was heartily stoned passing through Tunis.

Ireland is bristling now with bayonets.

The military patrol the towns and villages every night to suppress the drilling which is said to be going on.

It is now felt in Ireland that the Government will be unable procure a conviction of the Land Leaguers. Irish juries will not find guilty.

It is said that the Irish Land Bill to be introduced by the Government will not include even the minimum requests of the Land League party. It will probably be laughed at and powerless to quell the disturbance.

Parnell openly states he will be in London tomorrow to attend the opening of Parliament though he will be needed to attend his trial. He says he will plead the Queen's writ.

At Drogheda on Saturday ten thousand Land Leaguers met; and after Healy and Davitt had spoken two magistrates read the Riot Act. The meeting dispersed peacefully. At Killalla the same day 3,000 met; and there was also a monster meeting at Bally Castle. [Hear! Hear!]

MR. LAURIER

followed in a loud sounding denunciation of the contract without making a single point against it. The first thing he said was, it was the monstrous monopoly that would make the company landlord of the Northwest. Feudalism was not the only mode by which people could be enslaved, and the many made the servants of the few. Already, in the Northwest, rail road magnates were extorting rates of freight that virtually amounted to proprietary right in the lands. He denounced the hideous monopoly and said by the Hudson Bay reserves, the Indian reserves, the school lands, the barrens and the swamps were left out, there would be little left after the 25,000,000 acres granted away. He forgot just there that in '76 his own party offered 55,000,000 acres!!

MR. CIMON

followed in a fine speech showing the good results that would flow from the building of the road, and the development of the lands.

MR. ANGLIN

the Gloucester member followed Mr. Cimon. He denounced the bargain as the worst yet; said there was too much paid for it, that it was monstrous to grant away so much land. But it is not so long as was proved by the records since Mr. Anglin who opposes everything and proposes nothing, said the North West was a barren wilderness, that its lands were not worth opening up. This was read in his teeth from *Hansard*; but now he asserts it is another Canaan—a land of unbounded worth and fertility. He spoke for four or five hours, though he is reported nowhere except in *Hansard*. He was very tiresome, and before he ended there were few in the House. The debate was then adjourned.

MR. CIMAON

followed in a fine speech showing the good results that would flow from the building of the road, and the development of the lands.

MR. ANGLIN

the Gloucester member followed Mr. Cimaon. He denounced the bargain as the worst yet; said there was too much paid for it, that it was monstrous to grant away so much land. But it is not so long as was proved by the records since Mr. Anglin who opposes everything and proposes nothing, said the North West was a barren wilderness, that its lands were not worth opening up. This was read in his teeth from *Hansard*; but now he asserts it is another Canaan—a land of unbounded worth and fertility. He spoke for four or five hours, though he is reported nowhere except in *Hansard*. He was very tiresome, and before he ended there were few in the House. The debate was then adjourned.

MR. CIMAON

followed in a fine speech showing the good results that would flow from the building of the road, and the development of the lands.

MR. ANGLIN

the Gloucester member followed Mr. Cimaon. He denounced the bargain as the worst yet; said there was too much paid for it, that it was monstrous to grant away so much land. But it is not so long as was proved by the records since Mr. Anglin who opposes everything and proposes nothing, said the North West was a barren wilderness, that its lands were not worth opening up. This was read in his teeth from *Hansard*; but now he asserts it is another Canaan—a land of unbounded worth and fertility. He spoke for four or five hours, though he is reported nowhere except in *Hansard*. He was very tiresome, and before he ended there were few in the House. The debate was then adjourned.