

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## Bristol.

JUNE 11.—Mr. Baird, who has the contract for building the new bridge over the Shiktehawk stream near Lockhart's mill, arrived with a crew of men on Thursday, and has commenced the work. The span of the main road bridge which fell last week has been repaired. Several rafts of cedar for the new bridge have been brought down river, and the logs are being hauled up the stream to the place where the bridge is to be built.

Mr. John B. Morgan general agent for the Great West Assurance Co. was in town last week in the interest of his company.

Uncle Tom's Cabin Company showed here on Wednesday evening and at Florenceville on Thursday and was well patronized.

Mr. Jas. Carr's youngest son, Birtle, died on Wednesday after a lingering illness. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Cahill of Centreville.

The regular quarterly meeting of this large and important Temperance Society was held in the F. C. B. church at Beechwood on Tuesday, June 5th. Rev. Thos. Marshall, Grand Sec'y of the Order, presided during the sessions, which were well attended and interesting.

Jas. Watts, P. G. C. T. was also present and did much to add to the interest of the meetings.

Forty six candidates were initiated into the District degree. These represented the various lodges in the County, District Chief Templar James Good being absent no report was received from that officer. Reports were received from D. Sec'y Farley and Treas. Connolly showing the condition and financial standing of the order in the county. Nine lodges were represented and encouraging reports were received from them. Others though unrepresented were known to be in working order. A good deal of important business was transacted during the afternoon. John Farley, Bradford Smith, Rev. T. Marshall and Mrs. Bradford Smith were elected delegates to attend the Grand Lodge at Hillsboro in July next. The next session of this District will be held with Baskin Lodge at Summerfield in September.

In the evening a public Temperance meeting was held, the District Secretary Mr. J. Farley presiding. Addresses were given by the chairman, Mr. C. J. Connolly, Rev. M. P. Orser, Rev. G. M. Young and Mr. D. W. Kyle. Good music was provided by the choir of Prince Albert Lodge and Miss McNally presided at the Organ.

## News in General.

On Friday last a rigging shed owned by Wm. Quinn on Water street, St. John, was badly damaged by fire. Estimated loss \$3000. Insurance in the North British \$800.

It is announced that next month Dalton McCarthy, M. P., will, in response to pressing invitations, address mass meetings in several of the cities and large towns in the Maritime Provinces.

A fire was discovered in a two story warehouse attached to the Waverly hotel in Fredericton on Thursday evening last, and before it was put out, the warehouse was destroyed, and a warehouse of Lamont & Sons was also badly damaged.

Bert McKay, a young man about twenty three years of age, son of Alex. McKay, of Harcourt, Kent county, accidentally cut his finger Monday morning and in some unaccountable manner got poison, supposed to be Paris green, in the cut. He suddenly took sick and died in great agony about one and a half hours later.

Word received from British Columbia on Saturday was to the effect that the Fraser river is still rising at Westminster. During the twenty-four hours ending Thursday morning the flood had gained an inch and the worst undoubtedly has been experienced. Reports from up river points state that the river is steadily receding. At Litton the river fell twenty-seven inches Wednesday. News has been received of a great landslide in the vicinity of Ashcroft on Saturday, when a tract of one hundred acres was carried into the river. A cloudburst is said to have been the immediate cause of the disaster. All the passengers who left for the East on Sunday returned to the city on Wednesday, having found it impossible to get through the mountains. There are breaks of a serious nature along the lines and the tracks cannot probably be opened for a week. Men who returned Wednesday night from upper river points bring sad stories of death and devastation. Settlers were seen at every station floating on huge rafts made of farm buildings on which they have families and cattle. Government steamers are rescuing them as rapidly as possible. A correspondent who returned on Thursday morning from a trip to Port Haney on the rescue steamer reports a terrible state of affairs on the upper part of the river. Herds of half-starved cattle tied on rafts with no one to guide the craft were also seen. Two houses tied to swaying rafts were seen. The families were at the doors with excited faces and apparently safe.

## The Champion Talks.

Interviewed by a London reporter about his fight with Jackson, Corbett, said: "If Jackson withdraws his \$10,000, at present deposited with the stakeholders, I will completely ignore him thereafter. I shall accept the offer of the Jacksonville Club in preference to the one made by the National Sporting Club. There is a decided difference in favor of Jacksonville in the amount of the purse, and I know that a finish fight can be decided in Jacksonville, as the law has been tested there. I know also that a contest lasting longer than twenty rounds would not be allowed in London.

"Jackson," continued Corbett, "is anxious to avoid a meeting to a finish, and wants to withdraw the money in the hands of the stakeholders and gracefully retire from the ring. If he is so anxious to fight me let him leave the side bet with the present stakeholder until I return to America. He will have no trouble in arranging a contest at Jacksonville, where we can have a go to a finish and receive a big purse in the bargain.

I have cabled Mr. Davis, the stakeholder, to hold my \$10,000 until the details of the foregoing are arranged. This is positively my ultimatum."

Visit Hugh Hay's, Woodstock, if you want to buy a Trunk or Travelling Bag. The best assortment to select from and cheapest prices in the country.

The Catholic Directory for 1894, which has just been issued, gives the statistics of the Catholic Church in the United States. Every diocese furnishes its own figures. The Catholic population in many of the dioceses is approximated, and in the absence of exact figures the compilers of the directory are unable to say just how many Catholics there are in the United States. The directory gives the number as 8,902,933, but Catholic authorities claimed last year that there are at least 12,000,000.

## CONTEMPT OF COURT.

## Case of Mr. J. V. Ellis of the St. John Globe, Discussion at Ottawa.

The Ellis case was discussed at some length in Parliament last week, and below are extracts from the remarks on the subject made by the principal debaters.

Mr. Mills (Bothwell) resumed the debate on Mr. Davies' amendment to supply, condemning the imprisonment of John V. Ellis for contempt by the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. He contended that the liberty of the subject was at stake in this matter. Ellis had been imprisoned because he endeavored to uphold right principles and the honest administration of the law. He held that judges ought to have only the same protection accorded to other citizens. In many States of the neighbouring republic the power of the courts to punish for constructive contempt had been taken away and no great harm had resulted. He considered that the rights of Parliament had been invaded, and that there had been a contempt of the rights of the House. The House might with more propriety, have summoned Judge Tuck to the bar of the House than was Mr. Ellis summoned to the bar of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. If the House had exercised forbearance in not calling these judges before the bar, as was done in similar cases in Great Britain, these distinguished luminaries ought to have exercised some forbearance to a journalist who, in the duties he had to discharge, was within his rights in commenting on the election. This being so, he could not help but feel that the judgment of the court was hard, and the punishment unduly severe, and that there was a wide departure from the practice of both the English and Ontario courts in undertaking to consider contempt as affecting the court itself, and on the part of the application of a private individual. For all these reasons, in his opinion, the course taken by the court was one which was calculated to weaken the authority of the court much more than anything said by Mr. Ellis on that occasion. (Applause.)

Sir John Thompson during his speech said every suitor in the country had a right to a hearing of his case before a judge who had not been coerced. That view was not held by Ellis. He thought he had the right to influence the decision by attacking the judge and did so. The remarks he applied to the court were utterly infamous if false, and rendered the judge infamous if they were true.

He accused the judge of dishonesty and corruption, and yet when forced to admit that the charge was unfounded would not offer one word of apology. In his defence Ellis alleged that he had stolen the character of the judge by mistake, and that he thought the whole thing was over. Moreover Ellis set up that other newspapers had committed the same offence, and quoted from them, as well as from that well of English defiled the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright.) (Laughter.) If the cause had gone to a jury it could not have done otherwise than brought in a verdict of guilty. He held that the remedy for contempt was within the discretion of the judges, and that the course of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick was the proper one. As to the sentence imposed he contended that it was a light and temperate one. Regarding the argument that had been made on constructive contempt he contended that it was supported by the authorities. He did not claim for the judges that they must be exempt from criticism, but to slander them in relation to judicial proceeding pending was altogether different. The press might declare from day to day that a judicial decision rendered was wrong, but it could not attack the character of the litigant before the courts of law or it could not attribute corruption untruthfully to the judges. As to the soundness of the judgment given in any court, Parliament had no right to interfere.

He contended that the course proposed by the resolution was unsound, undignified, and a departure from constitutional procedure. It proposed, in effect, that a suitor who was dissatisfied with the decision of a court could have recourse to Parliament. If ever the Liberals obtained a majority in this House, there would be a new order of things. A member would only have to make an assertion from his place that a judgment is wrong in order to have it reversed. When that time arrived, not only would the judiciary be degraded, but Parliament would have lost all true appreciation of the bonds that should be set upon its jurisdiction. (Applause.)

Mr. Laurier said Ellis' standing and reputation had not been injured by the charge of being an annexationist, made by the member for Queen's N. B. (Mr. Baird). He would find allies among members on the Government side of the House. There was a great difference between contempt of court and constructive contempt of court. (Hear, hear.) It was certainly the duty of the court to punish for the former offence, but he held that summary punishment should not be meted out for the latter offence. (Hear, hear.) It might be law, but if it was law it should be remedied. If the honour of the court was to be sustained, then power must be given to criticize that action and properly censure a prevaricating or lax judge. How dare the Prime Minister say that it was outside the bounds of the House to criticize the action of any institution in the land? Quoting from Todd, he said that Parliament had not only the right to criticize the action of the court, but of a particular judge, and were empowered to inquire into and investigate the conduct of judges. (Applause.) This was exactly what the resolution sought to do. The resolution asked that parliament consider the sentence imposed on Ellis, which he considered was too heavy. (Applause.) Experience had shown that the publicity of the press was the best guarantee of good faith and the conscientious discharge of the duties between those holding public trusts and the community at large. (Hear, hear.) It was admitted in the decision handed in in the case under discussion that the opinions of judges were a fair subject for discussion. Why not his actions also? There could be no good reason advanced for one and not for the other. Again, there were cases in which the action of a judge might not be sufficiently outrageous to demand his impeachment. The Prime Minister had attempted to whitewash Mr. Dunn. He (Mr. Laurier) considered the sentence imposed on Ellis to have

been simply outrageous in its severity. The object of such a punishment was to gag the press—(applause)—and make it impossible for any man to review the conduct of the judges. Judge Palmer was a man who thought to intimidate parliament. But there were men in parliament who dared say a word, and when the conduct of Judge Palmer, who was now the recipient of a pension from the government, was brought before the house, there were men who said it was a shame that Judge Palmer should have been at all reflected upon. (Hear, hear.) What ever was the result of the motion, he was sure such another sentence as that passed on Ellis would never again be perpetrated in this country. (Applause.)

Mr. McCarthy thought the hon. gentleman had lost sight of the issue. It was not to determine a general controversy, but to censure the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. He thought it was a mistake to have introduced Dunn's name into the resolution. What had Dunn to do with the matter? He agreed with his hon. friend (Mr. Laurier) that the House was to condemn the prevarication of judges. It should be remembered that the writ issued by Judge Tuck was not a writ absolute, but a writ that cause should be shown. He did not suppose that anyone would contend in this law-abiding country that there should not be some relief for persons subjected to attacks such as those made on Judge Tuck. The resolution was condemnatory of the judges. It was not denied that Judge Tuck was slandered, libelled, and defamed. It also lay within the statute that the court should take action in such cases by a process laid down.

Mr. Davies—Was there no other pertinent remedy?

Mr. McCarthy—I think there was no other pertinent remedy.

Mr. Mills (Bothwell)—Oh yes, there is an Irish cause. (Laughter.)

Mr. McCarthy, continuing said that it was the majesty of the law that was to be respected and this was represented by the judges sitting in the court. What had the people to appeal to in a country respecting their rights as citizens as well as constitutional points but the courts of the land? This being the case was not the dignity of the law to be reserved and guarded? He did not agree altogether that Parliament was to have a certain freedom of speech with reference to the conduct of judges as well as in every other matter. (Hear, hear.) The House was not to determine whether a judgment was right or wrong. This was not the tribunal to determine whether the judges had or had not exceeded their jurisdiction. It was not wise or prudent in his opinion for the House to attempt to review what it had not the power to rectify. Under these circumstances, he thought the House would be going very far indeed in passing this resolution. It would have been better he thought if the sentence imposed had not been so severe.

Mr. Davies' amendment to the motion to go into supply was then put, and lost on a vote of 110 to 66.

Sir John Thompson asked that the motion be not put.

The motion was not put.

## Lord Mount-Stephen on Canada.

Lord Mount-Stephen is in Montreal. The following is a portion of an interview with a Star reporter.

"What is your opinion of a fast Canadian steamship line?"

"It would be of undoubted benefit to the Dominion. In fact, its advantages would be immense. There has been no attempt to float the Huddart Company in London as yet. It would be a great thing for Canada, but the difficulty is to find the money. Steamships of late have not been a paying investment."

"Will you attend the Intercolonial Conference?"

"I am not certain, but I do not think so. Lord Jersey is coming across as the Imperial representative. I do not know precisely what matters they propose to consider, but I suppose the main subject will be a fast Canadian steamship line and the cable to Australia."

"How are Canadian investments in London?"

"Some of them are very promising. But Canadian Government securities stand higher than the securities of any other British colony."

"Have you studied the Pacific cable matter?"

"I do not know anything about it. It would be a very nice thing for Canada, of course, and only cost about ten million dollars. Sandford Fleming has often spoken to me about it. Whether it would be a paying investment is another question."

"What is your Lordship's opinion touching the prevailing depression in trade?"

"I believe that it will last for some time longer. You here in Canada are suffering from the same cause which affect ourselves in England, that is agricultural depression. At present Canada has great competition in the grain market of the world. When the price of grain goes up then will the depression disappear also."

"What is the feeling in England touching annexation? Would the Mother Country actively interfere to prevent it?"

"No. Canada's future depends on the will of the Canadian people alone. Canadians must cut out their own course, but they would be very foolish if it led to annexation."

"Is Imperial Federation a live issue yet?"

"Not that I am aware of. I thought it was dead long ago."

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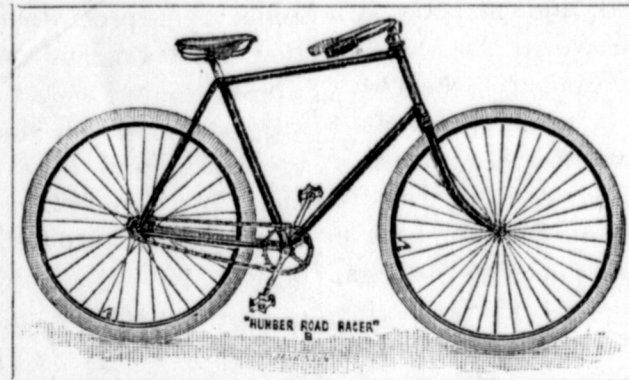
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