Local and General News.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY was gleefully dancing when we went to press last night.

AMERICAN PAPERS and Periodicals of last week have been received at the Miramichi Bookstore.

DR. J. H. ARNOLD, may now be consulted at his office, over Mr. Street's Drug Store, Newcastle.—*Advt.*

MR. W. S. MCKNIGHT'S LOTTERY, which was arranged to be drawn at Kouchibouguac on 15th inst., is postponed until Thursday Feby. 1st.

PERSONAL.—Messrs. J. B. Snowball and Allan Ritchie left Miramich for England *via* New York on Friday.

Hon. Mr. Muirhead has arrived in England.

THE GAS furnished to the town is pretty poor stuff just now. The price keeps up, however. The pipes appear to be laid about as deep as paupers' graves and are choked by frost on the slightest provocation.

POSTAL.—A Belledune correspondent informs us that a petition signed by every ratepayer in that district was sent to Hon. Mr. McMillan, P. O. Inspector, sometime ago to have the mails for Belledune River landed at Belledune Station.

DANCING.—Prof. Colby's dancing classes for ladies and gentlemen opened on Monday in Masonic Hall, under very favorable auspices. It will assemble again to-morrow night, when those who are not now members and who desire to learn dancing will have an opportunity to make a beginning.

"WINGS ON HIM."—While at Moncton the other day, Milner of the *Post* remained on the Railway platform in one position for about half an hour when, finding that the furthest end of his ear on the north side of his head had got touched with the frost, he wrote and published in his paper the statement that the thermometer stood at 40° below zero at Campbellton.

A RUNAWAY HORSE, which was speeding along the road near the Northwest Bridge on Saturday last, came near upsetting Councillor Somers and Constable Sullivan, who captured it a few minutes after and tied it up. The sleigh was quite demolished and it turned out after that two young ladies and a young gentlemen who had attempted the luxury of a sleigh-ride had been unceremoniously disappointed.

TOO FAST.—The Board of Education has ordered Messrs. Burns & Meehan of Bathurst, who were dismissed from the office of School Trustees by the Inspector for the County of Gloucester, to be reinstated. Messrs. Burns, Meehan and John Seivewright are the Bathurst Trustees for the present year. A telegram to the *Telegraph* says the Inspector, in dismissing the two Trustees, acted "prematurely." We presume that means, injudiciously, or unjustly.

AN OLD INHABITANT GONE.—Our obituary column contains a record of the death of Mrs. J. M. Johnston, senr. at the age of 87. The deceased lady belonged to one of the oldest families on the Miramichi River and up to within a few days of her death would talk energetically and with accuracy of events at the time of and antecedent to the great fire of 1825. She was blind for the last twenty years of her life but retained her other faculties with wonderful tenacity and perfection. The funeral which took place yesterday from the residence of S. Habberley, Esq., was very largely attended.

EMMANUEL CHURCH.—The Reformed Episcopal Church Congregation occupied their new place of worship in Chatham for the first time on Sunday last. The Rector, Rev. Thompson L. Smith, delivered a very eloquent and appropriate sermon from Haggai 2nd. 29th Verse—"And in this place will I give peace saith the Lord of Hosts." A description of the building appeared in the ADVANCE a few weeks ago and the congregation have every reason to feel gratified in the possession of so comfortable a place of worship.

The collection at the morning service on Sunday amounted to $14.41 and that at the afternoon service to $28.50, or a total for the day of $42.91.

Our Councillors and Incorporation.

Since the public meetings on the question of incorporating the town of Chatham were commenced Councillor Fotheringham has maintained an attitude of "masterly inactivity" in the matter, while Councillor Lawlor has opposed the scheme to the best of his ability. Councillor Fotheringham has now, however, publicly expressed his conviction that it will be a long time before Chatham is incorporated. Has the Golden Ball corner became the seat of the Delphic Oracle? We shall see.

Southwest Boom Co., Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting of the South West Boom Company held at Witherall's Hotel, Newcastle, on Thursday last, the following gentlemen were appointed directors for the present year:—

Richard P. B. Joyce, Ernest Hutchison, Daniel McLaughlin, William Richards, Scott Fairley, Robert R. Call, John Sadler, Alexander Morrison, Allen Ritchie.

The Board met immediately afterwards, when Alex. Morrison, Esq., was reappointed President for the year.

A Committee was appointed consisting of R. R. Call, Dan'l McLaughlin, William Richards, Robt. Swim, and Robt. Ritchie, Esqrs., to take into consideration the present state of the Board, and what number of blocks will be required to be erected during the present season. They are also to ascertain the places where the blocks are most required to make the boom perfectly safe, the expenses which such improvements will involve, and to report on the same at an adjourned meeting to be held at the Secretary's office, on February 1st, at 2.30 p. m.

The Week of Prayer

The services in connection with the week of prayer were brought to a close in Chatham on last Sunday afternoon by a mass meeting held in the Emmanuel Reformed Episcopal Church. The meetings held on the previous evening were all very interesting and the attendance large. The meeting held in the Temperance Hall last Wednesday evening was even more largely attended than that of the preceding evening. Good addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Morton of Stellarton and Crisp, of Chatham.

On Thursday evening the Wesleyan Church was crowded to its utmost capacity; stirring addressed were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Morton, Wilson and Smith, on "Prayer for Nation Rulers, Magistrates, for benevolent Institutions, for a pure literature, and the spread of sound Education among the people and for the maintenance of peace.

On Friday evening the services was held in St. Andrew's Church. The spacious building was completely filled. Excellent addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Crisp and Smith, on Home and Foreign Missions, and Sunday School. Though the addresses were somewhat lengthy yet the large audience manifested no impatience.

On Saturday evening the services was held in St. John's Church and again the interest was unabated. Every seat was filled and the attention paid to the addresses of Rev. Messrs. Wilson and Crisp on Sabbath observance and Temperance was marked and deep.

The concluding service, as we have stated, was held on Sunday afternoon in the new Reformed Episcopal Church. All the space available was filled with an attentive audience. Rev. Messrs. Wilson and Crisp gave the closing address on One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God, One Father of all. The deep interest in these services manifested by the people seemed to inspire the ministers with increasing earnestness and power in speaking. At the close of one of the addresses at the last service one of the speakers asked in view of the services of the past week "what shall the harvest be?" in a tone of such pleading earnestness as seemed to touch all hearts. We trust the harvest will be great and abundant and the fruit be seen in all the Churches.

Special Despatches to the "Miramichi Advance."

LONDON, January 17.

The Marquis of Salisbury, at a private audience with the Sultan on Sunday, is understood to have strongly insisted upon his acceptance of the modified proposals.

The Sultan, while maintaining his previous objections on the ground that the Turkish Constitution did not allow him to hold to the demands of the Powers, did not give a decisive reply.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.

James G. Blaine has been elected United States Senator until 1883 by Maine Legislature.

ST. JOHN, Jan. 17.

The trains all delayed by the storm.

At Sussex, yesterday, in a drunken row in McLean's bar-room, Mike Tierney was kicked to death by Joseph Quigley, who tried to escape, but was arrested by Sheriff Freeze and, with two accomplices, Neil Taylor and Wm. Speers, lodged in jail. The Coroner's Jury, in their verdict, fixed the murder on Quigley. Tierney leaves a wife and several children. Quigley is about 24 years old and unmarried.

A Pitiable Case.

Councillor Sullivan of Hardwicke informs us that on Tuesday of last week a man poorly clad, nearly middle aged and not of very brilliant intellect made his appearance in that parish. His story was that he was on his way to the Poor House and that he came from Nova Scotia. He was allowed to remain at Mr. James Nash's all night and after breakfast next morning he left there. He next visited Mr. Phillips' at Escuminac Lighthouse and after getting something to eat left for the settlement, being conveyed apart of the way by a team going for wood. When the team turned off the main road he was directed which way to go. On Thursday, however, he again presented himself at the lighthouse in a most pitiable condition with feet, hands and ears frozen very badly. He had taken the wrong direction, going by way of the marshes between Escuminac and Point Sapin in Kent County, instead of by the shore road as directed. Having heard the sound of axes towards Point Sapin he went in that direction, but when they ceased on Wednesday evening he had nothing to guide him and he wandered about in the reeds and low vegetation of the marshes all night suffering terribly in his half clad condition from the severe cold of that night and, providentially, was able to retrace his steps next morning. He was cared for at the Lighthouse and the Poor Commissioner notified with a view of having the poor fellow sent to the Hotel Dieu, Chatham.

Annual School Meetings.

The Regular Annual School Meetings were held on Thursday of last week.

The meeting in Derby, district No. 1, was a very harmonious one. Rev. Mr. Cruden was the retiring Trustee and John Betts, Esq., (Councillor) was elected in his place. C. Parker, Esq., was elected Auditor.

On motion of Mr. Thos. Bulger seconded by Mr. Jas. Murray, an assessment of $400 was ordered on the District for the current year.

At the Meeting in No. 1 District, Chatham, the Chair was occupied by Mr. W. G. Creighton, Mr. W. B. Howard acting as Secretary. Caleb McCulley, Esq., was retiring Trustee and he and Jas. T. Griffin Esq., were nominated for the vacant Trusteeship. Mr. Griffin, however, declined the nomination and Mr. McCulley was unanimously elected. Mr. Howard was re-elected Auditor. The Trustees' report, which was adopted, showed that $123.47 of last year's assessment of $900 was still uncollected. The Trustees' estimate placed the amount required to be assessed for the current year at $1.330. Mr. Thos. Crimmin directed attention to the fact that a large number of children in the District were not receiving the benefits of the moneys assessed and Mr. McCulley said that was not the fault of the School authorities. Mr. Murray, one of the Trustees, asked Mr. Crimmin if he could give an estimate of the cost of maintaining extra schools for the children referred to. He said all the children who had applied for admission to the Schools under control of the Trustees had been accommodated. Mr. Crimmin was not prepared to say what the amount referred to ought to be. John Shirreff, Esq., said it was as well to recognize the fact that a number of children in the district had not been receiving the advantages of the Law and it was desirable to bring them in; he therefore moved that the assessment for the current year be $1,730. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

The meeting in Chatham District No. 8 (upper) was a very harmonious one. Temporary Chairman Lawlor was elected Chairman of the meeting and the Report of Trustees was received and adopted. It showed that the expenditure of the year had been $2190.58 and that a new School House had been erected, towards expense of which $1,200 were borrowed from M. Connors, Esq. L. J. Tweedie, Esq., retiring Trustee was re-elected and F. J. Letson, Esq., was re-elected Auditor.—The amount of assessment asked for by the Trustees, $1,340 was voted.

In Chatham District No. 9 (lower) Mr. A. W. Paterson was elected Chairman and W. S. Loggie, Esq., was elected to fill a vacancy in the Trustees' Board. Mr. Loggie being the retiring Trustee, he and T. F. Gillespie, Esq., were nominated for the vacancy and Mr. Gillespie was elected. The Trustees' report, showing an expenditure of $817.71 for the year, and a balance on hand of $52.60 was adopted. The assessment ordered on the District for the current year was $1,100. The Trustees asked for authority to build a new school building but the meeting negatived the proposition by a vote of 45 to 30.

[A large number of Secretaries have omitted to send their returns in time for this week's paper. When sent in they will appear. Ed.]

Highland Society.

At the General Annual Meeting of "The Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi" held at Mrs. Bowser's Hotel, Chatham, 13th Jan., 1877, the following were unanimously elected office bearers for ensuing year:—

Hon. Richard Hutchison, President.
Hon. P. Mitchell, Hon. John Ferguson, Dan'l Ferguson Esq., } Vice Presidents.
Rev. James Anderson, Chaplain.
Dan'l Ferguson, Treasurer.
A. D. Shirreff, Secretary.
Wm. Watt, Ass't do.
John Nevin, Piper.

Board of Directors.—Alex. Morrison; JohnSadler; R. R. Call; Rev. W. Wilson; Jas. Mitchell; Jno. Shirreff; A. K. McDougall; Jas. Grey; Hon. W. Muirhead; Robt. Bain; Wm. Muirhead, jr; E. Hutchison; R. B. Haddow; Robt. Marshall, (St. John); G. B. Fraser; Jas Nielon; D. T. Johnson; J. W. Fraser; Wm. Murray; J. C. Millar; Allan Ritchie; W. McEwen; John Johnstone; Jno. Fotheringham.

The sum of $100, to be distributed by a special committee in Newcastle and Chatham, was voted out of the funds for charitable purposes.

Municipal Council.

Our report of last week contained an account of the business transacted by the Council up to Wednesday 10th, at adjournment for dinner.

After dinner the following liquor licenses were granted:—

M. Carroll,	Nelson,	Tavern,	6 mos.
J. J. Mulhall,	Newcastle,	"	"
P. Farrell,	"	"	"
Jane Wheeler,	"	"	"
Russell & Staples,	"	"	"
C. J. Maltby,	"	"	"
John Lyons,	Chatham	"	"
Catharine Crane	"	"	"
T. F. Keary,	"	"	"
A. S. Templeton,	"	"	"
Dan'l. Desmond,	"	"	"
Thos. Flanagan,	"	"	"
Jas. Flood,	"	"	"
Roger Flanagan,	"	"	"
Johanna Duffy,	Ludlow,	"	12 mos.
Tim. Daly,	Nelson	"	6 mos.
Isaac Scofield,	Blackville	"	12 mos.
Sam'l. Russell,	Derby,	"	"
Andrew Mitchell,	Northesk,	"	"
Jas. Russell,	Nelson,	"	"
Michael, Lynch,	Blackville,	"	"
Jas. Harris,	"	Wh'sle.	"
Robt. Bain,	Chatham.	"	6 mos.

The Jail Committee submitted the following Report.

NEWCASTLE, Jan. 10 1877.

To the Municipal Council of the County of Northumberland.

The committee appointed to examine the Jail and Court House beg to report thereon as follows:—

That having made a thorough inspection of the said buildings they find the jail containing as prisoners only two individuals, both occupying one cell and we are of opinion that under the circumstances they are kept as the law directs. The Court House and Jail are both in need of renewal or repairs and we would recommend that the walls of both buildings as soon possible be washed thoroughly and painted and whitewashed and we further recommend that a committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to consider upon the advisability of building a new prison; solicit estimates and plans therefor and report at the next regular session of this Municipal Council.

We would also recommend that sufficient funds be allowed said committee to renew the interior of the Court Room.

Respectfully submitted,
E. HUTCHISON, Chairman.

After some discussion the Report was adopted and Couns. Hutchison, Lawlor and McDougall were appointed as a committee to consider further upon the necessity of carrying out the recommendations of the above report.

It was also ordered, after some discussion, that the above committee expend $300 in improving the Court Room.

Council adjourned until Friday, to enable councillors to attend the Annual School Meetings.

FRIDAY.

On Friday, the minutes being read Coun. Fotheringham submitted the following report.

Your committee, appointed last July sessions to report upon sites and probable cost of Market Houses for the towns of Chatham and Newcastle beg to submit the following:—

1st. That a suitable site for a Market House in Chatham can be purchased at the north side of the Public Square to the east of and in a line with the Masonic Hall. The size of the piece of land is 150 feet in length and 60 feet in width, more or less, leaving a clear space of 50 feet at the north east entrance of the Square. The situation is central and there is an abundant supply of water.

2nd. That a commodious Market House can be built, with all the necessary adjuncts, giving the fullest convenience for the sale of all kinds of country produce, the whole cost of the building will not exceed one thousand dollars.

3rd. That a central and convenient site for a Market House for the town of Newcastle is to be found on the southerly side of the Public Wharf, say 35 feet wide, extending that distance into the public landing and a length of 120 feet.

4th. That the probable cost will be in the vicinity of $1000.

And your committee hope that you will take into earnest and favorable consideration the necessity of fully entering into the subject and so supplying a long felt want.

J. Fotheringham.
(Signed) T. W. Crocker.
R. P. Whitney.

Coun. Bamford desired to know whether the assessment for the Market Houses referred to would be on the whole County and was answered by the Warden and Coun. Fotheringham, the latter explaining that there is a Provincial Act providing that £200 may be assessed on the County for Market House purposes.

Coun. Hutchison was of opinion that the Committee had underestimated the cost of the Market Houses required, and was replied to by Coun. Fotheringham, who said that he was not, personally, so well acquainted with all the facts connected with the Newcastle Market House propositions, but he knew that one man offered to provide the building required in Chatham for $800.

On motion of Coun. Cook the report was received.

The Committee on Parish accounts reported as follows:—

The Committee appointed to examine the Parish Accounts beg to report that the accounts of Collectors of rates have been before them and thoroughly examined and they have noted on each account a memorandum of its state.

That the accounts of Commissioners of Roads, so far as laid before them, have been similarly dealt with.

They find that Commissioners Wm. Dickens of Glenelg, David Somers and Wm. Copp of Northesk and McNamee and McMillan of Ludlow have sent in no returns and there are no returns from Blackville Commissioners, though three Overseers have sent in their accounts from that parish.

Your Committee recomend that the accounts now in be passed *serriatim* by the Council.

Coun. Archibald, after the report had been received referred to the necessity for taking some steps to secure a better discharge of duties, generally, on the part of Highway Commissioners. He said he knew some Commissioners on the Southwest River who had not even assessed their districts.

Coun. Whitney, referring to the case of of Commissioner Somers said he had done more work in his district than had been done for the four years preceeding, but in the hurry of removing to the United States he had, no doubt, forgotten to make returns. He moved that Mr. Somers' case stand over until July, by which time that gentleman would probably return and send in his account.

Couns. Lawlor, Schofield and Crocker advocated the adoption of the money system to replace the present one of labor, and it was finally decided to make no exception of Commissioner Somers'case, but to deal with all as the law directed.

The Council then proceeded to pass accounts during which business a question arose as to the legality of justices charging expenses on executions issued and not collected, when the Secy-Treasurer advised that it was legal for them to do so.

AFTERNOON.

After dinner the following liquor licences were granted:—

Tim. McCarthy,	Blissfield,	retail,	12 mos.
Michael O'Keeffe,	Chatham,	retail,	6 "
George F. Traer,	"	"	6 "
James Clowry,	"	"	6 "
Cyrus Brown,	"	"	6 "
J. R. Goggin,	"	Whl'sale	6 "
Jas. White,	Newcastle,	retail	6 "
James Doyle,	"	"	12 "
Alex. Gunter,	"	"	6 "
Samuel Holt,	Blackville,	"	6 "
Catherine McKenzie	"	"	12 "
Stephen Duthe,	Nelson	"	6 "
Sarah McClusky,	Ludlow,	"	12 "
Wm. McLean,	Alnwicke,	"	6 "
Robt. L. Fayle,	"	"	6 "

After these had been disposed of a number of parish accounts were passed, and others not correct laid over for future action.

A letter was read by the Warden from Coun. John T. Wilson, of Ludlow, asking to be excused from attendance at the Council board and stating, as his reason for so doing the fact of his being in the woods since October and, not having returned until within a day or two of the the meeting of Council, and being ignorant of his election before that time, he was unable to attend on such short notice.

After the letter had been read a motion was made that Mr. Wilson be excused, and an amendment that the excuse was deemed insufficient. The latter was carried.

SATURDAY.

After reading of minutes on Saturday the Warden read letter from Coun. Price, Ludlow, to the effect that his absence was mainly owing to the fact that it was understood the Council was to meet on the third Tuesday in January. He knew nothing of the change until very lately.

Coun. Hutchison said the absentee could have reached the Council as soon as his letter, and moved that the case lie over with that of the other councillor for Ludlow, for further consideration. Carried.

Commissioner Hogan, Blackville, appeared before the Council to explain why his returns had not been sent in. He was given half an hour to supply the omission.

The petition of Daniel M'Gruar asking to be exempted from paying interest on the principal sum of a lot of land purchased from the County in 1864, which, owing to a mistake on the part of a bidder, had been run up to an exhorbitant figure, was submitted to a committee consisting of Councillors Crocker, Hutchison and Lawlor.

Commissioner Hogan presented his returns which, being found correct, were passed.

Coun. McDougal read a petition from James Stymiest, Alnwick, asking relief in aid of an idotic female, more than 60 years of age, whom he had been keeping for over 20 years. Referred to following committee — McDougall, Fotheringham, Whitney.

MARKET HOUSES.

Coun. Fotheringham submitted a resolution relative to Market Houses. In doing so he said that nearly 20 years ago the necessity for such buildings was recognized by the Sessions, who succeeded in getting a bill passed in the Legislature, authorizing them to levy on the County an assessment of £200. He believed the houses would be a benefit to the County generally, and hoped that the outlying parishes would not oppose the scheme. The resolution was as follows:—

That the sum of $800 be assessed on the County in furtherance of the building of Market Houses for the towns of Chatham and Newcastle, respectively, to be placed in a market house account. And that the Secy-Treasurer be instructed to prepare a bill for presentation to the Local Legislature at the next Session praying that this Council be authorized to levy a further assessment of $1200 at its next January Session, to be placed in same account, towards completion of said market houses, if found necessary.

Coun. McDougall believed that the establishment of Market Houses should not be made a County expense, but that the amounts needed should be assessed upon the parishes or districts where the buildings were to be erected.

Coun. Bamford expressed a similar opinion.

Coun. Whitney regretted to see Councillors taking such sectional views. The market houses were greatly needed, and he was of the opinion that they would be a greater benefit to the more distant parishes than to those nearer the towns, for this reason—that farmers who resided near Newcastle and Chatham had a better chance to obtain a market, and in many instances could sell without having to hawk around from house to house. He had always obtained good prices for what he raised, and he believed the market houses would rather tend to cut down the prices he had always obtained for his produce, when a keen competition was brought about, so that the argument of the benefit of the market houses, as far as he was concerned, was rather against than for him. He gave a humorous description of the hawking system, and ended by saying that farmers, generally, would derive great advantages from the market houses, they would obtain cash for their produce, instead of goods at the stores, as many do at present, and what was better than all, the standard of agriculture would be raised in the County, by the productions of the different sections being brought into competition, when of course the best articels would receive the preference. In order to assist in bringing about a better state of things, he would heartily support the resolution.

Coun. Bamford believed that the outlying parishes would receive very little benefit from these market houses. Personally, he was not opposed to the erection of them, but in justice to the ratepayers of Blissfield, he would have to oppose the resolution.

Coun. Lawlor regretted to see some of the Councillors taking such a narrow view of the matter. Respecting Blissfield, that parish would probably not be asked to pay more than $40 or $50, and that was certainly a small amount when the advantages to be derived were taken into consideration.

Coun. Schofield was not previously opposed to the scheme, but as it was not acceptable to the ratepayers of the parish he represented, he would oppose it. At the same time he had no objection to pay his share of the assessment. He thought it would be better to erect a building to which the people could point with some degree of pride, worth say twenty or twenty-five thousand dollars.

Coun. Hutchison was puzzled. He understood the last speaker to say that while he opposed the assessment asked for he would support one for a larger amount. Did he also understand him to say that in that case he would pay Blackville's share of the assessment?

Mr. Schofield: "No! my individual proportion, only."

Coun. Hutchison said that put a different face on the matter. He (Hutchison) did think there was something to be said in favor of the distant parishes, for they could not be as greatly benefitted as those nearer at hand, but he could not oppose the resolution merely on those grounds.

Coun. Archibald could not see the necessity for including Blissfield and Ludlow in the assessment, for the people of those parishes had already an excellent market at Fredericton, of which they largely availed themselves when the travelling was good.

Coun. Schofield said a market house had been erected at Carleton, near St. John, which had proved a failure.

Coun. Hutchison thought this was owing to the farmers themselves and not to the people, the former preferring to take their produce across the river to the larger St. John markets.

Coun. Lawlor said if St. John, for a number of years could get along so well with two market houses, which could not have cost more than $1,000 each, we could surely manage with buildings of a similar character.

Coun. Fotheringham said that those who had spoken in opposition should view the matter in a broader light. While Chatham and Newcastle would be more directly benefitted, those parishes would contribute more than half the amount, while the people of the remaining parishes, who certainly would be benefitted, were asked to raise not one half of the assessment.

Coun. Esson was not opposed to the movement, but he was afraid that in the event of Chatham being incorporated the County might loose the market house there, after bearing a portion of the expense. If such were not the case he would support the resolution.

The Warden explained that in the event of Chatham being incorporated, the County lands and County buildings in that parish would still remain the property of the County.

Coun. Fotheringham expressed the opinion that the Incorporation of Chatham would not take place for some time yet, so that Coun. Esson need not feel any uneasiness on that scale.

The resolution was then agreed to by a vote of 10 to 6.

Councillor Hutchison moved the following resolution:—

Whereas, An Act was passed (39 Vic. Cap. 8) entitled "An act to authorize the County Councils of the several Municipalities in the Province of New Brunswick to establish several polling places in each Parish within the respective Municipalities for the election of County Councillors, and to make bye-laws in relation thereto," therefore resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to make such regulations in accordance with the Provincial statute as may be necessary and advisable to govern polling districts to be hereafter established, and submit the same to this Council for confirmation not later than Monday next, at three o'clock.

The following committee on the above was appointed: Couns. Hutchison, McDougall and Archibald.

LOCAL OPTION.

Coun. Betts submitted the following resolution:—

That in the interest of the public it is expedient that the Dominion Government should pass a law giving to counties or Municipalities the privilege of granting or refusing to grant, licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors, and *further resolved*, That this Council petition the Dominion Government to pass such a law at the next session of Parliament.

Coun. Schofield seconded the resolution, making a brief and pointed speech.

A long discussion followed in which nearly all the Councillors participated, old and new arguments for and against the license system being brought to bear.

The resolution being put, was lost, on the following division:—

Yeas,—Crocker, Betts, Schofield, Archibald, Bamford, 5.

Nays, Hutchison, Savoy, McDougall, Lawlor, Williston, Fotheringham, O'Brien, Esson, Sullivan, Cook, Whitney, 11.

Coun. Fotheringham said he had a resolution to bring forward which he thought would save considerable trouble respecting the liquor license question. It was, he said, generally believed that there were many who took out tavern licenses, and did not and could not comply with the regulations; he would therefore move, as a way to get out of this difficulty, the following:—

Whereas, it would tend to the better enforcement of the Liquor Law to change the present mode of granting licenses, *Therefore Resolved*, That the Local Legislature be asked to give this Council power to grant three grades of licenses—Tavern, Wholesale and Retail.

Coun. Crocker said this resolution was only opening up new loop holes. He was firmly of the opinion that if the law licensed a man to sell that by which men were made drunk it was absolutely necessary that those who sold the intoxicants should be compelled to take care of those who became intoxicated at their establishments. If the resolution was passed, new houses would open up and drunkenness would increase. He would oppose the resolution if he stood alone in the matter.

Coun. Fotheringham said the previous speaker misunderstood the object of the resolution. It was known, or at least understood to be the case, that some of the so-called taverns were in reality only bars and he believed that by increasing the fee largely, the number of such places would rather decrease than otherwise.

Coun. Whitney said that such a resolution if passed would deal unfairly with tavern keepers in country districts, who provided accommodations for travellers. Some person who cared little for the comfort of travellers, could start a shanty, under the name of a bar, and deal out the liquor, injuring the business of the man who kept such a house as the law now required. He did not want to see any such resolution as that passed.

Coun. Hutchison said the resolution had some good features about it, and he would support it if the Council would resolve to make such bar keepers pay twice as much as those who conducted taverns. He could not but believe that persons evaded the law now under the plea of keeping a tavern, in truth keeping only a bar without the accommodations.

Coun. O'Brien expressed a similar opinion.

Coun. Lawler could not see how the resolution could tend to increase the number of places where liquor is sold. Under the present system, any respectable person could procure a license by producing securities and paying his fee.

Coun. Crocker said that the resolution would, in his opinion, do away with the very protection which the law throws around those poor unfortunates who are addicted to drunkenness. What would be done with such persons when found the worse of liquor at such drinking places as this resolution seeks to introduce, when bed time came round? It was not hard to answer such a question.

Coun. Bamford heartily endorsed Councillor Crocker's views.

Coun. Esson thought that such bar licenses should not be given, believing that they would be unfair to those who conducted taverns, and provided the required accommodations.

The Warden wished to say a few words on the matter. A good many persons already kept such bar rooms as the mover of the resolution sought to establish, because licenses are obtained and only a bar room kept in many instances. He, therefore, hoped that steps would be taken to enforce the regulations. He was opposed to such bar rooms, more particularly on the ground that persons who sold liquor in the country districts, should, as a necessity, be provided with accommodations for man and beast.

Coun. Hutchison said that if the Legislature would grant to the Council the power, they could make such rates as would deter many from taking such a license. If $100 were charged for the privilege of keeping such a bar, few persons would apply. In country districts the tavern keeper would apply for the $20 license, while few if any would apply for a bar license. He did not think that those who opposed the resolution fully understood the matter.

Coun. Whitney said that for one he understood it thoroughly. He believed it would tempt men to evade the law, even more so than at present, and that was saying a good deal. We had now two kinds of licenses which he thought sufficient, and regulations enough if they were only faithfully adhered to. He did not believe there was any law upon the statute books which empowered a man to keep such a bar as was now asked for.

Coun. Lawlor said that laws had been enacted under which such bars were kept in St. John and Fredericton and he did not doubt that a law could be enacted for Northumberland, too, if it was petitioned for.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Immediatly after dinner Coun. Fotheringham's resolution was put and lost by the casting vote of the Warden.

Messrs. Alex. Stewart, John R. Nicholson, H. A. Fish, Committee appointed by the Council to look after the Public Square, submitted a report showing what they had done in improving it, accompanied by a detailed acccount, showing the receipts and expenditure in connection therewith. This account shows that the committee have received from subscriptions, entertainments, etc., $261.88. Amount expended in full, $284,07. The proceeds of the entertainment in December are not included in this statement, but they will leave a small balance in hand.

The Council passed the following:—

Resolved, That the Report of the Newcastle Square Committee be received and adopted, and that the gentlemen composing said Committee have the cordial thanks of this Council extended to them for the energy and perseverance they have manifested in improving and beautifying the said Square.

The Committee appointed to report on the petition of James Stymiest, relative to his keeping a pauper idiot, reported, recommending that measures be taken for her reception into the Alms House, that being the only place provided by law for cases of that kind. The Committee failed to understand why Commissioner Savoy has refused an application to that effect, seeing that at the present time, and for some time past, there has been, in that institution, an inmate afflicted in the same manner. A motion was passed that the Commissioners of the Alms House be ordered to take into that institution the person referred to by Mr. Stymiest.

Coun. Archibald presented an account from the Blissfield Overseer of Poor, for aid rendered, to a sick Nova Scotian, named White. Amount $27.00, for 2 weeks board, medical aid, nursing, horse hire and going for minister. Account referred to Auditor Williston.

The Chairman of Committee on Parish accounts presented Justice Jas. T. Griffin's account which being correct, was passed.

Council adjourned 4.30.

MONDAY.

The Council met on Monday at 10.30 a.m.

Coun. Hutchinson read a report on the petition of Daniel McGruar as follows:

The Committee appointed to report on the petition of Daniel McGruer for a commutation of interest on amount due by him to the municipality for land purchased by him at auction in the year 1864 beg to report.

Your Committee have had the plan of County lands referred to in said petition laid before them and also held an interview with the said petitioner and obtained such information from him as they considered necessary.

That your Committee are of opinion that the said petitioner bought the said land knowing its value and had he not done so we consider others would have paid as much or nearly as much for the same lot.

Your Committee are further of opinion that the petitioner has been leniently dealt with by the County authorities in being allowed such a length of time for payment.

Your Committee are led to believe, from the information obtained by them from the said Petitionor that other parties who have obtained lands in the vicinity of said lot are enroaching on the public streets and, in some instances, have built upon and blocked up said streets.

The information laid before your Committee tends to show

That Allan A. Davidson, Esq., occupies the west end of Douglas and the north end of Regent St.

That Thomas Ramsay, Esq., occupies part of Regent St., and has placed a fence across Chipman St.

That the Catholic Church corporation blocks up Douglas Street.

That James Mitchell, Esq., blocks up Hanover Street.

That E. Williston, Esq., has also fenced across and blocked up Hanover street.

Your Committee would, therefore, recommend that particular enquiry be made into the foregoing cases and such steps be taken as may be necessary to assert public rights and protect public property from encroachment.

T. W. Crocker.
(Signed) E. Hutchison.
Wm. Lawler.

The report was received and adopted.

Coun. Fotheringham called attention to the fact that no auctioneer's licences had yet been applied for. He thought there should be an understanding of some kind in reference to the matter.

After some discussion the Secy.-Treas., explained that auctioneers' licences were obtained from the Provincial Secretary but auctioneers were required to pay the fee ordered by the Municipal Council before acting under their licences.

On motion of Coun. Hutchison it was resolved that a notice be published in each of the papers of the County requiring the auctioneers to pay their fees under the usual penalty for default.

The case of justice Kane, in whose hands the Nelson defaulters' list had been placed for collection and who had made no return to the Council, being brought up, it was reported that constable Campbell had served him with notice to appear before the Council at 12 to-day, but that he was ill. The constable said Mr. Kane told him he had no returns made up.

Coun. Sullivan (Hardwicke) thought Mr. Kane ought to be required to do his duty in the matter of making his returns. After some further discussion it was ordered that justice Kane be allowed until to-morrow to make his returns.

The returns of W. T. Underhill, with Blackville defaulters' list were reported upon as showing error of 93 cents. It was ordered that the return be passed and that the Justice be required to pay over the 93 cents.

Similar return of Justice Mills, Hardwicke, showing $2.94 difference between Justice's and Collector's acounts was submitted.

Couns. Hutchison and Sullivan (Hardwicke) spoke upon the subject, the latter being in favor of the returns being passed as Justice Mills had made every reasonable effort to collect the amount for which papers had been placed in his hands. The difference, however, being one of amount of defaulters' list as between the collector and Justice, the matter was ordered to stand over with some others of the same nature.

Council adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After dinner Coun. Fotheringham from Committee on County accounts reported:

That a bill of W. & J. Anslow against Newcastle police of $18.30 extending from 25th July, 1872 to Nov. 2nd, '76 for Evidence blanks, Warrants, Warrants of commitments etc., we are of opinion that the justices who used them should pay for them.

A bill of R. D. Robinson's of $66.80, presented for conveying a lunatic to the Asylum, is we think exorbitant. We recommend that he receive $40, that being about the usual charge, and amply sufficient.

The collector of Dog Tax for the Parish of Chatham has charged $4 for printing. This he should be called upon to refund as his commission was sufficient and, further, his bill last year for the same purpose was half that amount and was allowed because small.

We recommend that the bill of Chatham Town Clerk be reduced to 20, instead of $22, as one of the meetings he charges for was the annual meeting the law requires him to hold.

Bill of F. R. Matthews for $41.80 we recommend be paid to his widow.

Bill of Wm. Cottier for $4.90 for arresting Reuben Oxford we recommend be not paid until further explained, as we fail to see how he makes up so large a bill of costs.

We beg to call the attention of the Council to the fact that only four auctioneers paid their county dues for the past year.

We find, in comparing D. G. Smith's bill for printing with that of W. & J. Anslow, an over charge of $7.70 and an item of $1.23 for interest, making $8.93, We recommend this amount be deducted and the remainder $40.70 be paid him.

We find in W. & J. Anslow's bill a charge of $71 for printing 513 pamphlets Rules and Regulations, whereas, as far as we see, the printing Committee agreed with them to print 300 for the sum of $40. It rests with the Printing Committee to explain the difference. We find five dollars charged for certificates of Lunacy (excepting Dr. Dawson's charge) instead of $4.68, the usual charge, and recommend the difference be deducted from each bill.

Account of Samuel Wilcox for meals supplied in Chatham Lockup shows number of meals but no price. We recommend that he be paid at the same rate as last year.

We recommend that bill of Thomas Ullock for $20.50 be reduced $2 according to certificate of Captain of Chatham Police.

We notice that the balance to the credit of the public lands account is $938,82.

Newcastle Firewards show a full statement and ask for assessment of $1,000 for the purpose of obtaining a steam fire engine.

Chatham Firewards are so far direlect in their duty, in as much as they have made no return.

We recommened that the Jail committee supply the wood for Jail and Court House by public tender.

John Fotheringham,
E. Hutchison,
T. W. Crocker,
Romain Savoy,

The Council having done very little business during business hours on Monday met on Monday evening and, among other things, passed the following:—

Resolved, that while admiring the tact and energy displayed by the Newcastle Firewards and adopting their application for an increased assessment for the purpose of enabling them to furnish the town with superior means of protection against the spread of fires, we cannot accept their strictures on Mr. Burchill as part of their report and cannot without the most sufficient evidence agree with them in their opinion of that gentleman, and much regret the spirit in which the latter portion of their report is written.

The above resolution grew out of the firewards of Newcastle having embodied in their report to Council a censure on Mr. Burchill for non-payment of $20.00 which they charged against him for the use of engine &c., when his mill was burnt last season. The same report gave great credit to Alex. Morrison, Esq., for paying up promptly and tendering his thanks for services rendered.

The following liquor licences were granted on Saturday:—

Murdock Gillis, Chatham, 6 mos.
James McCarthy, Chatham, 6 mos.
John F. Jardine, Newcastle, 6 mos.
Jessie Jardine, Blackville, 12 mos.

The following were granted on Monday.

Allen McIntyre, Newcastle, 6 mos.
Joseph Hayes, Newcastle, 6 mos.

TUESDAY.

On Tuesday the following were granted:

Stephen Y. Mitchell, Newcastle, retail, 6 mos.

Dennis Ryan, Newcastle, retail, 6 mos.
Alex. Stewart, Newcastle, retail, 6 mos.
James Brown, Newcastle, w'hsale, 6 mos.
John Noonan, Chatham, wh'sale, 6 mos.
Thos. Kingston, Chatham, retail, 6 mos.

Coun