

General Business.

Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, N. B., MARCH 21, 1901.

"The Advance" will be issued next week on Friday, instead of Thursday.

A Stable and Up-Building Policy.

Lord Salisbury, addressing the Associated British Chambers of Commerce the other day and, in concluding his speech, said: "If the supposed decadence in English enterprise and commerce really existed, it might possibly be traced to excess of Parliamentary meddling. Was not the national condition, he asked, a great deal affected by the attitude of capital as well as labor? It was not easy to see below the surface, but it appeared to him quite capable of argument that constant interferences with private liberty, although he admitted that in many cases, this was absolutely required, had had the result of discouraging the employment of capital. It was a formidable danger because, if by Parliamentary interference the sources of capital were dried up, the result would be the gradual decay of the industries of the country which no subsequent exertions could replace."

St. John Papers' Latest Misrepresentation of Chatham.

The St. John Globe, and Daily Telegraph would do well if they were to think it necessary to be properly informed as to facts, before exercising their usual disposition to make for themselves opportunities to assail the Chatham Board of Trade. That Board, whose members should be permitted to be the best judges as to any action they ought to take in matters affecting the community in whose interests their organization is working, objects, on principle, to any attempt being made to secure legislative authority under which persons in default for civic taxes in the Town of Chatham shall have the right to vote at elections of mayor and aldermen.

The Chatham Board of Trade met to consider this and other matters, and it happened that a communication was received about the same time from the St. John Board of Trade, requesting the Chatham Board to endorse action which that Board was taking against the passing of a bill for that city similar to one that had, without authority, been forwarded to Fredericton to enable Chatham tax-defaulters to vote.

The members of the Chatham Board, finding that those of the St. John Board were, like themselves, contending for what they considered a sound principle against an unsound one, voted to notify the St. John Board that they were in accord with their views. The Chatham Board also passed the following resolution:—"Whereas, attempts are being made in Chatham and elsewhere in the province to confer by legislative enactment upon defaulting ratepayers the right to vote at civic elections; and

"Resolved, that this Board places on record its strong disapprobation of any proposition to secure such legislation, as we believe the principle sought to be established is pernicious, inasmuch as it will tend to increase the indigestion of the non-paying class to contribute to the maintenance of local services and render the collection of civic rates more tardy and difficult than at present. "And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the Legislature at Fredericton and also to the St. John City Council and Board of Trade, and to Chatham Town Council."

Instead of stating the truth about what the Chatham Board of Trade did, the Globe published, editorially, the following further proof of the oft-repeated statement that St. John is in sore need of qualified editors:—"The Chatham Board of Trade discussed the bill by which it is proposed to allow citizens of St. John to vote at civic elections whether or not their taxes are paid, and decided to inform the members of the Legislature that it strongly disapproved of such legislation. It will now be the turn of the people of Ontario, New Brunswick, and other important places in New Brunswick to make public their views on the proposed bill. It will now be the turn of St. John. It may be, however, they may think it wiser not to interfere in questions that only affect the people of this city."

And the Telegraph, in dutiful imitation of the Globe and moved thereto perhaps by the same impulse or individual, said:—"Chatham's Board of Trade protests against the franchise in our civic elections being extended to St. John citizens who have failed to pay their taxes. How would it do for the Chatham Board of Trade to allow St. John to manage its own local matters. We may have our own differences of opinion in the matter, but like a happy family we can all unite in respecting any meeting by outsiders in our affairs."

The Chatham Board of Trade will understand that, hereafter, it must not take any action relating to affairs in the town, under the penalty of incurring the displeasure of the St. John Globe and Telegraph and affording them opportunity to indulge in their accustomed sneers at and cheap tactics of belittling Chatham and its people. It may not be news to those papers to be told that the resolution to petition the Legislature to pass a law to enable civic tax-defaulters in Chatham to vote for mayor and aldermen, was introduced through the Chatham Town Council in the absence, through illness, of an alderman who was opposed to it, and that the Town Council, at the next meeting, when all the members were present, declined to pass the section of the bill prepared for the legislature, by which the prayer of the objectionable petition was sought to be made law. It almost seems that there was an understanding and bond of sympathy in the matter between the Globe's and Telegraph's little political mill and that of the Chatham promoters of the scheme to enfranchise the non-tax-

paying residents of both Chatham and St. John, hence the spiteful references to and misrepresentation of Chatham when those papers found the scheme had received a knock-down blow.

World Goods in C. B.

The London "Timber Trades" Journal, in its Trade notes, refers to the probability of an early opening of navigation in the Baltic and says it would be almost a calamity under the present conditions—a full supply of lumber on hand. The journal further says:—"Heavy quantities of goods are leaving the docks weekly, and public sale brokers are experiencing a busy time in turning to account some of the dock stock that has been hanging like lead round the necks of the importers for months. In the country generally free-on-board selling is carried on with difficulty. The situation of merchants on the East Coast and at the Bristol Channel ports is similar to that of London—heavy stocks and a sluggish demand. Orders from the Midlands have been less in volume than for the past fifteen years, and travellers covering the ground find things far from satisfactory. It is not a matter of price just now; everybody is sufficiently supplied, and there will be no heart for forward buying until the retarded supplies of the previous season have gone into consumption."

In its Liverpool notes the same paper says:—"We end the month of February under feelings, if not of depression, at any rate with some amount of hesitancy, born of want of confidence in the future. Added to this, the minds of many who are involved in the lamentable failure of Percie, Watts & Co., still remain disturbed for another three weeks. Their further examination in the Bankruptcy Court is deferred until the 27th inst., and until this matter is cleared up there will be more or less tension all around in the trade. "It appeared to onlookers as if any one of half a dozen men might be considered a chief, and the result was considerable confusion and the wasting of energy, the half doing of what might easily have been well done, and the driving home of the conviction that we should all be thankful that there was no war, and that no other fire elsewhere in the town claimed attention at the time. The absence of leaders for nearly an hour was noticeable, and citizens wondered what protection or safety was resulting from the \$800 spent a year or two ago for the imported truck and its fine equipment of leaders. Chatham is in need of men at the head of affairs who are better able to care for the interests of the town, but there seems a poor prospect of improvement until something happens that will awaken the citizen to their duty. It seems to be thought by the ratepayers of Chatham that the religious leanings of the aldermen are of greater importance than their ability to administer civic affairs properly. The better elements of both Catholic and Protestant citizenship should endeavor to effect a reform in these important matters. Politics and sectarianism in our civic elections are costing Chatham a good deal of the people's money."

"It is the same with spruce deals; buyers are chary of making contracts to arrive, though we see the short output reported here and received with scepticism and confirmed by the trade papers on the other side of the Atlantic. The import for February was 2,800 standards, which left the old stock reduced by only 400 standards. It would be pleasing to see the stock of 18,430 standards standing at a much lower figure."

"Under such conditions as these, contracting for forward supplies is confined to a small circle. "Taking a few of the most important articles in the market, the high prices asked by shippers of Canadian pine, whether logs or deals, have had a deterrent effect, and, so far as is concerned up to the present comparatively few transactions have taken place."

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British Columbia Lepters. A Toronto despatch of Monday says that the board of Lepers' Mission in session there on that day decided to make a special appeal to the dominion government to care for the lepers of the Pacific and remove them to Trinidad, N. B., where there is proper provision for them. This was done after hearing a statement by Rev. A. B. Winchester, pastor Knox Presbyterian church, and recently of Victoria, B. C., of his experience on a visit to Ayley Island, near Victoria, where it was said the flag of distress had been flying for two weeks and no attention paid to it, although steamers passed daily.

The Legislature. The bill to amend Vic. chap. 20, relating to rates and taxes, was agreed to in committee. The bill to amend the school act was also agreed to in committee. It provides a poll tax of 75 cents for the broken period of the year caused in the change of the ending of the school year from October to June. Bill No. 28, an act to authorize Gloucester to issue debentures to the amount of \$12,000 to be committed, Mr. O'Brien (Northumberland) in the chair. It was amended by making section 1 read that \$7,500 shall be applied to the completion of the new county buildings, and \$4,500 towards paying off floating indebtedness. Some amendments suggested by the municipalities committee were made and the bill agreed to as amended.

Ratepayers' Meeting. The ratepayers of Chatham are to meet to-night to consider whether, instead of spending \$10,000 to establish a street lighting plant at Morrison's Brook, they will buy the Chatham Electric Company's station, machinery and other plant and franchises for street, household, stores and other lighting in Chatham for \$25,000. There does not seem to be any question as to that of the Town is going into the electric light business at all it ought to do all the service in that line that Chatham requires. To run the street lights alone at an initial cost of \$10,000 for plant, and then face the expense of maintenance, and the streets an addition of posts and wires on the streets to those now in use by the telegraph, telephone and electric light companies, has the look of a poor policy. There is no doubt that the Electric Light Company has spent much more money than they are entitled to for their property, to say nothing of the value of their franchise; and their enterprise and experiences must be of value to the town so would the people desire to take the whole business over.

New Brunswick in London. A small but enterprising colony has recently entered the field of emigrant-seekers—New Brunswick, Canada. This colony, which is the largest and most successful of the wonderful fertile Maritime Provinces, has hitherto been content to watch, without attempting to rival them, the gigantic efforts made by the Dominion to attract immigrants, not only from the British Isles, but from all quarters of Europe. It is interesting to note that this policy is not the one which has commended itself to the Government of New Brunswick, which is seeking, primarily as any rate, for its colonists among the residents of the British Isles, though a few pulp workers are being necessarily imported from Sweden, where the trade is more familiar than here. It is indeed surprising that the colony is not better known; it is extraordinarily attractive and fertile, not dissimilar in aspect in many districts to parts of this country, while the type of farming much in favor is familiar to all who know Denmark and is dairying. The land is plentiful and cheap, the colony is well opened up by railways and roads, work is regular and certain, and wages are good. Nor is there anything to object to as regards climate, for the summer is warmer than in England, while the winter is clear, cold and snowy, but for the most part dry and pleasant.

Hence it is not surprising that the appeal for emigrants is meeting with an excellent response from all parts of the British Isles. The pioneer of the campaign, Mr. W. Albert Hickman, of the Government Commissioner, of 17 Leather Market, London, S. E., has already had in a few months hundreds of applications of men of all classes, among whom, and one may perhaps regret the fact, for the sake of the old country, are small farmers with some capital who are fleeing from the land of their birth to a colony where taxation is of the lightest possible kind. Much is likely to be heard of horse-breeding in the colony in the future, while the Government has on foot the establishment of an agricultural college, which is certain to prove a colossal success, and there is a resolute effort to push the dock claims of the great lumber port of St. John.

The only fear will be that the new appeal will still further thin the lamentably diminishing number of workers in the land in this country. The London Morning Advertiser has also an excellent report of a lecture delivered on 25th ult. by Mr. Hickman at the Imperial Institute, at a meeting presided over by Hon. C. A. Duff Miller, the Agent-General of New Brunswick, in which the attractions of the province for British subjects seeking homes on this side of the Atlantic, were ably presented. Mr. Hickman, with the effective assistance of Mr. Miller, is doing good work for New Brunswick in the United Kingdom.

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Caribou for scientific purposes it made no difference who shot it. Hon. Mr. Dunn asked the privilege of making an explanation. Benn wrote to him in March last for the purpose of getting a license to shoot a moose or a caribou for the society. He replied that it was the wrong season for shooting any animal for scientific purposes, because the caribou would have no antlers and his skin would not be in proper condition. He told him that when the season opened, he would only be too pleased to grant a license. In August, Benn saw him in Fredericton and he asked him in whose name the license should be issued. Benn said he would like it issued in the name of several members. Mr. Dunn replied "that was impossible, as there could be but one name." When the time came the license was made out in the name of Benn and forwarded to him. Dr. Cox, the day after the season opened, shot a caribou but he could not have been relying on Benn's license, for on the following day he got a license from the local warden. It was difficult to enforce the law and it could not be enforced at all if it were not treated alike. Cox was proceeded against for violating the law. He denied going to Chatham during the season, but he could not deny that he had seen Cox's attorney and told him that the least he could do was to pay the costs of the court and if he did so the government would allow the fine to stand. But Dr. Cox felt so high and mighty that he insisted on paying the fine, which he was not asked to pay. With regard to the resolution of the society he felt that it was wholly unwarranted, but he was not narrow in his views as to say that he would not give the grant in consequence of the passage of this resolution. Hon. Mr. Barchill presented the petition of the municipal council of Northumberland County for the cancellation of the date of polling for county commissioners. Mr. Hazen made his usual motion in reference to the Rothery electoral lists and delivered a speech of considerable length on the subject. Attorney-General Pagley replied most effectively and Mr. Allen moved an amendment, seconded by Mr. Appley, expressing the confidence of the house in the attorney general doing his duty in the matter. FRIDAY, 15TH. Hon. Mr. Liblouis presented the petition of a number of the residents of Campbellton that a by-law be passed to empower the Town Council to close three nights in each week every year for the purpose of repairing the streets. Mr. Fish presented the petition of the trustees of the Newcastle school praying that a bill to empower them to issue debentures may pass. Hon. Chief Commissioner Liblouis gave answers in detail to enquiries of Mr. Hazen in reference to a large number of bridges, etc. Mr. Porter gave notice of an inquiry whether the government intend to increase the indemnity of the leader of the opposition for his extra bridge services. Upon the order of the day being called Hon. Mr. Tweedie stated that he would deliver the budget speech on Monday next. The house recessed until 8 o'clock. The house resumed at 8 o'clock. Mr. Osmen moved a resolution favoring amendment of the preferential clause applying to British goods imported into Canada so that it shall apply directly through Canadian ports, carried. Hon. Mr. Hill was in favor of the resolution. One effect of it would be to give our ports in the maritime provinces a broken freightage in summer. Many local industries were seriously hampered by the high rates of freight in summer. The motion was then put and carried unanimously. On motion of Hon. 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Caribou for scientific purposes it made no difference who shot it. Hon. Mr. Dunn asked the privilege of making an explanation. Benn wrote to him in March last for the purpose of getting a license to shoot a moose or a caribou for the society. He replied that it was the wrong season for shooting any animal for scientific purposes, because the caribou would have no antlers and his skin would not be in proper condition. He told him that when the season opened, he would only be too pleased to grant a license. In August, Benn saw him in Fredericton and he asked him in whose name the license should be issued. Benn said he would like it issued in the name of several members. Mr. Dunn replied "that was impossible, as there could be but one name." When the time came the license was made out in the name of Benn and forwarded to him. Dr. Cox, the day after the season opened, shot a caribou but he could not have been relying on Benn's license, for on the following day he got a license from the local warden. It was difficult to enforce the law and it could not be enforced at all if it were not treated alike. Cox was proceeded against for violating the law. He denied going to Chatham during the season, but he could not deny that he had seen Cox's attorney and told him that the least he could do was to pay the costs of the court and if he did so the government would allow the fine to stand. But Dr. Cox felt so high and mighty that he insisted on paying the fine, which he was not asked to pay. With regard to the resolution of the society he felt that it was wholly unwarranted, but he was not narrow in his views as to say that he would not give the grant in consequence of the passage of this resolution. Hon. Mr. Barchill presented the petition of the municipal council of Northumberland County for the cancellation of the date of polling for county commissioners. Mr. Hazen made his usual motion in reference to the Rothery electoral lists and delivered a speech of considerable length on the subject. Attorney-General Pagley replied most effectively and Mr. Allen moved an amendment, seconded by Mr. Appley, expressing the confidence of the house in the attorney general doing his duty in the matter. FRIDAY, 15TH. Hon. Mr. Liblouis presented the petition of a number of the residents of Campbellton that a by-law be passed to empower the Town Council to close three nights in each week every year for the purpose of repairing the streets. Mr. Fish presented the petition of the trustees of the Newcastle school praying that a bill to empower them to issue debentures may pass. Hon. Chief Commissioner Liblouis gave answers in detail to enquiries of Mr. Hazen in reference to a large number of bridges, etc. Mr. Porter gave notice of an inquiry whether the government intend to increase the indemnity of the leader of the opposition for his extra bridge services. Upon the order of the day being called Hon. Mr. Tweedie stated that he would deliver the budget speech on Monday next. The house recessed until 8 o'clock. The house resumed at 8 o'clock. Mr. Osmen moved a resolution favoring amendment of the preferential clause applying to British goods imported into Canada so that it shall apply directly through Canadian ports, carried. Hon. Mr. Hill was in favor of the resolution. One effect of it would be to give our ports in the maritime provinces a broken freightage in summer. Many local industries were seriously hampered by the high rates of freight in summer. The motion was then put and carried unanimously. On motion of Hon. Mr. Tweedie, the bill to provide for the development of the coal areas in Queens and Subary was amended, limiting the amount of taxation imposed on any railway company to 15 cents on each ton of coal used by them not produced in the province. The bill to amend Vic. chap. 20, relating to rates and taxes, was agreed to in committee. The bill to amend the school act was also agreed to in committee. It provides a poll tax of 75 cents for the broken period of the year caused in the change of the ending of the school year from October to June. Bill No. 28, an act to authorize Gloucester to issue debentures to the amount of \$12,000 to be committed, Mr. O'Brien (Northumberland) in the chair. It was amended by making section 1 read that \$7,500 shall be applied to the completion of the new county buildings, and \$4,500 towards paying off floating indebtedness. Some amendments suggested by the municipalities committee were made and the bill agreed to as amended. SATURDAY 16TH. Amongst the business to-day was the consideration, in committee, of the bill to amend the Supreme Court Act. Hon. Mr. Tweedie explained that the bill was to amend section 153 of the act by striking out the word, "assigns," in the last line of the section and inserting the word, "assignor." It was also proposed to amend section 368 by adding a sub-section providing that when any trial has proceeded before a judge without a jury which the judge has found to be completed and the judge has died, resigned or been removed from office without giving his verdict such verdict may be given by any other judge before whom the case has been removed. This bill would cover cases now unfinished. Mr. Hazen said that the attorney general in drafting this bill had no doubt a particular case in view which had been left unfinished by Judge Vanwart, but he thought that counsel in this case should be informed before the bill was passed. 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