

Communications.

(To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel.)

SIR,—It is a matter of congratulation in this community that we can notice one redeeming feature in the conduct of the youth of this village, and in doing so we hope it may arrest the attention of parents and children generally, and give a new direction to their course of conduct, which may reflect credit upon themselves, and relieve the village of a portion of the odium which has made it somewhat notorious as a place of *disorder*. The opposite of this is my now pleasant duty to notice. The *Concert* in the Institute last evening, by the pupils of Mr. Purce, and under his instruction, was a most agreeable surprise. Indeed we have attended many concerts of professed singers, with less agreeable results. The promptness and vigour of sound, and the well executed movement in Crescendo passages, speak highly for Mr. Purce's method of teaching, and the attractability of his pupils. The night being stormy, the house was not large—but the public we understand will have an opportunity of hearing them again during the coming week, as Mr. P. has been prevailed upon to remain a few days and re-arrange the programme for that purpose. As the proceeds in this case will be for the benefit of the Institute, we hope there will be a respectable "turn out."

Woodstock, April 27, '55. GAMUT.

(To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel.)

SIR,—I take the liberty of sending you a copy of the list of Officers of the T. W. Club, at Victoria Corridor, for the current quarter, and I hope that you will do me the kindness to insert them in one corner of the columns of your most noble paper.

Our Club is in a most noble and flourishing condition at present, and we have been highly gratified to hear that our Legislature has in a great measure answered our long and unceasing prayers in regard to the Prohibitory bill. May the Laws which they have enacted, be put in full operation so that Temperance men will shout victory! victory!! And may victory be written on every banner. The officers are as follows:—

James W. Boyer, S. O.; Asa Mcintosh, J. O.; Ingram Harris, R. S.; Amos Boyer, C. S.; Robert Bakem, C.; Wm. Stephens, T.; Edwd. M. Boyer, M.; Elijah Shaw, A. M.

A. TEMPERANCE WATCHMAN.

The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1855.

The latest English intelligence will be found in another column. A press of local matter prevents our making any comments this week.

Aware that the people of Carleton depend upon the *Sentinel* for giving them the earliest intelligence in matters relating to the County; and knowing that much uncertainty prevails relative to the provisions of the new "Road Law," we hasten to lay it before our readers as early as practicable. We did expect to give it entire this week, but its length, and the late hour at which it was received prevent us so doing. We have inserted as much of it however as will be sufficient for the guidance of the different Commissioners and surveyors of Highways for the present. Next week we expect to give the remainder.

A friend has our sincere thanks for his notice of the Concert on Thursday evening last. Previous engagements prevented our attendance, which we regretted very much as we had watched the progress made by the pupils of Mr. Purce with a good deal of interest. We learn from several good judges of music that the evening's entertainment far exceeded the expectations of even the most sanguine; and the result has proved that our community, small as it is, embraces a large amount of musical talent.

We are happy to find that "Another Concert" will be given on next Thursday evening, to assist in discharging the debt still resting upon the Hall. We anticipate a full attendance, confident as we are that the people of Woodstock are always ready to appreciate talent in whatever laudable manner it may be developed. Mr. Purce has proved himself to be a most efficient Teacher, and the success which has crowned his efforts warrants us in promising the Public that their attendance will be amply repaid in listening to performances that we are satisfied would be no discredit to older and more highly favoured communities.

We are requested to state that a meeting of the Fire-Wardens of the Creek upper and Lower Villages will be held in the School House, near the Episcopal Church, on Monday at 4 o'clock P. M.

Attention is directed to Doctor Straw's notice of Dentistry in another column.

THE NEW JURY LAW.

We have received a copy of the new Act relating to Jurors, which was passed on the 12th instant, and find that it makes great and fundamental changes in the law relating to trial by Jury.

This Act is one of the results of the labours of the Law Commission, its principles having been recommended by them. Its leading features were embodied in a bill introduced in the Assembly two years ago by the Hon. Mr. Gray, but the matter was then postponed in order that, in connection with other law reforms, it might come fully under the consideration of the Law Commissioners, and be dealt with as part of an entire system of amendments and reform.

The present Act contains forty-six clauses, and begins by providing that every male inhabitant between 21 and 60 years of age, possessed of real or personal estate of the value of £100, shall be qualified to serve as a Juror. The exceptions are, members of the Executive Council, members of the Legislature, and their respective Clerks, Judges of the Supreme Court, Justices of the Peace, the Treasurer and his deputies, Registrars of Deeds, Officers of the Customs and Revenue, Naval Officers, Ministers of the Gospel, Physicians and Surgeons, Attorneys-at-law and officers of the Courts, Professors, Preceptors, Teachers of Schools or Colleges, and Firemen.

The Grand Jury may elect their Foreman; if the Jury divide equally, the Sheriff shall give the casting vote; and if no election is made within an hour, the Court shall appoint a Foreman.

The Petit Jury for the trial of all civil causes shall consist hereafter of seven persons only; but in criminal cases there must be twelve Jurors as heretofore.

In civil cases, the Jury may retire to some comfortable place; if they cannot agree within two hours, any five of their number may return a verdict. In all criminal cases the Jury must be unanimous. The practice of keeping a Jury without meat, drink, or any other comfort, is abolished—such a barbarous practice ought to have been abolished long since.

Every Petit Juror is to be paid five shillings for each day's attendance on the Court, and sixpence per mile for travel from his residence to the Court House; the County Treasurer will pay these fees to the Jurors at the close of each Court, on the Certificate of the Clerk. If the Jurors' fines and fees in the hands of the County Treasurer are not sufficient, he may apply to the Provincial Secretary, for a warrant on the Treasury, to reimburse the amount overpaid by him.

The other provisions of the bill are chiefly re-enactments of provisions heretofore in force with some amendments, to meet the new order of things.

It has long been thought desirable that a majority of the Jury should be empowered to give a verdict; but we now have the novelty of a Jury of seven only, of whom five may give a verdict after the lapse of two hours. Whether this system works well or ill, we soon shall have abundant opportunity of learning. The provision for paying all Jurors who attend five shillings per day, is fair and just; and this with the allowance for travel, will always secure the attendance of a sufficient number of Jurors, to prevent the business of the Courts being delayed.

On the whole, we view this bill favorably, and accept it as one more benefit derived from the arduous yet energetic labours of the Law Commissioners.—*New Brunswick.*

THE EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN RAILWAY.—We understand that the Directors of this railway have received a communication from Messrs. Jackson & Co. stating that in consequence of certain doings of the directors, and of the Executive Government of this Province, they feel that there are sufficient grounds for abandoning their contract in this Province. It is not stated that they will do so, neither is it stated that they intend proceeding with the works at present. In the absence of any official announcement on this important subject (to which the public are clearly entitled,) we can only say that we fear Messrs. Jackson & Co. have strong grounds for declining to proceed with their contract without incurring the slightest discredit.—*Id.*

LUMBER IN CANADA.—The Ottawa Citizen says "We understand that the enterprising proprietors of one of our great Mill Establishments, here have contracted for 1,000,000 feet of lumber at fair paying prices, to be delivered during the coming summer. This lumber will pass over the Byetown and Prescott Railway, for the St. Lawrence."

LOCAL.

An Act to divide the Shire Town of Woodstock in the County of Carleton, into two separate Districts for Road and Fire purposes.

Passed 3rd April 1855.

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

1. That all that part of the Parish of Woodstock commencing on the northerly side of Lane's Creek so called, in said Parish, thence southerly along the River St. John to the lower side of Upham's Creek, so called, in said Parish, and extending back or westerly from said River one mile, be subdivided into two separate and distinct parts or districts for Road and Fire purposes, by a line commencing at the said River Saint John, and at the upper boundary line owned and occupied by the late Anthony Baker in his life time, and running westerly or back from the said River along the said upper boundary line one mile, said parts or districts to be called and known as the upper and lower districts in the said part of the Parish of Woodstock.

2. The money assessed, levied, and collected in said districts respectively for Road and Fire purposes, shall be laid out and expended in the said districts respectively in which they may be so levied and collected, and not elsewhere.

3. Any two Councillors shall be authorised to appoint one additional Commissioner of Highways for the said lower district for the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty five; and hereafter one Commissioner of Highways shall be elected or appointed for each of the said districts at the time of the election or appointment of Parish officers.

AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

Passed 12th April 1855.

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

1. Chapter Sixty-six of the Revised Statutes, "Of Highways," is hereby repealed.

2. The Sessions are authorized, if they see fit, to divide each Parish into as many Districts as there are Commissioners, and to appoint or assign a Commissioner, with as many Surveyors to enforce and superintend the performance of the Statute Labour in their respective Districts, and to make due return thereof.

3. The Commissioners shall lay out such public highways as they consider best adapted for public accommodation.

4. When any public highway shall in the opinion of such Commissioners require alteration, they shall give the inhabitants of the Parish one month's notice of the intended alteration, by posting up such notice in at least three of the most public places in such Parish. At the time and place specified the Commissioners shall attend, and proceed to make such alterations, unless the owner of the land over which the road may pass, or one third part of the owners or occupiers of land in such Parish object.

5. Such objection being made, a Justice, on the application of five freeholders of such Parish, shall issue his Warrant directed to any Sheriff or Constable within the County, commanding him to summon five disinterested owners or occupiers of land in the said County, who shall be sworn to examine the said road; the said Justice shall also subpoena such witnesses as either party may require. Any person served with such subpoena neglecting to obey the same, shall incur a penalty not exceeding five pounds, to be paid to the Commissioners for the use of the roads; the expenses of such witnesses shall be estimated by the jurors, and paid as they may direct. If the jury determine that the alteration shall be made, the Commissioners shall proceed to make the same accordingly, but in no case shall any road be taken possession of, or be deemed dedicated to the public, until the damages (if any) assessed be paid. Should the road so laid out or altered as aforesaid extend upon any improved land, or occasion the removal of any buildings or fences, the damages in such case shall be assessed by the said jury at the time aforesaid. If in any such alteration a new road be opened, and the old road or any part of it be shut up and revert to the owner of the land on which said new road may pass, the jury shall take into consideration the value of such old road, or any part thereof so shut up, in diminution of damages. Where roads are laid out, altered or extended under any law relating to highways, and the damages, if any, paid as aforesaid, the Commissioners or Surveyors may enter upon and open such roads, and remove therefrom any obstructions.

6. All roads not recorded, upon which public money has been expended, are hereby declared public roads or highways.

7. The damage to the owner arising from any public road to be laid out through his improved land, or for the removal of any obstructions, shall

on his application, be ascertained by a jury summoned as directed by the fifth Section of this Act. The Justice issuing the Warrant shall preside at the Inquest.

8. The Commissioners shall lay the assessment of damages by the jury before the Sessions who shall order payment therefor in such proportions by such Parishes as they may deem just, and issue their Warrant therefor, to be assessed and collected as County rates, and paid to the person entitled thereto.

9. Any such road intended for the convenience of a particular district, whether wholly in one Parish or between two or more Parishes, shall be reported by the Commissioners to the Sessions, specifying the bounds and limits thereof, and the names of persons residing therein. If the Sessions adopt the Report, they shall appoint two or more Assessors within such district, who shall assess the damages sustained in laying out such road, upon such residents, to be levied and collected as County rates.

10. The Commissioners, upon application for a private road, shall view the same, and upon the written consent of the owner of the land, may lay out the road; if the owner object, a jury shall be summoned as directed by the fifth Section of this Act, at the instance of the Commissioners or parties interested, which jury shall determine as to the necessity of the road; and if necessary, and the parties disagree as to value and damages, they shall proceed to assess the same, and when assessed, the amount shall be paid to the owner of the land through which the road passes. The expense of laying out such road shall be paid by the applicant, and no such road shall be laid out more than two rods wide against the consent of the owner.

11. Public roads shall not be more than six nor less than four rods wide, at the discretion of the Commissioner.

12. Each juror summoned as aforesaid, shall be entitled to two shillings and sixpence, and the officer summoning, ten shillings; the whole sum necessary to meet such expenses shall be paid to the Commissioners by the applicant previous to the issuing the Warrant. The Commissioner shall pay the officer and the jurors their fees on the return of the verdict in all cases connected with a public road; if the jury return an affirmative verdict, such expenses shall be included in the assessments provided in the eighth and ninth Sections of this Act, collected as therein directed and paid to the person advancing the same.

13. On any alteration being made in any road pursuant to this Act, and the parts between the points of such alteration shall not be settled by the erection of dwelling houses thereon, or when the same shall not cut off any proprietor from the road so altered, the Commissioners shall direct that the said points between such alteration shall be stopped up and enclosed by the proprietor of the land between such points, after which the old road shall not be considered public. The Commissioner shall not so direct until he considers the new part equally as good and passable as the old road.

14. If the Commissioners think that any road is not required for the convenience of the inhabitants of the Parish through which the same passes, or the inhabitants of the adjacent Parish, they may, by the consent of the owner or owners of the land through which it passes, shut up the same.

15. The Commissioners for each Parish shall designate in writing, the width, marks, bounds, and lines of such roads as are laid out, altered, or shut up, and within three months thereafter make a return thereof to the Clerk of the Peace, who shall enter the same in a book to be kept for that purpose. Any Commissioner or Clerk of the Peace neglecting the duty required of him shall pay for each neglect three pounds.

16. Whoever shall alter, encroach on, or obstruct any public road, shall for each offence forfeit forty shillings. And if the offender do not remove such encroachment or obstruction within three days thereafter, he shall again forfeit a like sum of forty shillings, and so on in like manner until such obstruction be removed; should offender not be known, the Commissioner of Surveyor, if the incumbrance be saleable, shall, unless sooner claimed, after three days public notice, sell the same and apply the proceeds to repairing such road; if not saleable, they shall cause the same to be removed, and the person employed by them shall be allowed therefor, according to the time he is employed, a deduction of his statute labor.

17. All roads, streets, and bridges in each County, shall be cleared, maintained, and repaired by the male inhabitants thereof, being eighteen years of age and upwards, (except Ministers of the Gospel and licenced Schoolmasters employed as such, not having property liable to assessment;