

Foreign News.

In the British House of Commons on the 19th, Government introduced a bill providing for local government for England and Wales:

The bill proposes to establish councils to be elected directly by the ratepayers, which have control of the county police; to wield power now exercised by the local authorities over gas and water work, artisans' dwellings; sales of food and drugs and sanitary conditions, and make advances in aid of emigration when there is reason to believe that the advances will be repaid. The local government board is to retain the present power to control borrowing money by counties and audit accounts of the counties. It is also to fix the number of members of county councils. The other provisions give the councils oversight of lunatic asylums, work houses, reformatories and industrial schools, and power to grant licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors. The important feature of the proposals is a division of the whole country into urban and rural districts, with which women ratepayers will be equally entitled to vote for members of councils. London is to be created a county by itself under a lord lieutenant.

More About Potatoes

It may be of interest to our farmer readers to know that at a meeting held in Charlottetown, P. E. I., of persons interested in the potato trade the following was passed:—

At a meeting of persons interested in the potato trade of Prince Edward Island, held on Wednesday last, under the auspices of the board of trade of Charlottetown, the following resolution was passed: "Resolved, that this meeting deems it expedient to urge on our farmers to grow a greater portion of white potatoes, such as the Empire, Silver Dollars, exhibited here, and similar earlier varieties; also, to take greater care in culling, handling and marketing them in better condition, it being evident that by adopting such a course they will realize better prices, and grow a potato more suitable to the American market."

The suggestions here given are, we should think, well worthy of consideration.

Earthquake in China.

The Hong Kong Mail gives a description of the earthquake in the Province of Yunnan, December 15, and is indicative of frightful mortality. The Mail says:—"In the interior department of Ching Chan the disturbances were extremely violent, being continued at irregular intervals for four days, when they ceased entirely. The departmental city is said to have been reduced to a mass of ruins, scarcely a house escaping damage and over 5,000 persons are reported to have been killed by falling buildings. Many of them were buried under the ruins, while the number injured is too large for computation. Yamen was destroyed, the magistrate escaping with slight injury. At the prefectural City of Limon the effects of the earthquake were scarcely less disastrous. At this place when the shock was being felt an enormous chasm opened in the earth and water was thrown out from its depths. At Lo Chan, in Chuen, a striking change has been caused in the appearance of the country, large tracts of land being swallowed up and the surface changed into a lake. In Lo Chan more than 10,000 persons are said to have perished."

A Russian naval officer has written a little book concerning Russia's probable action in the event of a war with Great Britain, which, now that it is translated, is creating much comment in the English military journals. The author has, it is evident, informed himself as to the events of our civil war, especially regarding the effective work accomplished by the rebel corsairs *Alabama*, *Georgia*, and *Florida*, for it is in like manner he would prey upon the British mercantile marine. He refers, no doubt, to ships of the *Vladimir* type, which Russia is now building, when he says that, at the first lowering of the war cloud, Russia would dispatch fast, unarmored, light battered cruisers to various distant ports on the great commercial highways, and, being informed by cable at the earliest moment after war was declared, take the seas after British ships. He looks over the roll of British war ships, and finds not one among the number who could catch the *Azov*, which has made over 20 knots an hour in ordinary seas, and can do still better in still water, and pertinently inquires what Britain could do to prevent the loss of her commerce. He estimates that the Russian cruisers would take or burn seven British ships a day on the average for the first few months.

The Washington correspondence of the *New York Herald*, Feb. 29th, contains the following: It is honestly believed here that Mr. Chamberlain has been so much in earnest in his attentions to the daughter of one of our high officials that he would be glad to take her to England as his wife, but the young lady and her relatives are all discreetly silent as to whether there will be a matrimonial engagement between them.

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MAIN STREET.

Woodstock, March 10, 1888.

Mr. Hale, M. P., Jubilant.

Mr. Hale, of Carleton County, is justly jubilant over his arrangement with the Customs authorities as respects horses coming back to Canada which have been used in the United States lumber woods, such horses being owned by Provincialists. It seems that when these horses enter the United States, even on hire, they must pay the American duty. Then on coming back to Canada the Canadian duty had to be paid, too. One result was that counties like Carleton and Victoria were drained of their best horses. When they went to the United States they remained there and were sold, in preference to paying the Canadian rate to come back, and the country was deprived entirely of their work. Once having paid the American duty they will not have to pay it again, and the result will be perfect freedom to pass to and fro to the advantage of the owners. On a full representation of the case to Mr. Bowell, he saw the justice of the claim made by Mr. Hale, and settled the business at once.—Ottawa Cor. to St. John Globe.

Well Put.

The Montreal Star forcibly says:—

Cannot something be done to take from Canada the reproach of being made the refuge of the scoundrelism of the United States? If a majority of the Senators of the Great Republic deliberately choose to be *particeps criminis* with the thieves and embezzlers of their country there is no reason why the Government and the people of Canada should, directly or indirectly, be sharers in their guilt. If it is in the power of the Dominion to make Canada too hot to hold the criminals from the United States who every day fly to it for safety from the pursuit of the officers of justice, it is its duty to exercise that power.

Advice to Young Ladies.

The following extract is from a sermon by the celebrated Dr. John Dow to the young ladies of his flock: The buxom, bright eyed, rosy cheeked, bouncing lass who can darn a stocking, mend trousers, make her own frocks, command a regiment of pots and kettles, feed the pigs, chop wood, milk the cows, wrestle with the boys, and be a lady without in company, is just the sort of girl for me and for any other worthy man to marry. But you, ye pining, moping, lolling, screwed-up, wasp waisted, putty-faced, consumption-mortgaged, music-murdering, novel-devouring daughters of fashion and idleness, you are no more fit for matrimony than a pullet is to look after a family of fourteen chickens. The truth is, my dear girls, you want generally speaking more liberty and less fashionable restraints; more kitchen and less parlor, more leg exercise and less sofa; more pudding and less piano; more frankness and less mock-modesty; more breakfast and less bustle. Loosen yourselves a little, enjoy more liberty and less restraint by fashion, breathe the pure atmosphere of freedom and become something as lovely and beautiful as the God of nature designed.

The Storm.

BALTIMORE, March 17.—It is impossible now to estimate the full damage of the storm upon the Chesapeake, as it will be a week before returns can be gathered from the data at hand. Between 100 and 200 vessels are wrecked, and from 12 to 30 people have been drowned.

Out of a total population of 1,549,000 in the Province of Quebec, it is shown that there are 1,475,000 people professing the Catholic faith, directed by one Cardinal, two Archbishops, seven Bishops, one Apostolic Prefect, and 1,546 priests and religious. There are 957 churches, 28 seminaries and colleges, 232 convents and 69 hospitals. The different ecclesiastical districts into which the province is divided, are peopled as follows by Catholics: Quebec, 729,000; Montreal, 619,000; Ottawa, 137,000. In the diocese of Quebec there are 666 priests, 411 churches, 108 convents, 18 seminaries and colleges, 25 hospitals, and 1,927 schools.

English women are taking high rank. The report on the Oxford University examination for women, for 1887, shows that at the first examination of 34 candidates 24 passed; at the second examination, out of 16, 9 passed, beside 14 who obtained honors, and there was one successful candidate in natural science. As far as possible, the honors candidates were examined by the university examiners in the honors school. The examiners' reports on the whole are of an honorable character. Greek translation, for example, was remarkably well done. In French, the standard attained was, with few exceptions, a very high one.

The United States Custom House authorities collected \$82,000 in duties on a single consignment of opium which was received by a San Francisco firm from Hong Kong, a few days ago. There were 200 cases, weighing 8,200 pounds, in the consignment.