

United States Press.

From the New York Tribune.

THE NORWALK CARNAGE.

The facts of the tragedy on the New-Haven Railroad are now so clearly established that they may be pronounced upon with justice.—It is shown that the grossest and most criminal negligence has prevailed in the management of the road; and that the Company has allowed the drawbridge to be opened whether trains were due and liable to arrive every instant or not. It is certain that they have not employed watchmen at every crossing, near every bridge, and at every other point of possible danger, the curve at the Norwalk depot for example, with signals such as could not be overlooked or neglected, to arrest approaching trains at a sufficient distance to prevent calamity; and it is proved that they are so careless in ascertaining the qualifications of their engineers that they entrust the lives of their passengers to such an idiot or madman as he who on Friday consummated the slaughter of fifty human beings, which he could not have done had not the Company rendered the task easy for him. These are facts that cannot be denied, and they demonstrate beyond question, that the great burden of this guilt rests upon the Company. Yes, Gentlemen Directors, it is upon you above all that it rests!

We know that the outcry of public indignation is mainly directed against the engineer, who is in the hands of justice and who we trust will be punished as he deserves; but we cannot on that account acquit his employers. How could they put such a man in a position where a turn of the hand, a glance of the eye almost, can launch a hundred persons to destruction? How could they allow a drawbridge to be touched when a train was about to come up and might be thrown into the river if it were open? How could they fail to have proper signal men stationed along the line far enough to stop a train long before it could reach the spot? Or how could they permit the bridge to be opened without any sure means of warning a train on the curve behind the depot, where the bridge itself and its signals are invisible? These are points on which the guilt of the Company and its share in this awful massacre become undeniable.

People are wont to boast of the superior cheapness with which our railroads are managed as contrasted with those of Europe. It is a boast we desire never to think of more. It is blotted out in blood. The economy in money is more than made up by the sanguinary waste of precious lives. On a European railway such wholesale murders as this at Norwalk, or that at Chicago, or such casualties as that of Ranocour Creek—which lacked but a hair's breadth of becoming as terrible in its slaughter as this of Friday—could not happen, for the reason that life is religiously cared for and a thorough police stationed the whole length of the line to watch for and announce every indication of peril. In this country we know of but one railway well provided in this respect; we mean that of the Hudson River.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature of Connecticut to make railroad companies liable to pay ten thousand dollars for every life lost through the carelessness of their employers. We hope it will pass. At that rate it would cost half a million of dollars to repeat the transaction of Friday, and we only wish that half that pecuniary punishment could now be inflicted.—But we suggest to the Legislature that this heavy fine is not sufficient to guard the lives of travellers. Stringent regulations should also forbid the opening of draw bridges within at least half an hour of the time for a train to pass. Wherever a railway crosses a common road, a bridge or a tunnel should carry it either over or under.

The whole road should be carefully fenced to exclude both animals and foot passengers. A corps of signal men should be kept all along the line to watch the track and give warning whenever there might be danger. Frequent and thorough examination should prove the car-wheels and axles and the rails to be sound and perfect, and all that would not stand the test should be put out of use. Let regulations like these be adopted, and let Railroad Companies be less niggardly in expending money for the safety of their passengers, and less greedy of their own profits, and it will be possible to say good bye to your friends, and take a seat in a car, without feeling as if you were proceeding to execution. But until these reforms have been introduced, we advise every one who is obliged to travel by railroad to make his will, and set his affairs in order, for it is doubtful whether he will ever be brought back alive.

CŒUR-DE-LION.

The Subscriber's Entire Horse 'Cœur de Lion,' recently imported from Prince Edward Island, will travel for the Season in the Parishes of Glenelg, Chatham, Nelson, and Newcastle. This Horse took the first prize offered by the 'Royal Agricultural Society of P. E. Island,' in 1849, for the best Entire Horse, of any age, and also a prize at the Provincial Exhibition held at Fredericton last fall.

The Groom will arrange the places of stoppage hereafter.

Terms—Twenty Shillings for the Season, (or, *Coll insured*, 25s. or no charge) and in case any Mare should not prove with Foal to him, a reduction of 10s. will be made. Payment to be made on the first of May 1854.

MICHAEL SEARLE.

Napan, April 23, 1853.

Farmers Agency, &c. &c.

The Subscriber offers his services, as a Commission Agent, to sell and buy for Farmers, and to transact any Business on Commission in a general way, for persons that will favour him with Orders.

Farm Produce of all kinds, sold on Commission to the best advantage, or in accordance with instructions received.

Office, adjoining the Post Office.

WM. LETSON.

Farmers Commission Agent, & Auctioneer
Chatham, 22nd April, 1853.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, MAY 23, 1853.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—15s. in advance: 20s. at the end of the year.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—Seven lines and under, first insertion 2s. 6d., and 6d every subsequent publication: from 7 to 16 lines, 5s. the first, and 1s. every insertion afterwards. Longer advertisements in proportion. Advertising by the year as may be agreed upon.

No order except from persons with whom we have an account, will be attended to, except accompanied with the cash.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

THE Carleton Sentinel published at Woodstock, has the following article on this subject. Carleton is the only county in the Province that has adopted those institutions, and as the editor has had ample opportunity to witness their working, can speak with certainty as to their adaptation to the necessities of the County, and the effect of their operation.

Will our readers peruse attentively the remarks annexed, and after they have done so, ask themselves if we would not be benefited by their introduction into this County.

It is to be regretted that our contemporaries throughout the Province do not advocate the acceptance, by the people, of the Municipal Act with more warmth than they do. Many of them scarcely ever mention the subject, and appear to care but little whether it is ever taken up or not. This silence must proceed from neglect or the want of consideration, for we cannot think that any of them entertain serious objections to the principle. We are aware that the present Act is not exactly what it should be, but it is better than none, it is a commencement in the right direction, and if other Counties would take the matter up, the Legislature would be compelled to make such alterations and amendments as are required. The principle has been tried in this County and approved of, many that were bitterly opposed to the change would now return to the old system under any consideration. We have heard of no objection to the principle from any quarter, some complain that the salaries have been reduced too low, but whether this is the case or not, it is no argument against the principle nor no reason why it should not be tried in other Counties. The great evil in this province has been that the salaries were too high, and large sums of money have been expended yearly that were never accounted for; in this County a re-action has taken place and if it has been carried too far, the evil will in a short time correct itself. It is no new thing in this Province to complain that the salaries are too low, some would not be satisfied if they received £10 000; but let the act be accepted in every County and the question of salaries will govern itself, the people can pay in cash what they please and if their money is squandered from year to year they will have no one to blame for it but themselves. By the acceptance of the Act the people will also hold a greater check over their Representatives, as the public voice through the County Council, can be brought to bear on every question that comes before the Legislature. No representative will disregard suggestions and instructions from the Council, if he knows they come direct from the people, and, moreover if the Act is accepted in every county in the Province, the business of the Legislature can be done in one half the time and at one half the expense, it now is, as all local legislation can and should be transacted by the County Council. If something of this kind is not done very soon, the Legislative Session must last the year round and even then the public business will not all be got through with. We should be much pleased to hear from our contemporaries on this subject as it is one of importance and of interest to us all. The New Brunswick has made a commencement and we hope it will be continued, as we are satisfied that if charters are accepted throughout the Province good results will follow.

THE CONTINGENT BILL.

This monstrous piece of Legislative knavery and deceit, is being severely handled by the Press. Editors may write, the people complain, and the members of the Assembly at the close of the Session, vent their indignation at the speculation and knavery of their fellows, but the work of spoliation goes on unchecked, and will continue so to do, until the constituency choose men whose circumstances in life do not require them to loaf on the public chest to assist them to live, and appear as gentlemen.

The remedy lies with the people. If they expect to cure the evil, and introduce a more wholesome state of things, they must send to the Legislature men of character, intelligence, and independence (at least in mind if not in purse) for, until this be done, there is no prospect for a change for the better.

We copy a few remarks from our contemporaries below:—

We have been promised a list of the items extraordinary which assisted to swell the Assembly contingent Bill to its present amount, nearly £1,900; if received it will of course be published, and will prove a very interesting document; if report speaks truth, any quantity of gold pencil cases, gold rings, pen knives, sealing wax, &c. will be found charged in the list.—*Carleton Sentinel*.

This abortive waste of time and public money is of itself sufficiently grievous; but the disclosures in discussing the Contingent Bills of the

two Houses at the end of the Session, which exposed the disgraceful peculations of some of the members, in providing themselves with all sorts of articles at the public expense, must excite a universal cry of indignation and disgust. Time and space forbid our enlarging on this subject as we could wish; but we cannot refrain from asking the constituency of this Province generally, what right have their Representatives to loaf in gold and silver pencil cases, gold rings, portfolios, *papier mache* ornaments, stationery for the whole year's use, and other such personal supplies, out of the public taxes, to the tune of nearly £3900 in one Session? Such sordid meanness in honorable Legislators can only merit contempt.—*St John Observer*.

THE CONTINGENCIES.—The New Brunswicker of Saturday, makes a dull attempt to answer our article of Friday last repelling his base charge that the reformers were responsible for the rascalities perpetrated under the Contingent Bill last Session. He calls us a 'sagacious biped,' a 'queaking trumpet,' and says that we have got into a 'fesse.' Now calling names is very sorry argument. To resort to the same mode of warfare, we should, to do him justice, have to call our cotemporary several names that would not look well in print. So he had better just stop where he is. He says in defence of the Government, (mark—he does not deny our statement that they are in a majority,) that the Attorney General has passed on record a resolution to prevent future extravagances, and complains because we do not give 'our leader' credit for his patriotism. The resolution is as follows:—

Resolved, That in future the Clerk of the Assembly shall import or procure the Stationery, and furnish the Chairman of the Contingent Committee with the Invoice in the first week of the Session; and further, that no Account shall be paid or allowed for Stationery or other Articles, except the same be purchased and accounted for by the Clerk, who is to be held responsible.

After the horse is stolen the wise Attorney General pretends to lock the barn door, in order to allay, if possible, the fears of the Country.—The resolution is nothing. But we do not give the Attorney General credit is it? Well then we shall try and do the hon. gentleman justice, and we call upon the New Brunswicker to sustain or deny the charge if he dare.

Be it then known to all good people of New Brunswick that the Hon. John Ambrose Street, the leader of the House of Assembly and the Government, did at the last General Session obtain a Silk Gown, worth Ten Pounds sterling, which was one of Four Silk Gowns imported into this Province among the contingent items for the use of the House of Assembly. We obtain this information from a member of the House. "Prisoner look upon the Juryman—Juryman look upon the prisoner."

Here is a beautiful example, then, for the head of the Government to set to the Reformers. Among the other items used by the House, were BISCUITS (nothing about cheese)—cost £18 14 1!!! We pay the members 15s. a day, and they charge us in addition £18 for lunches! Ye Gods!

SNUFF.—There are said to be only six habitual snuff takers in the House (we have their names)—and yet good people how much think you, we are charged for snuff? Upwards of £12!!! The item snuff is charged £6 3s. 11d. But an hon. member tells us that there was as much more charged under one of the sundry heads, for snuff.

There were also Portfolios, Portmonies, Gold Pencil Cases, &c., imported and used.

Now, we contend that the majority (being the Government party) had the power of preventing the importation of all these things—had the power to reduce the Contingent expenses of both Houses one half, if they chose to exercise that power. But catch them trying to do good, so long as they can get their own hands into the mess. Their hiring poltroons in spite of these things tells the country that the Reformers (about ten in number) are answerable for the corruptions of the House! No doubt some of the Reformers, finding that the things were imported, assisted to pocket the plunder, which of course we do not approve of. The charge, however, made is, that the Reformers are alone to blame. Our answer is, that the Government are responsible, as the Government party are in a majority in the House.—*Morning News*.

The Freeman contains a long article on this subject. We annex the concluding remarks:—

Well, now, electors of New Brunswick what think you of the character your representatives give you of themselves? You have their own admission that they are the most corrupt body ever assembled in this Province, and you may be sure they tell pretty much the truth. You can not distinguish the honourable from the mean in those transactions; the pure from the corrupt. No names are published; no means of forming an opinion is afforded you. There were very fine speeches made, but how do you—or how can you know that the men who made them are not themselves sharers in the spoils, and guilty as those who, because they were absent, were made the scape-goats. It would not do to pass such a bill without remark; but the men who were so loud in their denunciations dare not accuse any one, for this would provoke recrimination. It was very fine for Mr Gray to try to fix the guilt on the Reformers, and to ask why Editors of newspapers did not forget they were gentlemen and act as pimps and spies, the position, no doubt, to which he would desire to see them reduced. But why, if he were innocent and possessed of information as he assumed to be, did he not denounce the guilty and expose them to the country? Why did he who was sent there by the people to guard their rights and their money, and whose duty it was to oppose every improper appropriation; why did he consent that these bills should be paid? Why did the surveyor General, when pressed about publishing the accounts in full, hang about and shuffle as he did and talk of publishing those of other years just to frighten everybody?

We asked for the accounts, that we may publish them, and they were refused. We asked permission to examine them and it was denied. True, we were told by a member, in presence of many, who got some of the pencil cases and other articles, and who got the gold ring. The men whose names we got are neither pretended Reformers or special friends of ours; but we will not, on such authority, publicly accuse these men who, perhaps, are not more guilty than others. The odium now rests on the whole

body; the whole are, in fact, guilty—implicated directly or indirectly, and it is right they should continue so until the innocent prove their innocence.

The following communication we copy from the St. John Times:—

ANOTHER "LIBERAL LIE NAILED TO THE COUNTER"—The Morning News and the Jesuitical Freeman, remarkable only for their opposition to truth and everything British—see their remarks on the landing of the Loyalists—have concocted between them another notorious falsehood respecting a silk gown imported for the use of the Attorney General. The conductors of these scurrilous sheets being, strongly tainted with the corruption and gross dishonesty of the desperate men who habitually make tools of them, have falsely asserted that the Hon. J. A. Street obtained a silk gown at the expense of the Province, and that the price of it was merged in the contingent bill. We now tell these defamers that they lie. On receipt of the gown the cost of it was duly credited by the Attorney General in his account against the Province!

Judging by the past career of the News and Freeman, we really despair of their reformation.

"For slander lives upon succession.

Forever house'd where it once gets possession."

We have made some enquiries respecting the Contingency Bill, a copy of which we published last week, and gleaned the following information.

There were three Silk Gowns imported by order of the Provincial Secretary, at £10 5s. sterling a piece. One, it was presumed, was for the Speaker, one for the Clerk, and the other for an unknown party; but it was taken possession of by the Attorney General. When the matter was brought up, he said he had it, and would return it. He subsequently informed a member that the Province should not pay for it.

The Resolution copied above from the Morning News, and introduced into the House by Mr Street, was penned by Mr Johnson, and moved by him in the Contingent Committee, and adopted by that body. It was therefore simply brought in by the Attorney General as the Chairman of that Committee. We should not have noticed this circumstance if the credit of originating it was not bestowed on the Chairman by some of the papers.

The bills from Asa Coy & Son, for snuff, &c.; G. Troughton, for biscuit, &c.; and John Mackintosh, for biscuit, &c.; amounting in the whole to the snug sum of £24 19s., should have appeared under the following heads—Brandy, Wine, Ale, Porter, &c., as they comprised the principal items; and the biscuit and snuff but a small fraction. We are told that the snuff did not cost over £1, and the biscuit 50s.

It is a very great pity, we understand, that some plan could not be devised, by which one of the leading and long serving members for York, could be made to reveal all he knows on the subject of the provender, &c., served up in one of the Committee rooms, and the items that come under that elegant and classical head—*snow shovelling*.

Will our Agent at Westmorland inform us, if any of the members from his County keep stationary stores, for we learn a large quantity of paper, wax, pens, and other articles in that line, yearly finds its way into the travelling trunks of one or more of its members.

Look at the article of Fuel. Will any person believe that it cost £92 7s. 7d. for Wood (with the cost of cutting) and £13 15s. for Coal, to provide fires for heating the building? We think not. It has been hinted to us—that the occupiers of the public offices in the vicinity of the Province Hall, might disclose some secrets on this matter were it their interest so to do, but as silence is the most prudent and judicious course, nothing can be expected from that quarter to solve the mystery.

While so much has been said of the extraordinary charges in the contingent bill, we understand there are greater abuses existing, and grosser frauds perpetrated by the members on the public chest, which, as far as our memory serves us, has never been noticed. One which stands prominently forward, and has existed ever since the Legislature has been in being, is the TRAVELLING EXPENSES of members. Those from Restigouche, we learn, receive pay or fees for SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY MILES, going and returning to the Legislature. Those from Gloucester, FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES. This computed at 15s. per diem, for every twenty miles, amounts to a pretty nice sum each session. The plan pursued by the Speaker in apportioning the distances, is not by the most direct or mail route, but by the most circuitous or round-about way that can be imagined. For instance, the pay of the members from Restigouche and Gloucester is not reckoned by the distance that Dalhousie or Bathurst is from Fredericton by the post road by way of the South west, Miramichi, (although the members travel that road) but by the southern route, via St. John. By this method the whole of the distances are computed and paid for accordingly, with the exception, we believe, of the members from St. John and this Coun-