

The Politician.

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From the Western Recorder.
USEFUL HINTS.

We should hope that the present depressed state of affairs in our Province—the prostration of trade and commerce, would evoke an inquiry as to its origin, pregnant with salutary lessons.

That we are at the very lowest possible position, so far as the business of our country is concerned, there can be no question. The Money Market is tight, commerce stagnated, trade heavy, while the mills, manufactories, and shipyards, have closed up for the present, until better times, and a firmer trade and brighter prospects, encourage a re-opening.

The commencement, or inauguration of this lamentable state of affairs may be clearly traced principally to ourselves as the prime cause.

To be sure the cholera, the visible opening of times of depression, was an affliction which no statesmanship could torsece and no diplomacy ward off. It was the will and pleasure of an unerring Providence, to chasten us with that heavy Dispensation of Divine Judgment.

But in what position did the Cholera find us?

Extravagant beyond measure—rioting in the excesses of social and commercial dissipation—plunged in speculations, involving fabulous amounts of money—and Jehu-like, driving furiously.

Immediately upon the disappearance of the Cholera, hope gave promise of an abundant return to the speculator, in the lumbering camp, and men of little foresight and prudence, but much money, turned everything into this channel, trusting upon the turn of the times in England, as upon the turn of the dice, to amass wealth.

In the meantime, the Crimean War, which had been slowly struggling on to its final completion, cramped the usual easy resources for tradesmen; the campaign was prolonged; times grew heavier; money became scarcer; and the turn of the dice on the rafts of timber of extraordinary dimensions proved a blank.

It could not be wondered at under these circumstances—with the legitimate influence of repeated failures in the crops—that every avenue of business became dull and sluggish. The money of the Capitalist was lost either in the lumbering camp, or on the ships in the English market, or upon indiscreet importations of deals, or in hazardous speculation in West Indian produce; and then, to add to all this, the panic occasioned by hard times not only settled on New Brunswick, but over England and the United States. Firm after firm of the "merchant princes" of Great Britain went down, bringing a whole swarm of smaller fry with them; Bank after Bank and House after House in New York and elsewhere in the American Republic, "caved in," as the American aptly and appropriately say, bringing others under the ruin—and all these had a greater or less effect upon the New Brunswick business. Then in our own City came the downfall, either by ruinous speculations, indiscriminate driving of trade, or lack of business prudence, we cannot say which: Joseph Fairweather failed with his reputed liabilities of £30,000; G. & J. Salter, with estimated liabilities of £20,000; Thomas Hanford rated with debts due £10,000—and others, each having a direct and powerful effect upon the business of the community. Now we would not for an instant cast the slightest or a single reflection of an equivocal character upon these gentlemen—however public rumour may delight, upon every pretext, to mangle the reputation of men unfortunate in business, we are bound by every social, moral and manly obligation to hold them as guiltless until their characters have been fairly and legitimately tarnished before a more impartial tribunal than that of the mis-termed public opinion, which holds its court at the corners of the thoroughfares, and dispenses its severe judgment independently of all sentiments and dictates of fair play and honorable dealings between man and man. We take, therefore, the naked facts as we find them, and the most we can dare to say consistently with our duty and with fair play is, that they have launched deeper into waters of speculation than sound prudence could dictate or permit. It is easy for any man to calculate, to some extent at least, and with a pretty near approximation to the truth, the disastrous effects of such failures upon the comparatively small city of St. John. But what we most condemn is that system of speculation, almost reaching to gambling which has characterized the lumbering business.—Men in comparative affluence have thrown their all into the forest, and returned, mere broken down bankrupts. Individuals have forsaken their farms, their merchandize, and the very homes that sheltered them; converted them, at a ruinous discount, into ready cash, and embarked their whole capital available, in this way, in the lumber camp, and returned penniless.—Mortgages after mortgages, capable of the shortest possible satisfaction in the shortest possible way, have been heaped upon valuable properties, and at last foreclosed of the

power of sale enforced, and the estate swept away at a fearful sacrifice. This has to a great extent, been the history of lumbering. It is all useless and vain to point to one and another who may have gained a glistening prize in the forest—for they are the exception, while the poor, broken down bankrupts, with empty purses and pockets, shattered credit and constitutions, are the unfortunate rule. It would be a happy thing for young New Brunswick, if men would look at this matter somewhat in this light. If there must be lumbering—let it be a distinct business, dependant on itself, and carried on equitably and prudently, and not in the wild spirit of crazy speculation. Let the Farmer till his land—the Mechanic attend to his duties—and the Lumberer cull the forests; but don't let us have every branch of business made secondary and subordinate to the last, and find the Carpenter, and the Blacksmith, the Farmer and the Merchant all engaged in the woods, and expecting a fortune in a day.

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

CIRCASSIA.—Battle between the Russians and Circassians.—The news received from the Caucasus by the last mail is diametrically opposed to that forwarded from St. Petersburg a few days since—Seter Bey announced that 10,000 Circassians, under command of Mehemed Bey (the Hungarian Bangya) and M. Stankajevich, a Belgian officer of artillery, have totally defeated General Filipson on the banks of the Kuban, which divides the country inhabited by the Tchernowarisch Cossacks from that part of the Caucasus which is peopled by the various tribes popularly known as 'the Circassians.' The Russians, who are said to have been pursued as far as Kostoff and Tamor, lost six guns and 64 pack-horses. The foregoing intelligence may not be correct, but Schamyl's subjoined proclamation must be considered a kind of proof that some advantages of importance have been obtained over the Russians on the Caspian coast of the Caucasian Isthmus.

The tale told is, that Schamyl, with an army of 25,000 men, was encamped on the banks of a river called Koyusu, and that the Russians resolved to attempt to dislodge him, as the position commanded the passes of the Tschetschna. Accordingly, the Russians advanced upon them in two divisions, under the command of Generals Nicolai and Rudanoffsky. General Nicolai was kept in check by a chief named Hadji Mourad, but Rudanoffsky was boldly attacked by Schamyl, who, after a battle which lasted ten hours, succeeded in driving his enemy across the Koyusu. The result of Schamyl's victory was that several blockhouses fell into his hands, fortified places which had been built by the Russians at a prodigious sacrifice of time, money, and life, for the maintenance of the communication between Kizlar, on the river Terek, and Derbend, on the Caspian. Schamyl's proclamation runs as follows:—

In the name of the great and merciful God and of His sole Prophet, I make known unto you, my faithful friends, that I would die fighting against the enemies of the true faith, than permit them to retain possession of one single piece of our soil.

The fitting moment has arrived, and we have successfully attacked our inexorable foe. It is true that we stand alone; but God is with those who have faith in Him. Islam requires no foreign aid, and if during three or four years we refrained from assisting our brethren when they fought against the Russians, it was solely because it is displeasing to God that Infidels should come to the assistance of Islam. Children of Islam! let us show to the world that the faithful need no aid when they do battle against the enemies of God, of his Prophet, and of our holy religion.

As is seen, Schamyl makes his religious principles an excuse for his inactivity during the war; but it is a notorious fact that he concluded an armistice with Russia on very advantageous conditions, until April 1, 1857. It is said that 2000 deserters fought under Schamyl's flag on the bank of the Koyusu.

ITALY.—The Eruption of Vesuvius.—A letter from Naples, of the 16th inst., in the Independence of Brussels, says:—The eruption of Vesuvius, which for some days past had materially slackened, yesterday acquired more violence than at the commencement. The explosions to day are much more frequent, and the lava imprisoned at the bottom of the deep ravine of the Alvie del Cavillo has very materially increased in depth. The learned Professor Palmieri, the successor of the illustrious Melloni, and Director of the Observatoire Vesuvians, goes three times a week to the top of the mountain near the crater, in order to view the particularities of the eruption and to take notes, which will be afterwards embodied in an article which will be communicated to the different academies of science.

PORTUGAL.—Considerable sensation has been created in Portugal by the discovery of extensive frauds in the wine trade. Government had seized a large quantity of mixtures brought from England to Oporto, and intended to be taken back as veritable port wine. About 3,000 pipes of the mixtures, which compose bad alcohol, molasses, and the essence of tar, are said to be now in London. How much has been put in market without being discovered as bogus will never be known.

The Mediterranean Telegraph.—On Tuesday, the 25th, the engineers who are to lay down the submarine telegraph between Sardinia and Algeria left by overland route, the cable for that purpose having been shipped on board the Elbe, which left Birkenhead on Saturday the 23rd. The length of the cable, which has been manufactured at the works of Messrs. Newall, is 150 miles, and is to be sunk between Cagliari, on the Sardinian coast, and Bona, on the coast of Algeria. In the event of the cable being successfully sunk, Europe will thus be placed in electric rapport with the islands of the Mediterranean and the continent of Africa; and it is in contemplation eventually to connect Bona with Alexandria by means of underground wires along the coast. The engineers calculate on sufficiently favourable weather in the Mediterranean to allow of continuous operations during the course of the week, though it is not to be concealed that the physical conditions and difficulties involved in submerging the Mediterranean as regards depth and inequality of plateau are formidable, apart from the distance, which is, comparatively speaking, a matter of small amount.

CAPE BRETON.

SYDNEY, September 5.—John Page, Esq., Chief Engineer of Public Works in Canada, arrived here on Tuesday evening, on board the steamer "Napoleon II," which vessel took in a supply of coals at North Sydney. Mr Page's mission has for its object the selection of sites for several new Lights which the Canadian Government intends to erect. He was accompanied by the Honble. Mr Lemieux, Chief Commissioner of Public Works; by Mr Guavieau, Superintendent for the building of Light Houses, and by H. LeMessurier, Esq., Master of the Quebec Trinity House, Capt. Alley of the Royal Navy, Deputy Master, and Messrs. Armstrong, and Lindsay, of the same Department, under whose Superintendence the Lights in the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence are placed. These gentlemen, after inspecting the Light Houses now in operation, and those lately erected, visited the Coast of Labrador, as far as Battle Island and the North and Western Coasts of Newfoundland, from Belle Isle to Cape Ray. The Napoleon again left on Thursday on her return to Quebec, and will touch at the Bird Rocks, and other places on the North side of the Island of Anticosti.—News.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

St. John's Sept. 1.—The remarkably favourable weather to which we referred this day week has continued since without interruption. One of the many good consequences is that the business of the season is unusually forward—probably three weeks in advance of this date last year as to the quantity of our staple produce in the market. It is further gratifying to see that the quality of Fish this year is very superior to that of many years past—a fact to which the fine curing weather has of course materially contributed.

Last Monday we quoted the price of Fish (large, medium, and a small) from store at 18s. Since then, we learn, large transactions have taken place at our quotation, and we now have no doubt that this rate will be maintained through the greater part, if not the whole, of the fall. During the week too, the price from boats has been fixed, as we anticipated, at 1s per quintal under the rate from store.—Newfoundlander.

F. N. Gisborne and the Atlantic Cable.—Whilst sincerely regretting the failure in laying the Atlantic cable, we would record a fact or two for future reference.

Mr Gisborne confidently predicted the unfortunate result, and actually quitted Trinity Bay at the very time expectation was on tip-toe to hear of the safe arrival of the cable fleet here.

We might have mentioned the above but for the following fact:—So soon as the failure of the enterprise was announced, Mr Gisborne forwarded a telegraph despatch to Peter Cooper, Esq., President of the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company, to the effect—"That if appointed Chief Engineer of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, with full powers, he would submit a plan for laying the cable, safely at the rate of not less than eight nautical miles per hour, or in case of failure would forfeit reputation, time, and one thousand pounds sterling." The above is no mere empty vaunt, the manner of effecting it having been quite satisfactorily explained to His Excellency the Governor of this Colony. It appears to us that our (par excellence) Colonial Telegraph Engineer, F. N. Gisborne, Esq., will maintain his position in the mighty projection which has sprung to life from the sweat of his brow, on our own soil, despite the few who have on more than one occasion, to their sorrow, shame and discomfiture, tried to injure his merits. We venture to predict that should all others fail, our old friend Gisborne will stand forth, at all events to try.—Ledger.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Tide in the Bay of Fundy.—A summer tourist writes from Windsor, N. S., that the tide in that region is worth a visit to witness. At Windsor it rushes in from the Bay of Fundy, to the height of twenty-five or thirty feet.—At the ebb a vast expanse of mud is brought to view, and the beds of deep streams are converted into rivulets. But the tide at this point is not attended by the sublime demonstrations witnessed in Chignecto Bay and the Basin of Mines, into which the Bay of Fundy is divided. Settling in obliquely on the coast of North America, the tide "Seems to range along that coast in a channel or bed, gradually narrow-

ing till it is stopped in the Bay of Fundy, where the accumulation of water becomes tremendous. The tide approaches with a prodigious noise in one vast wave, that is seen many miles off, and the waves rise to the height of more than 70 feet. Swine exhibit a peculiar penchant for the shell fish uncovered by the receding water, and root vigorously until the distant rumble of the "bore" or approaching wave is heard, which they detect with remarkable readiness, when the whole herd turn tail and make for the nearest land. Speaking on the same subject, a recent writer says:

A vast and uninterrupted body of water, impelled by the trade wind from the coast of Africa to the American continent, strikes the Nova Scotia Shore between 44 deg. and 45 deg. north latitude, with a force almost adequate to its total annihilation. A barrier of 15 miles only in width, between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of St. Lawrence, seems to have escaped such a catastrophe—while a space of 100 miles in length, and upwards of 40 in breadth, has been swallowed up in the vortex, which, rolling its tremendous tides of sixty and seventy feet in perpendicular height up the beds of the adjoining rivers, has converted them into inland seas.—Acadian Recorder.

P. E. ISLAND.

The late Storm.—The gale and heavy sea which produced so disastrous a loss of life and property on the coast of New Brunswick, and which was also fatally felt here, under the name of a "Bore," have been attributed by some of our contemporaries to a subterranean convulsion, or earthquake. This is, however, clearly an error. The shock of an earthquake is distinctly felt at sea, but it is as if the vessel were suddenly struck by a large fish, but not as described by the New Brunswick fishermen. If the gale was insufficient to raise waves experienced off the Bay of Chaleur, then it must have raged with far greater intensity somewhere in the gulf; and the destructive waves were the effect of the storm there. It has been found, by comparison, that the tornadoes of tropical seas are whirlwinds of immense diameters, and probably all storms are, though those subjected to their fury be unconscious of the fact. One of the most appalling symptoms of a West India hurricane is the rise of the sea far above the level of spring tides, and the concomitant height of the waves. Two forces evidently combine to produce that result. Whilst the hurricane is yet at a distance, it is whirling on its centre, over a space of perhaps two or three hundred miles in diameter, with a velocity of probably a hundred miles an hour; and as it advances on its path, at only about ten miles an hour the waves the hurricane raises roll faster onward than it does itself, and either herald its approach, or indicate that a storm has raged in the neighbouring seas. This will account for the size of the waves, but it will not for the extraordinary rise of the sea. If a barometer be consulted, it will be found to have fallen extremely low; and consequently it is certain that the weight of the atmosphere has been considerably removed from over that locality. Hence, the greater weight of the air on the ocean surrounding the course of the storm, forces, to some extent, the water up, as if it were under a vast pump, to which in principle the action is perfect analogous.

Now, if the gale on the shore of New Brunswick was incapable of raising waves to the estimated height of fifty feet—which is doubtless a gross exaggeration—they must be attributed to a tornado in the gulf, perhaps of small diameter, of which only "the tail" was experienced on the coast. The "Bore" on part of our coast, on the same day, must be referred to the same source. We felt the waves without coming within the sphere of the storm; and it depends on the formation of the shore, whether they assume the aspect of a "Bore," or not. In the hurricane months, if the waves roll on a West India Island in unusual size, and the sea does not rise, these facts are received as indications of the action of a tornado at no great distance, which seldom disappoint, though all may remain calm and quiet there; and to something of the same sort the appearances and losses here and in New Brunswick are no doubt to be attributed.—Islander.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Destructive Fire.—On Friday morning, one of the most destructive fires known for years, occurred in the village of Portland. It originated, most persons say, in the rear of the house on Main street, owned by John Dawson. Some say it was in the next house, owned by Mrs Maxwell—and almost immediately after the alarm was given—about 1, A.M., both houses were in flames. The wind had blown freshly in the early part of the night, but when the fire broke out it was very calm, and the fire spread to the adjoining houses so very slowly, that for a long time, few could apprehend so great a destruction of property as took place.—But although the Water Commissioners have made such efforts to get a supply of Water to Portland, they have not succeeded as yet, and the tide was low, and water in any quantity could not be procured without great difficulty. The few wells, &c., were soon pumped dry, and the water could only be got from the lower part of the long wharf, and the other wharves, and from such distances it could only be brought to the place of the fire, by one engine's feeding another. Under such circumstances, it is evident that the engines could not render as much service as when each has a copious supply of water, and it is much to be regretted that all that could be done was not done.