

RECIPROCITY.

HERALD readers could not have been surprised at learning that preliminary correspondence between the Washington and Ottawa governments on the subject of reciprocity had taken place. This paper has the satisfaction of knowing that it alone of all New Brunswick papers has kept its readers informed of the rapid development of the reciprocity movement. Only a week or two ago it stated that its private advice were to the effect that the movement was advancing with a speed little imagined by the politicians and the press generally. Meanwhile its conservative contemporaries on the one hand have been declaring that reciprocity was not to be thought of, on account of the position taken by the U. S. government, and its liberal contemporaries on the other were insisting that negotiations were on foot of the question owing to the attitude of the Canadian government. The lesson of this is that a great deal of fuss and signifying nothing.

The reports now circulated that the Canadian government is much embarrassed over the turn things have taken, must not be accepted as very much. If Sir John Macdonald is favorable to reciprocity and the United States government is willing there are no difficulties in the way. Sir John has the pledge of Mr. Laurier, speaking for the liberals, that his party will stand by the government in obtaining reciprocity, so that even if there should be a break in the Ontario section of the government party, Sir John could carry out his own policy successfully. It is not easy to see the good derived by a political party from the manufacture of difficulties alleged to exist among their opponents.

Of course there are difficulties in setting upon a scheme of reciprocity. Details have to be worked out, and if the scheme is a limited one, mutual concessions have to be made. Negotiations may fail by reason of the inability of the two governments to agree upon a satisfactory plan; but if both sides are willing to arrive at an equitable arrangement, and the Imperial government interposes no obstacles, details will probably be adjusted so as to meet the reasonable wishes of both parties.

Pending the issue of such negotiations as may be now on foot, the public will be treated to many statements of the views and intentions of both governments. These should be received with caution, because the chances are largely in favor of their being the invention of some one more bent on doing his party what he thinks good service than on setting out the facts. The only thing that the public would appear as yet to be warranted in accepting as established is that the governments of the two countries have taken the initial step towards an interchange of views. Whether a second step will be taken remains to be seen; but if it is, it will become the duty of Canadians of all shades of politics to join hands in securing for the country such a treaty as will best serve its interests. Once actual negotiations are begun, all other questions must stand aside until they are concluded.

THE SECRETARY TREASURERSHIP.

The municipal council were acting within their right in not selecting Mr. Wilson to the office of secretary treasurer of the city; but the expediency of displacing an officer against whose discharge of duty no complaint can be made, whose transactions under the most rigid and hostile scrutiny remain unchallenged, is quite another matter. To make the tenure of the office of secretary treasurer dependent upon anything else than a fitness for its duties and the conscientious discharge of them is a new departure in this country and a regrettable one. We have nothing to say against the new incumbent. He will doubtless do his duty, as he understands it; but he will assume his new responsibilities knowing that no matter how faithful he may be, how anxious he may be to aid the councillors in their representative capacity, how careful he may be with the funds entrusted to his care, how diligent he may be in attending to his duties, he is liable, at any time, and for causes that he cannot possibly control, to be ousted from his position. We repeat that this is a new feature in connection with the secretary treasurer's office that does not enhance the value or usefulness of the office. Mr. Wilson retires with the satisfaction that there is nothing in connection with his official career that will not bear the closest scrutiny, and must carry with him the respect even of those who opposed him.

In its proper place in the report of the proceedings of the council will be found the report of the committee on Mr. Wilson's accounts. In fairness to that gentleman a few words in regard to that report may be said. What effect illegal elections have upon the transactions of the Municipal Council we do not propose to discuss; but the law provides that elections shall be held in a certain way and the municipal council cannot afford to disregard its plain provisions. The rule acted upon by the council seems to be that it is not worth while to unseat a councillor illegally elected, because the enquiry may cost something and the parish may be unrepresented. Neither of these reasons is of the least value; if they are, they justify any irregularity, and a returning officer is free to do about as he pleases. If the council continues to act upon this principle, some one will come along bringing them up with a round turn. If it is, as was stated at the board, that all the elections are conducted in the same irregular fashion, there ought to be a change at once. It is just as easy to change the law as to disregard it. In the Canterbury case the clear duty of the council was to declare Mr. Lawson's seat vacant. Mr. Jamieson, his colleague, was not petitioned against, and the council would have had no jurisdiction to interfere with him. On the evidence of Mr. Lawson himself his return was illegal, and it ought to have been so declared even if only at the closing hours of the session.

The Sun says that Mr. Wiman has been engaged to write a paper for the N. Y. Independent on the next ten years of Canada's future. Seeing that the paper was written and published nearly a month ago, the Sun is somewhat behind with its news. HERALD readers have already had a synopsis of the paper. But our contemporary is excusable. Things begin to look as if it would have to swallow Mr. Wiman and his ideas as to Canada, and it is necessarily a little confused as to the easiest manner of accomplishing the job.

NOMINATION for the vacant seat in Westmorland county will be on February 7th, election on the 14th.

YORK COUNTY COUNCIL.

Some Very Important Matters Discussed by the Council—Work of the Session.

The councillors from the different sections of the county assembled in session on Tuesday morning, wardens Scott occupying the chair. The election of a warden for the current year was the first business done; John C. Murray was nominated by McNally and seconded by John Mowatt, and duly elected.

The report of auditor Black was then submitted. The amount of the assessment on the town of Marysville was, in that gentleman's opinion, not correct according to law. He said the incorporation act showed it to be plain that the amount assessed at Marysville, collected by the town and paid over to the county or parish in assessing or collecting, should not include any amount for assessing, collecting or probable loss, and yet there had been a percentage levied on the town. The assessment on Marysville for hospital expenses, at Mr. Rowley's request, which would, at Mr. Rowley's request, be gone into later on. There is an item of \$250 paid by the government, and more than received by the government, and some payments that had not been authorized.

The secretary treasurer in replying to the auditor, said that Mr. Rowley, although a town, was to all intents and purposes a part of the county, and the act of incorporation had not changed the law. Ten per cent was a just rate of assessment on the town for collecting the school fund in that town. The by-road money had been asked for by the councillors and the amounts paid had been on account of the three thousand advanced by the government, and by means of more money may be paid out than received. He claimed the law authorized the payments referred to by the auditor.

Coun. Rowley requested that the act relating to the Marysville assessment might be read by the auditor, which was done, and the matter of assessment was deferred until later in the session.

The minutes were read and confirmed. The following committees were appointed: Secretary treasurer's accounts—Coun. Goodspeed, Pinder, Lawrence, S. Inch and Graham.

Assessments—Coun. Jamieson, McKean, Everett, Kinghorn, Mowatt, Scott, Fisher, G. Inch, H. Hallett, Goodspeed, Lookhart and Calhoun.

Public accounts—Coun. Lawson, S. Inch, Simons, Everett, Lawrence, Little, Nasson, Sanderson, McNally, Rowley, Pinder and Fullerton.

The petition of ex-coun. Price of Canterbury was presented to the board by coun. Everett, praying for an investigation into the circumstances attending the return of Luke Lawson. There had not been a proper check list by the voters, and the petitioner said he had been elected by a majority of votes over the latter. A committee was appointed to investigate and report upon the matter before the close of the session.

WEDNESDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

On Wednesday morning, coun. Fullerton introduced the board of health report dated from Nov. 1, 1888, until Dec. 31, 1890. The detailed statement of expenses were:

Organization expenses, \$12 04	Telegrams, \$12 04
Dr. Coburn, visiting Prince William, 2 00	Dr. Young, 2 00
Dr. Owens, 2 00	Dr. Moore, 2 00
Dr. Coburn, 2 00	Dr. Moore, 2 00
Amount for current year, \$27.78	

Coun. McNally moved and coun. Hallett seconded, that the Canterbury assessors and collectors receive five per cent, road tax included. Carried.

Moved by coun. Lawrence, seconded by coun. Kinghorn, that Arthur Ross receive \$7 and Geo. Hallett \$3 for dogs in Douglas parish. Carried.

Coun. Everett, chairman of the assessment committee, submitted the following:

ESTIMATES FOR 1890.	
Contingent expenses, \$4,000	
Railway debentures, 1,800	
Sinking fund, 1,900	
Total, \$7,700	
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CANADIAN NEWS.

The Week's Events in Brief—The Cream of our Exchanges.

The Quebec government has issued a proclamation offering a reward of \$500 for the arrest of the murderer of Mrs. Jos. Houle, who was shot at Pointe du Lac in September last.

While ranging the woods a few days ago a new lake was discovered to the south-east of Lake Ontario. It is about half a mile in length, and being of a beautiful aspect has been named after L. A. Curry of St. John.

Canada has been invited to participate in the international postal convention to be held at Vienna in May next. The general impression is that the Dominion will send a more active delegation than framing laws governing the postal union. It is hoped representatives will be sent.

Edmund Wragge, Ontario superintendent of the Grand Trunk, accompanied by Wm. Robinson, C. E. and J. Kennedy, town engineer, on Wednesday were laying out the course of the Grand Trunk extension to Owen Sound. It is hoped the road will be in operation in six months.

The nine-year-old son of George Clarke of Anderson was drowned on Sunday afternoon while skating on the ice about a mile from Amherstburg. He skated into an air hole. There were a number of boys on the ice, but they failed to rescue the child. The body has not yet been found.

In the parish of Major Dibble is to be seen a very pretty and unique piece of work, it is silk work; an English Pheasant worked on silk and on silk ground. The work was done in 1781, 110 years ago by Miss Elligood. It is an heirloom in the Elligood family, and was given to Mrs. Dibble from her mother, Mrs. Elligood of Dumfries.

A large purchase of raw furs was made Monday by A. G. Kaiser, at Halifax. The lot was collected by one man in the western part of the province and comprised 3000 skins of various kinds. The city buyers and Mr. Black, of Truro, competed by tender but were all outbid by Mr. Kaiser who secured the collection for the sum of \$1367.90 cash.

Amelia Labombarde aged 17 years of Brookville, Ont., was found dead in the woods at the foot of Malone. It is said her mother told her she was old enough to earn her own living and she started on foot for Malone, a distance of 20 miles, to look for work. She was insufficiently clad, and chilled doubtless to death.

Thomas Keleick, a commission merchant of Antigua, had an interview with the minister of finance Thursday concerning trade relations between Canada and the West Indies. Mr. Keleick, who has travelled through the lower provinces, is now visiting Ontario and is much pleased with prospects for business between the two countries.

A good deal of trouble is being experienced just now at St. Vincent de Paul with a convict named Kane, who had made several attempts to take his own life. The poor wretch is in for three years and declares that he would rather die at once than put in his time. Hanging is Kane's favorite method of suicide, and he has been cut down twice already.

The death is announced of Nathaniel Inch, which occurred at his late residence, Jernham, Queens county, on the 16th inst., in the 94th year of his age. He was a native of Ireland but had resided in this province since 1823, and through his long life was known as an honorable and useful citizen. Dr. Inch, president of the Sackville institutions, is one of his sons.

While Rev. Mr. Lewis, Baptist minister of Lunenburg, A. C., was out hunting crabs on the northwest branch of Crooked Creek, a few days ago near C. J. Everett's lumber camp, he met with a serious accident. While carrying his gun over his right shoulder he slipped and fell, discharging the gun, the bullet passing through his right side just below the ribs.

New York and Nova Scotia Silica Co., Ltd. is a corporation lately formed to acquire Fountain Lake, Westchester, Colchester Co., N. S. and obtain and market the deposit of silica lying on its bed. The property, which is about a mile in length, was sold to the new company for \$6,000. The company with a capital of \$50,000, will erect a plant, erect dry houses, and manufacture silica.

Diphtheria, although not very prevalent, still lingers in Halifax, N. S., some weeks three or four children dying. A peculiarity of it is that the poorer classes, who live in houses devoid of sewerage, seem almost to escape it entirely, while well-to-do families who reside in what is supposed to be comfortable houses, suffer most, proving that drainage is not in good order is much worse than no sewers at all.

Report reaches us of a sad affair at Taylorville, Upper Stewiack, recently. A woman named Bates bolstered her babe when he was near the stove to warm it, while she attended to the milking. On her return she found the babe enveloped in flames caused by the three-year-old boy playing with fire, and setting fire to the cradle clothes. The child was so severely injured that it died in a few hours, thereafter.

A probably fatal accident happened Thursday, an estimable young lady named Miss Rivers daughter of Mr. Richard Rivers, a prominent and wealthy farmer of Walkerton, Ont. Miss Rivers was stepping over the shaft of a horse power which was working in a field when her skirts caught in the shaft and she was instantly wounded under it and one of her legs crushed to a jelly. The limb was amputated above the knee, and the young lady is in a very low condition.

Isaac Rich and D. W. Robinson were arrested at Hamilton, on Wednesday, on a charge which was working in a field at 6 o'clock Thursday morning. They relate that about three Thursday morning the train jumped the track a few miles west of Mountain Grove, near Sharbot Lake. It was a very heavy train, there being a large number of passengers on board. All but the engine and express car left the track, and were pulled some two hundred yards on the ties before the train could be brought to a standstill. As none of the cars were overturned no injury outside of a shaking up was sustained by the passengers. Mr. Moss says that had the train gone twenty yards further it would have been overturned into the ditch. A spreading of the rails was the cause of the run-off. Sir Richard Cartwright was in the Montreal sleeper.

TRUSTEES SALE.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ESTATE OF GILBERT HAYWARD, deceased, offer for sale that Lot of land belonging to the said estate, situated at Frederick Junction, in the County of Queens, in the Parish of Major Dibble, containing one acre and one half, more or less, and being the same as is described in the will of the said Gilbert Hayward, deceased, and which is now being sold by the said trustees.

For terms and other particulars apply to CHAS. PHEASANT, Trustee.

City Dwelling and Lot FOR SALE.

THE undersigned are authorized to dispose of the above described property, and to receive the purchase money therefor. For terms and other particulars apply to BLAIR & BARRY, Auctioneers.

Notice of Assignment.

NOTICE is hereby given, that CHARLES E. BARRY, of the County of Queens, in the City of Fredericton, has this day assigned to the said Charles E. Barry, of the County of Queens, in the City of Fredericton, all his right, title and interest in and to the real and personal property of the said Charles E. Barry, as of the date thereof. Dated this 16th day of September, A. D. 1890.

Just Stored:

PURE CANADIAN LARD in Tubs and Cases of 5 lb. and 3 lb. tins (very choice).

Pork & Beans, New Codfish, CANNED SALMON, Armour's Canned Beef, Lemon and Citron Peels, Spices of all kinds, and a full line of GENERAL GROCERIES.

A. P. RANDOLPH & SON

Nov. 22.

Stop and Read!

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I have always on hand a Choice Selection of Tweed and Overcoatings, all of which will be made up at a small profit.

Call and examine my stock before placing your orders elsewhere.

JOSEPH WALKER, Practical Tailor, QUEEN ST., FREDERICTON.

WILLIAM ROSSBOROUGH, MASON, Plasterer, - and - Bricklayer, 820-84, NEAR GAS WORKS, FREDERICTON, N. B.

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If not it may be you want a HANGING LAMP or a BEDROOM SET or a Parlour SUITE and remember when you come to see these goods we have CHAIRS, TABLES, BEDSTEADS.

Lemont & Sons.

Extra Value

TABLE LINENS,

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Jan. 17, 1891.

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