

Foreign Mails.

This will never do. Though to-day is one of the finest days of the whole year, though navigation is clear, though we have two steamers lying at the wharf, though we have another, fully equipped and manned, lying in the dock at Pictou, and though mails from the United States and every other part of North America are lying in Pictou, ready to be brought over, we receive no mail and have no communication whatever with the outer world.

This question of mails and winter communication is one of the greatest importance to us; and it is high time we were alive to the preposterous arrangements made for this season. The fact that the Continental mails leaving this Province are delayed at TRURO TWENTY-TWO AND THREE QUARTER HOURS, and the fact that all foreign mails for this island are—without any exception and under the most favorable circumstances detained at Pictou from TWENTY to SIXTY-EIGHT HOURS should certainly give rise to a forcible expression of public opinion.

To obtain the information required by our correspondent "Enquirer" we, this morning, called upon the Postmaster of Charlottetown and the Post Office Inspector for the Province. Those gentlemen readily gave us the information we asked; and from them we obtained additional particulars respecting the unnecessary delays to which P. E. Island mails and passengers are subjected.

It appears that mails, which leave Halifax and St. John on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday and Friday, arrive at Pictou at 1.20 p. m. of the same days, and remain there until 9 a. m. of the mornings of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday—a space of nearly TWENTY HOURS.

Mails which leave Halifax and St. John on the mornings of Tuesday and Thursday arrive at Pictou about four hours after the departure of the Northern Light, remain there until 9 o'clock of the mornings of Thursday and Saturday, respectively—a space of FIFTY-FOUR HOURS.

Mails which leave Halifax and St. John on the morning of Saturday arrive at Pictou about four hours after the departure of the Northern Light, and remain there until 9 o'clock of the morning of the following Tuesday—a space of SIXTY-EIGHT HOURS.

On the other hand, mails for New Brunswick, the Upper Provinces and the United States, which reach Truro every day the steamer crosses, are delayed at Truro TWENTY-TWO AND THREE QUARTER HOURS; because they do not connect with the mail train which goes West from thence an hour and a quarter before they arrive.

Some of the answers we have to give to the following letter will partially illustrate the working of one branch of this arrangement:

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir.—Yesterday a notice was up in the Post Office to the effect, that a mail for England would be closed on Thursday, at 8 p. m. Will you kindly inform me—when this mail left—(1st) Charlottetown, (2d) Pictou, (3rd) Halifax?

On Tuesday and Thursday of this week, English mails arrived here. Would you trace their course, and let us know how long they were on the way?

The treatment we have received from the Dominion Government, regarding the conveyance of the winter mails, has been one of persistent and systematic neglect; and it has been getting worse and worse. How long is this to last? Yours, &c., ENQUIRER.

December 28, 1877.

The English Mail closed at Charlottetown at 8 p. m. on Thursday; left Charlottetown at 6 a. m. by train for Georgetown on Friday; it arrived in Pictou about 1.30 p. m.; left Pictou at 3 p. m.; reached Halifax at 8.20 p. m. same evening; laid there until Sunday afternoon, when the mail steamer left for Britain.

As to the second question: The mails received at Charlottetown on the 25th inst., left Liverpool in the S. S. *Caspian* on the 11th; arrived at Halifax on Saturday or Sunday, the 21st or 22nd; was forwarded to Pictou on Monday morning; arrived at Pictou at 1.20 p. m. same day; remained at Pictou until Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock—a space of twenty hours—and arrived at Charlottetown, via Georgetown, on Tuesday evening. The mail which arrived at Charlottetown on the 27th inst., left Liverpool on the 13th inst.; arrived in Halifax on Monday, the 24th; left Halifax on Tuesday, the 25th; arrived in Pictou at one-twenty o'clock same day—remained in Pictou until nine o'clock on Thursday morning—a space of FORTY-FOUR HOURS—and arrived in Charlottetown, via Georgetown, on Thursday evening. In the first instance, the time from Liverpool to Halifax was 10 days, and from Halifax to Charlottetown, 2 days; in the second instance the time from Liverpool to Halifax was 11 days, and from Halifax to Charlottetown, 3 days.

The Dominion Government, and some of their officials, evidently think P. E. Island slow patient, long-suffering, and of not much account any way.

TERRIBLE DROWNING ACCIDENT.—A despatch to the Halifax *Chronicle* reports a terrible drowning accident at Tusket Lake, fifteen miles from Yarmouth, N. S. Three children, two of them belonging to Mr. David Hatfield, went on the ice, which gave way and let them in. Mr. Hatfield's family, including himself, his wife and two daughters, rushed to the scene, and in the excitement all were precipitated into the water, when sad to say, Mrs. Hatfield, a daughter aged twenty, another daughter aged six, and a son aged ten, were drowned. The particulars are of a truly distressing nature. A Frenchman is also reported drowned through the ice at Eel Lake, near Yarmouth.

THERE were no trials at the Stipendiary Magistrate's Court this morning.

St. Patrick's School.

Two or three issues of the *Patriot* have been published since we announced that the City School Trustees had concluded arrangements with His Lordship the Bishop of Charlottetown respecting the leasing of St. Patrick's School; yet the *Patriot* has made no sign of its pleasure. It has not, we believe, even announced the pleasing intelligence. Neither has the *Argus*. Neither has the *Summerside Journal*. Can it be that these journals are chagrined because one of the most popular means they possessed of fomenting religious discord, and ensuring a continuance of the sweet offices to themselves, and their friends is removed?

Who has it be so or not, all Protestants who love the peace and welfare of the Province at heart will rejoice to learn that St. Patrick's School will, on and after the third day of January next, become a public school—under the provisions of the Public Schools Act.

The City School Trustees have, we understand, obtained a five-years' lease of the two lower flats of the building; and they intend to remove their office into it. St. Patrick's School classes will open on the 3rd January next.

The Russian Heroes.

The three heroes of the Bulgarian campaign who are enshrined in the hearts of the Russians are Tolboen, Gourko and Skobeleff. Tolboen is now in his sixtieth year, having entered the engineer school in St. Petersburg in 1835. During the Crimean war he conducted the siege of operations against Silistria, and the heroic defence of Sebastopol. At the outbreak of the present war he was considered an old fogey; and was shelved in the Engineer Department of the Minister of War. When the staff found out that Plevna could not be captured by hurling solid regiments against the entrenchments, the veteran was called to the front to conduct the investment. Gourko is in his fiftieth year, and had seen service in the Crimea and in Poland before he made his dashing raid across the Balkans. He commands the Imperial Guard, the flower of the Russian army, and has borne a conspicuous part in the siege of Plevna. Skobeleff is the youngest Major-General in the service, his age being thirty-two. He won the name of *dardevil* during the campaign in Khokhland, and has exposed himself recklessly during the present war. On the evening before the passage of the Danube Simintza, having been requested by the Grand Duke to call for volunteers from the division of Cossacks under his command to swim the river and reconnoitre the opposite bank, he plunged into the water at the head of a small party of ten men, and successfully accomplished the required work. He always leads his men against the enemy. He saved what was left of the army that attacked Osman late in July, and in the desperate assaults upon the enemy's works, early in September, fought like a second Suwarrow.

Indignation Meeting at Freetown.

The following resolution was moved by Stewart Burns, Esq., and seconded by Wm. Taylor, Esq.:

Whereas, The present Government have passed an Assessment Act which imposes unjust and oppressive taxation on the farmers of this Island, from which the incorporated towns and villages are exempt;

And whereas, The salaries of officials have been recently unnecessarily increased, and the present Government has created a large staff of new and unnecessary office-holders, and thus entailing additional and unnecessary expense on this country.

Therefore Resolved, That this is the opinion of this meeting, that our representatives should use their utmost influence to have the Assessment Act repealed or to resign, and that the Government should resort to retrenchment and more economy in the administration of public affairs before resorting to direct taxation.—Carried.

Moved by James Wall, Esq., and seconded by James Carruthers, Esq.:

Resolved, That this meeting view with regret the action of the Legislature at its last session in passing tax bills for the purpose of compelling the people to bring the revenue up to the present expenditure, as we believe a large amount of the public monies are now, and have been since we confederated with the Dominion, injudiciously expended.

Therefore, it is the opinion of this meeting that since confederation the Legislative business of the Colony has been greatly reduced; it cannot see the necessity of 43 men in the Legislature.

Therefore Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that the Legislative Council should be abolished; and

Whereas, The County Courts are not satisfactory to the people, and whereas they cost the Local and Dominion Governments, annually, a large amount of money, and are no more effective than the Commissioners' Courts were, which cost the Government nothing.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that the law authorizing said Courts be repealed, and that the Commissioners' Courts be re-established, or some other institution which will be as effective as the County Courts and as cheap as the Commissioners were, and

Whereas, a large amount of money is being expended in paying the salaries of officials in the public works offices.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that either the office of Commissioner of Public Works or the office of Civil Engineers should be abolished; and

Further Resolved, That should it appear after due retrenchment in the different departments of public expenditure that the revenue is not sufficient to meet the necessary public expenditure, we then believe it to be the duty of the Legislature to raise a revenue by an assessment which shall bear equally and alike on each and every industry on the Island.—Carried.

After the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman, etc., the meeting closed.

JOHN A. LORD, Secretary.

THE LOSS OF THE "NEBO."—Another body was washed ashore at Naufrago yesterday. By the description given, it is the body of a sailor named McDonald, who belongs to this city. Several pieces of wearing apparel have been washed ashore, and another piece of wood with the name "Nebo."

Masonic.

At a regular Communication of Victoria Lodge, held in Victoria Hall, on St. John's night, 17th Dec., the following officers were installed by Deputy Grand Master Morrison:

- W. M.—Cyrus V. McGregor, re-elected.
S. W.—W. A. Morson.
J. W.—
Chaplain—Rev. J. M. McLeod, re-elected.
Treas.—W. R. Watson, re-elected.
Sec'y.—Alex. Devine.
S. S.—Jno. A. Lawson.
J. S.—E. Cameron.
S. D.—Wm. Bethune, re-elected.
J. D.—J. Davison.
Marshal—E. Purdy.
I. G.—C. Hansen, re-elected.
Tyler—J. Hobbs.

MASONIC.—At the annual communication of St. John's Lodge of F. & A. M., the following officers were installed for the ensuing Masonic year:—

- Bro. G. W. Wakeford, W. M.,
D. McKenzie, S. W.,
A. A. Baldwin, J. W.,
A. N. Large, Treas.,
Rev. Dr. Read, Chap.,
R. B. Heustia, Sec'y.,
J. A. McLean, S. D.,
H. W. Mutch, J. D.,
Thos. Taylor, S. S.,
Geo. Offer, J. S.,
J. G. J. Weldon, Marshal,
W. H. Sampson, Organist,
G. C. Hooper, I. G.

Telegraphic Summary.

One-half of the Egyptian contingent, destined to reinforce the Turkish army, has left Alexandria.

A portion of the British fleet in Besika Bay is expected to proceed immediately to the Gulf of Volo.

The condition of the health of Prince Leopold, Queen Victoria's youngest son, is again causing anxiety.

The Political Correspondence states that the insurgents in Crete have convoked the National Assembly to establish a Provincial Government.

The Grand Duke Nicholas has telegraphed from Bogot to Prince Milan of Serbia, congratulating him upon the successful opening of the campaign by the Servians.

It is expected that the Russian headquarters will shortly be transferred from Bogot to Solvia, about twenty-five miles southeast of the former place.

The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce has agreed to memorialize the Government to continue its neutrality in the present war. Only two members of the Chamber were opposed to the adoption of the resolutions.

The Guardian's London correspondent telegraphs that no special preparations are going on at Woolwich arsenal, except in the manufacture of field guns. Only 4,000 hands are employed, whereas the war force is 10,000. There is equipment already in store for two army corps.

The Vienna correspondent of the Times says that the Commanders of the Russian advanced corps have received orders to remain on the defensive till reinforced by troops from the neighborhood of Plevna. It is said 250,000, with 70 cannon, lately passed Galvatz.

If the marriage service could only be so modified and amended as to include the lighting of the morning fires among the other obligations assumed by the bride, there wouldn't be so many old bachelors jabbing their fingers with darning needles and shivering around in the cold.

The Times' Paris correspondent announces that ex-Queen Isabella of Spain has visited Don Carlos. The fact causes much comment, notwithstanding the statements published that the visit was of no political significance.

The Russian lines have been pushed forward, and Ezeroum is almost invested. The Russian infantry is massed on the northern part of the plain, and the bombardment of the town and consequent interruptions of telegraphic service are certain.

Secretary Sherman does not commit himself to the principle of free ships, but takes a cautious step in that direction. He recommends that "Every encouragement should be given to the increase of commerce in vessels of American ownership that can be prudently afforded, by modifying existing laws in those respects in which it is a burden upon such commerce."

Penmanic, the favorite food in the coldest part of British America, is made of Buffalo meat and fat. The meat is thoroughly dried in thin slices, and then pounded almost to powder with clubs or stones. It is then put into bags of buffalo hide and mixed with its own weight of boiling fat. This compound is wonderfully compact, and a very small quantity is enough for a meal.

A doctor who knew the late Mr. Vanderbilt for forty-seven years, testifies that the Commodore was a sufferer from heart disease, from hernia, from hemorrhoids, from chronic cystitis, from dyspepsia, and from dropsy consequent upon the heart disease; that by a railroad accident he had the ends of several fractured ribs driven like daggers into his lungs, which caused him a severe pleuro pneumonia three years later, and that he suffered from repeated attacks of fever and ague. This is the physical record of one of the commercial giants of his time.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT BOYS' DRUMS!! all sizes, from 75 cts. to \$2.50, and TOY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, suitable for Christmas and New Years' Presents, at C. P. FLETCHER'S Music Store. Queen St., Dec. 8—eod

45 TONS IRON!

ALL SIZES, at BEER & SONS.

Grand Success!

London House

THE GREAT CASH SALE

Advertised during the months of November and December, which has given such universal satisfaction in town and country, we have decided to continue from the beginning of the year, offering still Greater Attractions to those who wish to buy.

A Choice Lot of ENGLISH TEAS, by chest and small package, marked very low.

GREAT INDUCEMENTS

Are offered in the Cloth Department, and parties in want of Suits or Single Garments, can have them made up at the shortest notice, and in the best style.

The latest Instalment of NEW GOODS just received by "Northern Light," via Halifax.

GEO. DAVIES & CO.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

ST. PETER'S SCHOOLS

WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY, 7TH JAN., 1878.

In the Schools there are three Departments:— Primary Department, for very young children. Girls' School, Boys' School.

Five Teachers are engaged in the Schools. All English Branches, Classics, Mathematics, French and German, Music and Singing are taught.

For terms, etc., apply to G. W. HODGSON, St. Peter's Clergy House, Kent St. Dec. 23—pat till Jan 7

Notice to the Public.

SUPPLIES for the "Soup Kitchen" will reach the Committee if left at the Store of Mr. Alex. Horne, corner of Queen and Fitzroy Streets. Donations of money will be received by them through Dr. Dodd and Mr. J. Quirk. N. B.—Food for the sick carefully prepared by the Committee. Dec. 27—tf

NO. 1 GLAPBOARDS.

5,400 NO. 1 GLAPBOARDS, For Sale Cheap, by F. S. HANFORD & CO. WATER STREET. Ch'town, Dec. 25—3i

Toys and Fancy Goods,

—AT— CLEARING OUT PRICES! —AT— HAZARD'S BOOKSTORE, West Side Queen Square. Dec. 25—2th

Winter Express.

THE INTERCOLONIAL EXPRESS CO. will continue their business during the winter via Steamer Northern Light. Express closes every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening at 6 o'clock, and is received here on the same evenings at 5 o'clock. Goods, Valuables, and money, forwarded, making as quick time as the mails.

THEO. E. CHAPPELLE, Agent. Diamond Bookstore, 85 North Side Queen Square. Ch'town, Dec. 26, 1877.—3i

JUST PUBLISHED! TWO SERMONS,

—PREACHED IN— ST. PAUL'S CHURCH IN ADVENT, 1877, —BY— REV. D. FITZGERALD.

SUBJECTS: 'The Divinity of Jesus Christ' —AND— 'The Value and Sufficiency of Scripture.'

—The above Sermons (published by request) are for sale at Harvie's Bookstore. Price 16 cents. Dec. 22—4i

THE WEEKLY EXAMINER.—Persons having relatives or friends abroad, and desiring to keep them informed concerning P. E. Island, cannot do so in a cheaper or better way than by subscribing to THE WEEKLY EXAMINER. Sent, postpaid, to any address in Great Britain, the United States, or the Dominion, on receipt of One Dollar.

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