

UNJUST VALUATIONS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Presbyterian writes—

My property has been valued at \$1,100. Now, I offer it to any person who may choose to purchase it for \$800. A member of the Government (the name of whom I am prepared to give if required to do so) declared to me the other day that it was not worth more than \$700. One of my neighbor's has been appraised at \$1,000, when it is not worth more than \$500; the property of another was valued at \$1,800, when it is not worth more than \$1,000, and a certain poor man, whom I know very well, whose taxes for all purposes were not more than \$2 previously, will now be about \$20.

Mr. Elliott says that his property was valued at \$5,800, while his father's property alongside (of equal value) was put down by the valuator at \$2,600. In the same settlement a farmer who has fifty acres is assessed for \$1,000, while his neighbor, who owns a hundred acres, and has buildings equally as good, is assessed only \$1,150.

The Organs of the Government boast a great deal about the "principle of taxation according to value." But, we submit that, these instances, [and hundreds of others can be adduced] show that the taxes are not being levied by that principle, and the Government are, in consistency, bound to take measures to procure a new valuation and a new levy, or a Court of appeal, in which the egregious blunders of the valuator may be corrected.

THE MCKINNON PEN.

MR. ANDREWS, of Halifax, is now introducing to the people of Charlottetown, "The McKinnon Pen"—a really remarkable invention. Mr. Andrews bears a flattering testimonial from the Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia to the Lieut. Governor of this Province; and we observe that Sir Herbert endorses the opinion expressed by Governor Archibald, that "The McKinnon Pen is a first-class instrument. The Rev. J. W. Ancient, Halifax,—well known as the hero of the Atlantic disaster,—in a commendatory letter to Mr. Andrews, says:—

"It continues to work as well as it has hitherto done, it would require a great deal of persuasion to get me to use any other. I can write with it as fast as with a pencil, have no stopping to dip it in the ink, cannot possibly blot the paper, and I can carry pen and ink, both in one, in my pocket wherever I go; in fact, I have in it all I can possibly desire in a pen."

We have examined the "McKinnon Pen." We heartily endorse the eulogistic expressions of Mr. Ancient, and cheerfully commend it.

CAPTURE OF THE WALE.

The excitement of Wednesday's exploring expedition was fresh yesterday morning when a small, but lively, party started for the whaling grounds on board the steamer Southport, at three o'clock. Among the party were Hon. J. C. Pope, Hon. Wm. Welsh, and Dr. Jenkins—these gentlemen directing the expedition. The tide was low at the outset; and, it being very dark, the steamer was obliged to lay to at Apple-tree Wharf. Here was commenced the invasion of the scriptural prediction by ingeniously transforming rusty scythes into harpoons. When these instruments were completed, the transformer was of opinion that they were equal to explosive balls torpedos, or any of the modern inventions for whale killing. After lying at anchor for over an hour, a start was made. The directors set every man on the look out for game. Every ripple was watched with attention; and every dark spot over the bow was said to be the whale, but in time would prove to be a hay stack, an oyster smacker, or "such like." Time was wasted in seeing imaginary monsters, until passing Haggarty's wharf. Here was heard the bang of the rifle, and presently the fin of the monster was discovered moving at a rapid gait along the surface. About half past eight o'clock the steamer arrived at close quarters with the long-watched-for game. Boats were quickly launched. The fish passed in advance of the steamer; but a few shots changed his course and he dashed off at a rapid rate down the river. A lively chase was then given, and the boats succeeded in heading and turning him a little below Haggarty's wharf. He passed the steamer pretty slowly, with the boats close in the rear. Here he received a volley that quickened his pace, but he stopped to view his position midway between Haggarty's and Cranberry wharves. There he was surrounded by the boats, and apparently bewildered by the constant volleys of bullets levelled at what was supposed to be the tenderest part of his carcase. The "harpoon" was now applied, but with little success. When four or six volleys were discharged into his

sides, he suddenly moved upwards and came to a stand near Cranberry. He was again surrounded and peppered with bullets for over ten minutes. Again he retreated and went on the flats at the mouth of Pisquid River. After several volleys were discharged in his forepart he became exhausted and keeled over on his side. The Southport, which grounded below Cranberry Wharf, came sailing up. Ropes were procured, two notches cut in the fin on his back, and an inch rope fastened thereto. By this means he was tied to the steamer; but, at the first roll, the rope snapped, and he went again on the flats. A four and a half inch new manilla rope was then, with great difficulty, fastened to his left fin. He was then towed and made fast to the steamer, blowing, whining and in an agonizing state. The blood from the bullet wounds completely coloring the water for several yards around. After flipping and wriggling for a short time, he lay over as if dead. The steamer was then started with the fish in tow. A short time elapsed and he became as lively as ever, and by his movements it was believed he intended taking the steamer in tow. However, she was hauled to and, after some loud discussion it was decided to take the whale by the tail. He was hauled ashore, a boat launched, and the work of torture commenced. The "harpoon" (a six foot scythe) was gently entered and was driven into his side to the hilt. Next, a red hot iron poker was applied to the "blow-hole." This caused him to give one and his last blow. Now came the work of taking him by the tail. This was a failure, even with the assistance of a boat hook. However, after a great deal of perseverance, a slip-knot was affixed to it. In a short time he lay over and was pronounced dead, and the steamer started with the monster in tow. Everything for a time worked well, and everybody on board could be heard saying, "We killed him, didn't we?" It was, however, decided to give the honor to Capt. Match. But as the decision was being given, a fluttering movement was perceived by the Superintendent of the P. E. I. Railway, and it was evident that the monster was about to stop the steamer. The decision was then given in favor of Mr. Welsh for securing him by the tail. He was safely taken to the city, and now lies in Mr. H. Hales' boathouse, where he will remain on exhibition. The proceeds of admission are to be given to the poor of this city. He is about 36 feet long, 8 feet deep, and 6 feet thick. The fin on his back stands about four feet high.

Local and Other Items. A FEW Tubs, gilt edge Butter, the best made, at A. Simpson's. CURRANTS, Valencia and Layer Raisins, very cheap, at A. Simpson's.—3i SELLING AT COST.—A lot of ladies' and children's boots, at E. Needham's, Auction Room, to the side Queen Square. 2i ERRATUM.—In the communication on the Curse of the Age—third line—for "thou shalt surely die" read "thou shalt not surely die."

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Correspondence.

THE TAX ON COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS. To the Editor of the Daily Examiner: SIR.—I observe in your columns a City By-Law, just passed, which imposes a special tax \$50 on commercial travellers selling goods in this town. I have been trying to find some reasonable and just grounds for this little bit of protection, but am quite unable to see any, and in my perplexity betake myself to a news-paper, in the hope of finding some one who will enlighten me. Of course, if every one who sold ordinary articles of merchandise were required first to take out a license, costing \$50, commercial travellers should not be exempted. But why should a special burden be laid upon them?

I know the common argument, or rather excuse for argument it is not—is that the regular merchant pays city taxes, while the traveller does not. But this statement is transparently inaccurate, as the slightest consideration will show. It is a city merchant either renting or owning his place of business. He pays his taxes and charges his customers sufficiently to reimburse him. Whether a tenant or a fee holder he himself pays the taxes, such being the custom of yearly tenants. If he is a commercial traveller he has to pay his hotel bill; if he has a room for his ware, he pays his rent for that also. In both these payments he pays city taxes, indirectly; for rents of places where the proprietor pays the tax, are higher than where the tenant pays, and hotel-keepers charge their customers with these taxes, just as the merchant makes his customer pay his. No doubt the merchant's taxes are absolutely greater than those of the other; but they are not relatively so; that is, he pays more, because he has better accommodation—a large shop in which to display his goods and to accommodate his customers, warehouses for supplies, and other conveniences. The traveller has his trunk for his few wares and little else. Therefore, rightly enough, he pays less. But under this new law, a Traveller will be doubly taxed; first indirectly at the same rate as the citizens generally, and then directly for his little accommodation, as much as he would pay if he rented a place for about \$700 a year. Is this fair? I am afraid that the strong mercantile element in the Corporation has, in this case, been somewhat too powerful; and the existence of such a law in other cities may be accounted for in the same way.

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