

THE SESSION, ETC.

The session of the Dominion Parliament came to a close on Monday last. The late session in many respects was a memorable one. The House was summoned at an unusually early period, principally to discuss the terms of the bargain with the Syndicate formed to complete and run the Pacific Railroad. Our readers are aware that one of the terms under which British Columbia entered the Confederation was, that the Railroad should be constructed from some of the existing railroad lines in the East to the Pacific Ocean. This portion of the agreement caused the defeat of the Macdonald Government in 1873. The Mackenzie government then came into power, and the work of the Pacific Railroad became part of their work. During the five years they were in office, much progress was made in the prosecution of surveys, location of the line, etc., but a general feeling arose throughout the country that the railroad should be constructed by a company and not as a Government work. When in 1878 Sir John A. Macdonald was again called upon to direct the affairs of the country, the Pacific Railway after the trade question, was the great public measure demanding attention. Though the Government only attained power in November or December, they formulated their trade policy in the following March. This new trade policy was a departure from the beaten track and was in consequence persistently opposed by the Opposition. A short time however, served to prove that it was going to be successful. It stimulated industry, inspired confidence, and gave to the struggling industries of our country, such an impetus as they had never received before, and the result already in a marvellous development in home manufactures.

The trade question being thus satisfactorily settled, the Government turned their attention to the other burning question—the construction of the great line of railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific. They entered into an agreement with a company of capitalists, called a Syndicate, for the immediate prosecution of this work. Early in the present session the Minister of Railways, Sir Charles Tupper, formulated the scheme in the House of Commons, and in an able and masterly speech, proved that the bargain was a good one and that the question that had so long agitated and puzzled the country was at length settled, and that the railroad would be built within ten years, without adding appreciably to the burdens of the country.

He was followed by the leader of the Opposition Hon. Mr. Blake, and for weeks the great debate went on. Not only in the House but in the press and on the platform the terms of the Government contract were discussed, and when the vote was taken, the agreement was approved and the policy of the Government endorsed by such a majority as had never been given any Canadian Government before. This was the principal work of the session. Several other important measures were brought in and passed; but they dwindle into insignificance when compared with the Railway question.

The budget debate was interesting because it showed the utter collapse of the Opposition predictions, and the complete success of the National Policy. A large and increasing revenue showing a handsome surplus, the manufactures of the country flourishing, new industries springing up everywhere, and old ones increasing their operations, the credit of the country unimpeachable, such was the pleasing story Sir Leonard had to tell in his financial exhibit. The Opposition were demoralized and some of their leading speakers even began to admit that if they attained power the new trade policy would be only amended not abolished. The debate on the Budget occupied merely a few days. The estimates were rapidly passed, only two divisions being forced by the Opposition on the items.

During the session the representative for Carleton County, N. B., died, and a good many of the members became seriously ill. The Hon. A. Mackenzie was unable for some weeks to attend the House, and later in the session, but not till his Herculean work was done Sir Charles Tupper had to give up, and just before the close found it necessary to proceed to England to recuperate. Our own county was practically unrepresented during the session. Senator Muirhead, who attended the opening, returned from Ottawa at Christmas seriously ill, and was unable to return. Our member, J. B. Snowball, Esq., also attended the opening, but when the real work of the session

came on he was in England attending to his own business. When the work was over, he again returned to Ottawa to be present at the closing and draw his pay. His absence perhaps was of little consequence, but it served to show that when the concerns of the people conflict with the interests of our representative, then the people's interests must go to the wall. After the close of the Session the Government march home with flying colors. They began power with a splendid majority and that majority has steadily increased—though early in the Session their opponents said the division of opinion in the Conservative ranks on the railway question, reached the very Council Chamber. There have been several by-elections since the general election, and these are the best tests of how the government stand with the country. They have not lost a seat they held on assuming power, but they have wrestled from the Opposition since then.

- The Argenteuil Seat.
The Bellechasse Seat.
The Charlevoix Seat.
The East Hastings Seat.
The Brome Seat.
The Selkirk Seat.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

We need not tell our readers that but little reliability is to be attached to the many contradictory statements that appear in the press about the present agitation going on in Ireland. The movement for "Free Land" is one that must commend itself to every reasonable man, and must ultimately succeed. Its principles are not applicable to Ireland only, but appeal to the masses in the Sister Islands. The movement is social rather than political and is one in which Catholic and Protestant can unite without any violation of their respective religious convictions. It has received the sanction of the leading English reformers. Its object is perfectly legal, and the constitution of England is broad enough and elastic enough to admit of a peaceful settlement of this great agitation within the boundaries of constitutional legislation.

That in the progress of a great agitation which comes home to the minds and bosoms of men there should be some wild talk and some excesses, is only natural, but it would be foolish to hold the agitation liable for these, as it would to hold the agitation for reform liable for the excesses of the "Chartists." The unnecessary uncalculated "Coercion Act" has simply proved that the agitation in Ireland is a peaceful one. The Act is enforced, yet the peasantry are cool, and despite the injustice of the barbarous legislation, continue their agitation, and exhibit to the world the proud fact, that they can be dignified in their struggle for freedom, even when goaded to desperation by ill-timed and unjust laws.

We have yet confidence in Gladstone and Bright. Gladstone according to the words of a member of his Government, came into power "pledged to the eyes to do justice to Ireland," and Bright is nothing if he be not the friend and advocate of a just cause. We will therefore still believe, that their land law will go a long way to blot out the ill effects of their coercion act, which we think was forced on them, by a false public opinion in England, while we trust the proposed legislation will be radical and effective. The Irish nature is easily amenable to kindness, and it only requires a few years of just and humane legislation to make Ireland the most firm and attached friend of the British Empire. A happy and contented, a peaceful and prosperous Ireland would give such a strength and prestige to the Empire that it certainly should be the glory of a true statesman to attain this end.

We are sorry to see that some papers, professedly Catholic, are endeavouring to make capital over an alleged difference of opinion between some of the Irish Bishops and the Land League. The Bishops are on the spot, and speak from what they know, and when we find the Archbishop of Dublin differing from the Archbishop of Cashel, we must allow these illustrious men, both of great learning, ability and undoubted patriotism, the same privileges that belong to other men, viz: a right to liberty of speech, a right to express their opinions according to their convictions. What is condemned is the excesses, and as is often the case, one may look too deeply on one side and miss seen to do an apparent injustice to the other. It is not for us to judge men who have better opportunities than we have to know the facts, yet we can express our hope, that the agitation will be kept up in a peaceful, constitutional manner, and that the proposed legislation will banish rebellion and discontent from Ireland forever.

It is expected that the "Land Act" will be introduced into the House of Commons in a few days. As soon as it appears we will give our readers a summary of its contents.

DELEND A EST.

The Legislative Council is doomed, and it seems as if Hon. Mr. Jones will be powerless to save it. The House or Assembly has been nearly unanimous in declaring it a costly unnecessary, and the sentiment of the people is just as decided. Most people guessed, and rightly guessed, what the fate of a bill to abolish the Council would be in the Council; but those who did so guess must have assumed that there was little honor or spirit up stairs. Others see this as we do. The Montreal Witness at hand, for example says:—"It is hard to imagine that any body of intelligent men at this day can be so lost to self respect as to persist in forcing their services upon the people that pay the cost of their maintenance when told plainly by the latter that their services are no longer required."

Such a body of men have we in our Council, but their "three months hoist" resistance to the popular sentiment, will prove about as effectual as Mrs. Partridge's mop did to dry up the ocean tide as it invaded her dwelling.

The Witness seems to understand the make up of our Council just as well as we do ourselves. It says of our councillors, "Many of those gentlemen, as in the case of the membership of similar non-elective legislative bodies, doubtless owe their positions to circumstances that could never be construed into a call of their country, however constitutional the manner of their appointment." How true. Mr. T. R. Jones, who now stupidly and vulgarly tries to thwart the people's will, was appointed to the Council out of a molasses store. And some, it says received their seats as a reward for services to their respective parties at election times. And others again got their appointment "as a bribe for the scorching they received on the altar of their country when they offered themselves to the people for the representative body and were rudely rejected." The Council is now like the fifth wheel on a coach, costing all the time something to keep it running, and doing no good. The Government has brought in a bill embodying the people's wishes, the Council rejects that bill and thinks it can thus prolong its existence indefinitely. But this hat we will throw out to the Council just now.

There is a power behind the throne more powerful than the throne itself.

LOCAL AFFAIRS—OUR STREETS.

The County Alms House which is situated at Chatham, is a model institution. A good deal of credit is due the commissioners, for the manner in which they have made this establishment successful. The inmates receive the best of care and attention; they are well fed, cleanly kept; and the expenses are confined within reasonable bounds. Last year the expenditure amounted to only \$2,605.36, of which the parish of Chatham paid \$609.78. We think that it would be a great mistake to change the present system of management, and therefore do not favor the recent agitation to vest the control of Alms House affairs in the County Council.

Of our Police we do not care to say much. We have on several occasions spoken of our police force, and it is not necessary now to repeat our remarks. Last year the police tax collected in Chatham was \$900; there was received in fines by the Police magistrate \$376.77, in all \$1,276.77; there was expended \$1,229.26 leaving a balance on hand of \$47.51. This year the assessment is to be 1 1/4 cts. of this \$300 goes to the gas company for the street lamps, which would leave \$874.25, or say \$800 to pay the two policemen, which with the fines &c. ought to leave a handsome surplus, and give us efficient service.

We find that the work of the constables, so very necessary to the proper carrying out of the law, is almost entirely neglected. Only a half dozen or so of constables are appointed, and very many of these do not act. There is consequently no means of enforcing the law properly, and we find that a large portion of the taxes remains each year uncollected. Last year for instance we learn from a return that only three persons were sent to jail for taxes. Looking over the accounts we see that 135 executions for taxes were issued and paid for in one parish, that \$60.97 was collected, of which \$31.65 was paid in to the Treasurer, the balance \$44.30 being eaten up by expenses!! The fact is that any taxes not gathered by the collector, might as well be remitted, and it is only a needless expense for the collector to go anybody, as no constable can be got to put an execution in force. As it is the policemen have to do constables

work, which is wrong in principle, but which under the circumstances is, perhaps, unavoidable. We may here state that the County Accounts as published are very unsatisfactory. According to law the public have a right to a full and detailed statement of all receipts and expenditures. This they do not get. We are not told the amount of taxes uncollected, and we believe during the past few years the default list must have amounted to Chatham to over \$2,000. In the lists posted there are the names of many persons well able to pay, and it is certainly wrong, that anyone should escape from paying a fair share of the county and parish rates. For instance this past year we believe there was one defaulter who owed \$36 and a couple of others of \$14 and \$20 each, yet only \$75.95 was collected, so that of the 135 executions issued but very few could have been satisfied. In the name of the public we ask for full information on these matters.

THE FREDERICTON MENAGERIE.

The scene in the Legislative Council during the discussion of the abolition Bill, so far as we can learn, beggars description. A correspondent writes us "it resembled a menagerie more than anything else you could conceive of." Mr. Jones displayed all the coarseness that is within him, and shows what a sad spectacle a man is who enters public life without culture or information. Mr. Lindsay who resembles one of the lean kine about which Pharaoh dreamt, tossed his arms frantically about his head, screamed like a mad man, and drew piteous and contemptuous looks from all who saw him. It becomes the Jones, or the Robinsons, or the Lindsays to decry the Lower House for trying to abolish the Upper, when it is a well known fact that it is such men as they who have brought the Council down to a very legislative rubbish pit, till the people have lost all respect for its members, and all faith in its usefulness as a factor of the constitution.

A CARD.

Wm. Rutledge, Esq., a Sanbury Nihilist, has issued a card stating he will run for the vacant seat in that county. Part of his card is:—

"To the bone and sinew of Sanbury County. To the laboring class to which I belong, I particularly appeal; we have been too long the victims of an oppressive aristocracy. The time has come for us to assert our manhood. Let us be masters not slaves."

Is it possible there is no one in Sanbury with courage enough, to tie up this candidate till the election is over?

The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh are now in St Petersburg. Late on the day of their arrival, they visited incognito the spot where the bomb exploded. This is now enclosed and planted with cypress trees at each corner, the intervening space being covered with memorial wreaths and with icons, or the sacred picture, placed at one end, a silver lamp burning before it. Here the Duchess remained, praying for some minutes. The people standing near, seeing a lady in mourning kneeling in the deep snow were much moved.

The St. John Sun makes out a good case for Mr. Giroud, M. P. for Kent in the railway ties transaction. The Toronto Globe said some time ago Mr. Giroud was "bought like a beast in the shambles;" but the Sun's showing from the Hansard report puts quite a different face on the matter. We fear there is no chance as yet in Kent for poor George MeLeod.

Dr. Connell of Woonstock virtually goes to Parliament without opposition. Criticism in Carleton is under the sod. A Mr. Irvine, "whoever he may be," as the Times has it, opposed Dr. Connell. The poor Grits.

A Nihilist organ in Paris is well called Ni Dieu ni Maître. Its abominable editor has been fined 2,000 francs and sent to prison for six months for congratulating the Nihilists on the Czar's assassination.

The Local Legislature close yesterday and most of the members are home by this time. We may give a summary of the session's work in a future issue.

In Senegal 1,500 natives attacked a party of 150 French in a party laying a telegraph line. The French repulsed the barbarians, and killed 100 of them.

The Italian Opera House at Nice was destroyed by fire on Monday night. It is thought a hundred persons perished.

Parnell will soon carry the war into Africa. He is going to open a Land-agitation campaign through England.

The editor of the Telegraph is in favor of abolishing the Legislative Council.

Advertisement for S. S. Sardinian from Great Britain, 49 CASES AND BALES. Goods are selected with care and purchased for cash direct from the makers. Wholesale and Retail. Utherland & Creachan, Newcastle, 26th March 1881.

Advertisement for A. Chipman Smith, Druggist & Apothecary, Successor to W. O. Smith. Established 1790. No. 1 City Market Building, Charlotte Street, St. John, N. B. Special attention and personal supervision given to the compounding of physicians' prescriptions and putting up of ships' medicines.

Advertisement for J. H. Painney, Dealer in Cooking, Hall & Parlor Stoves. Tinware & Stovepipe. Good Stabling on the premises. Barroom constantly supplied with the best of liquors and cigars.

Advertisement for Granite Ware, Nettings & Twine. I have received a large stock of granite-ware, consisting of all articles hitherto in the tin line; among which are Pans of all kinds, Preserve Pots and Kettles, Tea and Coffee Pots, &c. H. & G. W. Lord, 111 Commercial St., Boston, Mass.

Advertisement for Nautical Academy, Mullins Building, No 1 North Wharf, St. John, N. B. Captain P. Cassey, Pupil of McNally, and Daniel Dias, formerly assistant of McNally, of the late firm of McNally & Seaton.

Advertisement for M. A. Finn, Importer of Wines, Liquors, Cigars, Tobacco and Goods. Wholesale and Retail. Prince Wm. St., Cor. Princess, Hotel Dufferin Building, St. John, N. B.

Advertisement for Fine Wines, the largest and best in the Province, embracing as it does a variety of Wines to suit the taste of every class of consumer. T. Furlong, Direct Importer, St. John, N. B.

Advertisement for Flour! Flour!! Receiving today 125 barrels choice "White Star," 125 barrels choice "Welcome," 125 barrels Cornmeal. To be sold low by E. A. Strang. Notice: I have appointed John Morrissey of Newcastle, Esq., Deputy for the County of Northumberland.