

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Charlatans, who think they are specially adapted to manage the affairs of a Province, though in reality they are not fit to turn the smallest wheel in the machine, may endeavor in a cloud of words to give their conceptions of how our Local Legislature can be managed.

The independent support of such men as Davidson, Elder, McManus, etc., men of experience, of ability, and of untarnished respectability, will far outweigh the factious opposition of the Gillespies, the Sayre's or the Ritchie's.

As to the question of Economical Reform, it is a worthy one, and we believe the government will deal with it intelligently and well.

"As it is the interest of the government that reform should be early, it is the interest of the people that it should be temperate. It is their interest, because a temperate reform is permanent, and because it has a principle of growth.

These are golden words, and worth more than volumes of the windy letters of the Lawrences and others who endeavor to catch the public ear by impossible schemes of general reform.

An M. P. said by some to be Mr Snowball, went into a departmental office in Ottawa the other day.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

(No. 2.)

The manner in which our streets, sidewalks &c., are kept is simply disgraceful. Last year, on several occasions, we referred to this matter, but we placed the blame on the then commissioner, not knowing the real circumstances of the matter.

Before 1863 the roads in the town, like the roads in the country, were repaired by statute labor. In that year this labor was commuted to a money rate, but the principle of assessing was the same as when people had to appear and work eight hours a day.

So that a man worth \$3,600 worth of property only pays twice as much as the man who is only worth \$400; and a man without any property at all pays half as much as one with \$2,000 worth of property.

The result of this inequitable system is, that a sum of from \$700 to \$1,000 only is received for the repair and extension of roads, sidewalks &c., the renewal and repair of sewers &c., a sum entirely inadequate for the service.

We will deal further with this matter again.

There is no talk of the Breakwater at Escuminac, no word about the telegraph line between here and Point Escuminac, because we had no one at Ottawa, to press these matters on the attention of the Commons.

It is a matter of the greatest indifference to the Conservatives, and the hundreds of disgusted "Reformers" in the county, whether Snowball runs again or not.

The County of Westmeath is proclaimed to be under the coercion act.

AN IMPERTINENT INNOVATION EXTINGUISHED.

We direct our readers to our special despatches from Fredericton. Some days ago Mr. Willis gave notice that he would ask for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the sale of Crown Timber Lands at different times, and in various places, and that power be granted to said committee to summon, swear and examine witnesses, to call for papers, and deal with all matters touching the inquiry at issue.

Mr Davidson said the Legislature was the highest court in the land, and the same principles should regulate it, when it resolved itself into a judicial tribunal.

Hon Mr Landry took the same ground and pointed to the proceedings of last winter, how Mr Ryan had swallowed his own words before the committee, and that the time of the House had been wasted to no purpose.

We look upon the loss of the Willis motion, as a gain to the legislature. It is a triumph for the dignity and traditions of British Colonial Government and the admission that the same principles which are recognized in a court of justice, are not ignored in the legislature.

The House of Commons closes this week. Nothing has been done, or will be done for Northumberland this session, because our representative basely deserted us.

It was high time the Legislature closed its doors against impertinent intrusion upon official grounds; for else it would at no distant day find out the only solution to the oft recurring nuisance would be the appointment of a permanent commission, that could any day make a raid upon a public office, parade the private papers before the public gaze, to satisfy the importunities of some outside clique.

but what might be found in the public accounts. In the present case, the House had only to say if it would have the same expensive, and impertinent folly perpetrated over again.

HOW IT FARES WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

In 1878 the contest in Carleton County was a pretty strong one, though it was less a strife of questions than a struggle between individuals. Mr Appleby was the Grit or Government candidate, and Mr Geo. Connell stood upon independent ground.

Mr Leighton, M. P. P. at Fredericton, didn't think it was, and he is a staunch kind of a man, does a large business in cedar poles and is a 'strong Liberal' he says, so far as he 'understands the question.'

Mr Mackenzie was denouncing the Government's policy in the Commons one night lately, respecting the Pomina Branch and he said "The proceedings are of a true Tory character."

The amendment to the Canada Temperance Act has passed the Senate. The amendment excludes also, porter, lager and light wines from the operation of the Act.

Nally is the name of one of the persons arrested under the Coercion act. When he reached Dublin the masses cheered him, and as the police bore him away he cried out "For every man arrested, let one be laid prostrate."

We give our readers today a supplement containing the able speech of the Attorney General on the Bleis-Lawrence resolution. We need but commend it to the perusal of the public.

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In the House of Commons the other night, Mr Finigan who was speaking described the repeated interruptions as "beastly bellowing."

In another issue, we will give as much as we can of the powerful, clear and convincing speech of the Provincial Secretary on the budget.

Sir Charles and Lady Tupper have left for England. They will spend the summer in the South of France.

Some of the Land League members arrested, are American citizens, and demand American protection.

The British are parleying with the Boers, and the truce ends Monday. Then it will be pax or bellum.

The Surveyor General comes home Sunday morning, and will remain two or three days.

The Queen of Denmark is dead.

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NOTICE.

I have appointed John Morrissey of Newcastle, Deputy for the County of Northumberland, To all whom it may concern.

JOHN SHIRREFF, Sheriff of Northumberland Co. Newcastle, March 12, 1881. 1mw

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