

## Literature.

## A NEW SOCIETY.

"Equality Of Races" Its Motto.

Tyranny Is Warned.

[Royal W. Ferguson in Chatham "Commercial."]

It had been brewing for some time. Numberless little things had given it an impulse but that which brought it to the point of action was a certain sentence in the report of the common council to the effect that there should be a license fee imposed on every pig imported into the town from outside the County of Northumberland. As anyone who has travelled through these "north shore" counties knows, that what the camel is to the Bedouin or the reindeer to the Laplander, so is the pig to our French Acadian fellow men. He cares for it in youth. He gives it a place in his home with his children. He loves it in life and equally so but in another way he is fond of it after it has given up its last squeal, and of it could be written "requiescat in pace." So it was little wonder, their sensitiveness being fully aroused at this last act of tyranny that at a place of public resort down town, numbers of our citizens of Acadian origin or sympathies gathered together to found a society to alleviate the condition of the poor betaxed pigs and incidentally to assert their own rights.

However true it may be that in old France the inhabitants are the most æsthetic and cleanly on earth, equally true is it that in the voyage across the great waters they must have lost overboard these characteristics, for in the motley throng gathered together however picturesque it may have been from an artist's or a student's of human nature point of view, truth compels me to add that the principal trait of the audience assembled was dirt and vile smells. Some of the men smoked, those who did not, chewed, and all strove to allay the dust on the floor by plentiful expectorations.

On motion of a little round shouldered man who, works I believe in the pulp mill, Mr. Octave Tranquil Falley was chosen chairman. He was loudly cheered as he mounted the platform where uncovering his unkempt raven locks, he thus explained the object of the meeting. "Me Friends! Where are we ourselves? We are here! (Applause). We want to show English man dat French man just so good as she be. (Hear, hear) So we come to make societee.

De French man she like one pig. (Applause) De Englishman she say "Frenchman she got to like Miranichi pig or pay one, two, or tree dollar." Frenchman she no fool (tremendous applause, during which each man takes a fresh chew, carefully placing the old one in his vest pocket to serve for a next day smoke). She pay his own tax himself when she can't help. (applause) But de pig she pay alldes for she be kill. (Sensation) De man, she come, she take him. But Frenchman she have vote. She vote for man who say we kin have pig, no difference she come from Tracadie, from Shipagan or St. Louis. We must get, wat you call, learn; so we make dis societee. (Applause)

Then the officers were chosen as follows:

Octave Tranquil Falley, Pres.  
Juniper Union Brulette, Sec'y.  
Alots Pierre Fabree, Treas.

There was a little hitch in finding a secretary who could write his own name, but at last Mr. Brulette who had been to school at Bathurst and guaranteed that he could tell his own writing from a map of the Klondyke was chosen.

A slight difficulty also arose with regard to the choice of a treasurer. For not being noted for their confidence in others financial integrity, they talked both loud and long, but on Mr. Fabree giving the meeting a bill of sale of his cooking stove and a new tin trunk, he was unanimously chosen.

A committee, consisting of the newly appointed officers and two others, was appointed to choose a name for the society as well as to draw up bye-laws and a series of resolutions for the next meeting which it was resolved should be held on Monday.

By this time the deal ends having been all consumed and the fire gone out in the big box stove, the president borrowed a chew of tobacco from the secretary and announced that they could now go home.

One fellow then suggested that they sing a closing ode as they do in "de English meetin's" And as he had been one time to Moncton and heard a Salvation Army Cadet sing it, he thought that a very appropriate thing would be "In the Sweet Bye and Bye."

So most charmingly it was sung, as can be imagined from the fact that only three knew the tune and one knew the words. But the noise was encouraging and the refrain a prophecy for them, as well as a warning to those outside; English tyrants who have no respect or thoughtfulness for a pig or a Frenchman.

Thus was completed the first stage in the series that is to lead to the levelling of English, French and pigs. Upward or downward which must it be? Future events shall show. For the present as our friend the president remarked; "Treas. Bien" "It is very good."

## CHAP. II.

There was quite a gathering of eager faces, many of them new ones, last night

when the president, who by the way had washed his face and purchased a new 8 cent red handkerchief in honor of his election, rapped for order on the dry-goods box that served for a table.

Everybody was on the "quiver" and the "Hill" was stirred as never before.

The whole populace apparently had turned out to show their sympathy in the new movement.

The president ordered the secretary to read the report of the committee appointed last evening.

It was as follows:

I. "Dis committee says dat de societee she be call "De Miranichi Improvement Societee."

II. Dat she be for to show de people of dis countree dat we be good people and dat we be make better by de learn so bye and bye we kin be constable, alderman or maybe mayor.

III. Somebody join, she pay 4 cent, and den she pay 2 ceat every month. If she have no money she kin pay in wood for de stove or in potat or in herrin.

IV. De members, she be called de "Honourable."

V. De members she must never take only one drink whiskey or gin at one times.

VI. She must never buy tobac when she can borrow him.

VII. She must keep his face clean if she have to wash two times every week.

VIII. She must mind de president or she go out quick.

IX. Englishman, if she behave himself, be pretty near so good as Frenchman and she be let join the societee but she not be called de honourable and she can not be any office.

X. When de members what here she don't want work too much she must make de pain in de stumnick. Den Englishman she be sorry and she give him some ole clothes maybe.

The reading was greeted with much applause and the president stated that discussion was in order. Upon which it was moved by the Honorable Infibrile Jaquot and seconded by the Honorable Juvenus Paritte that "de societee have one coat of arms, and motto same as de oder societees." This was carried. Then suggestions were called for. One honorable thought that a good one would be a pig standing erect with a look of yearning on his countenance and the motto underneath "I need thee, Oh I need thee." But discussion brought out the fact that the majority thought the yearning was on the part of the honorable members.

Then a herring was suggested as good because he is great in swimming against the tide, as this societee proposed to do, and the motto "Love me little, love me long." This did not fill the bill. But at last a compromise was made by which the crest was to be a pig rampant, (without the yearning countenance) a herring couchant and a large sized potato on a field azure and the motto underneath:—"Our hearts beats true to these."

In the meantime one big honorable member had appeared very restless. He now rose to be heard and said: "Meester President, me myself move dat dere be add to de laws, dis ting: Dat where any member she be made a fight wid, dat if de man she be smaller dat she do best she can himself to leek her, but if the man she be just so big or bigger den de member she must find out kin she scare her. And dis is de way. Holler loud and swear pretty much, if she still come, de member she must leave dat place quick herself. For dis societee she be honourable and if de member she be fight maybe leek and be shame."

Tremendous applause greeted this and the president took a standing vote on the matter which proved to be unanimous.

Then lest some should forget this last addition to the bye-laws, it was resolved to have it printed in large type, framed and hung upon the wall, if it wouldn't cost more than 13 cents. "De honor of de societee," he said, "must be kep. (Applause)

The fire had been out for some time and the air was chilly, which no doubt accounted for the shiv'ing which at times most of the members had been quite violently indulging in, although some were uncharitable enough to suggest that the talk of fighting had been the cause instead of the cold but of course there are always uncharitable persons everywhere. At any rate the room was cold and the president arose to adjourn the meeting and said, "Me friends you kin go home alone yourselves dis time, and I will go wid you."

The meeting was closed.

"REQUIESCAT."

A proud pleased smile was on the face of the president and he vigorously blew his nose as he rapped for order.

"Me friends," he said; I, myself, have something to say to you yourselves. From dis time de Frenchman she be respect.

De tax she be took off almos'. I been tole say to you dat me be just so good, maybe better dan somebody else. Derefore our work be done. You kin go home. De meetins she be all over. I tank you cause I be President and I say now "Be good and oder people be good too and we be first rate. We now will sing "God Save de Queen," de Treasurer will return de members tree cent each and keep de rest and we say den "Good Night."

Thus was it done. Thus easily was a great reform effected.

(The End.)

## REPORT OF THE YUKON EXPEDITION.

Mr. Bulyea Recounts the Difficulties which Confronted Him at Dawson.

(From the Regina "Leader.")

Mr. G. H. V. Bulyea, the member of the Government who left Regina in January last for Dawson City to apply Territorial laws and regulations, reached Regina on his return at 5 o'clock on Saturday evening, and at an evening sitting of the Assembly Mr. Bulyea made a verbal statement or report of the work and results of the expedition.

When Mr. Speaker took the chair a little after eight o'clock, the chamber was thronged with spectators, who together with the members, listened with keen interest to Mr. Bulyea's exceedingly simple, clear and modest recital of his work at Dawson City and the extraordinary interference of Major Walsh with that work. Mr. Bulyea's statement was confined almost wholly to recounting facts, and his abstaining from comment upon the astounding facts seemed but to lend force to his recital.

Mr. Haultain after a few introductory remarks moved the adjournment of the House to enable Mr. Bulyea to speak.

Mr. Bulyea was greeted with an enthusiastic round of applause. He expressed his pleasure at being able to take his seat even at so late a stage of the session, and referred to the anxiety he had felt at finding the time slipping away through his inability to get matters arranged satisfactorily so as to allow him to leave Dawson. He knew how anxious the government would be to have him return, and how important it was that he should return to make his report to the House. Only circumstances of most peculiar nature had prevented his return at an earlier date,—circumstances which compelled him, and he thought justified him in remaining on the ground until his business was satisfactorily concluded. He was glad to know that the government's policy in sending out an expedition had already been fully explained, and he would need to say nothing in that connection. He would simply make an informal statement of what had been done in the carrying out of the duties, entrusted to him. The expedition had expected to meet the Dominion Commissioner, Major Walsh, at Dawson, and to have opportunity of consulting with him respecting its duties. However, when they reached Skagway, they learned that Major Walsh was on his way out. They proceeded to Bennett, reaching there on 1st March, and decided to wait for the Major's arrival. He arrived on 4th March. Mr. Bulyea said he sent the Major a note intimating the nature of his mission and that he had been appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for the Territories. By appointment they met and Mr. Bulyea showed Major Walsh the Orders in Council under which he held appointment and authority and under which the regulations were passed which he was instructed to apply. The Major seemed to scout the idea that his appointment or regulations could mean anything. Mr. Bulyea then showed him the N. W. T. Act under and by which the Lieutenant-Governor of the Territories had the sole right to issue liquor permits or regulate matters in relation to liquor, and pointed out to him that his appointment was not made under an Ordinance of the Territories but an Act of the Parliament of Canada which could not be superseded by instructions or Order-in-Council from the Government at Ottawa. However, the Major did not seem to be convinced. Mr. Bulyea told Major Walsh that he intended to go on and fulfil his duties, and left for Dawson which point was reached on 11th April. At Dawson he found peculiar conditions. Supt. Constantine was very highly thought of in his official capacity. Mr. Constantine had made no effort to regulate the liquor traffic, and saloons were much in vogue, with no restraint, selling night and day, on Sundays, all the time. He afterwards found that it was the main desire of the dealers at Dawson to sell all night. The expedition was welcomed by the officials, the people, and even by the better element in the traffic; they felt the need of some restriction and were disposed to favor it. The Order-in-Council empowered him to appoint a local commission to frame the details of regulation within limits prescribed. He would have to explain that the population at Dawson was very largely composed of Americans. Nearly all the prominent business men were Americans. The place was practically an American town on Canadian soil. He had felt himself limited in choice to Canadians for his board of commissioners. The first man he asked to become a commissioner was Mr. Constantine, feeling that he was the best man because of his position and standing with the people. Mr. Constantine consented very willingly. The other one whose consent he obtained was Mr. McGregor, whom he found a man of sound sense and liberal views. From these gentlemen he received very valuable assistance. Mr. Bulyea acted himself as third commissioner. The Commission drew up regulations. Of course none would look for the application of ordinary licensing regulations which would fit the conditions of a town here, in that peculiar mining camp. As an instance of the differences prevailing he might say that when he reached Dawson there was only one place which purported to be a hotel and which offered accommodation for lodgers, and as to closing hours the saloon men claimed that if they were compelled to close at night the public, who slept on the floors, would be turned out into the cold. That was a plea made, but it did not quite meet the views of the Commission. Another peculiarity was that during a certain season, from 10th June to 10th August, there was really no night. Between those dates one could read small print at any time during the 24 hours. One trouble with the people, and he found it himself, was the continual uncertainty as to whether it was night or day. If one walked down the creeks, one party would be found taking a meal preparatory to going to bed, and the next party would be having a meal just after getting up. In that regard everyone acted to suit himself, and one man's day was another man's night. However the regulations, framed provided that dealers should close between the hours of 2 and 6 in the morning, and from 12 on Saturday night until 6 on Monday morning. In the eyes of the saloonmen the night closing was the most severe of any of the regulations. One man said that it was then that he made the most money. Mr. Bulyea told him that was one of the strong reasons for the regulation, which was provided with a regard for the rights of the general public. When they got the regulations fixed, they supplied all the dealers with copies. As he had said, there were no hotels, and the Commission endeavored to encourage and compel the provision of accommodation for the public. One of the conditions imposed was that each "permitted" place should provide accommodation for 20 guests. That provision was very satisfactory to the public, and the liquor men did not object to it. The fee was fixed at \$2,000. Mr. Bulyea said that the meaning which appertains to dollars and cents here is entirely different in Dawson. A \$50,000 or \$100,000 transaction is quite the ordinary thing there. He never saw a more surprised lot of men than those dealers when they learned that the fee was to be only \$2,000. They expected, he learned later, that nothing less than \$5,000 would be put on. There was no objection to the fee. The regulations further provided for only one bar; and to retain to the commission full control and to prevent infractions, a power to cancel was included upon proof of infraction or the permitting of any immoral conduct, or even the Commission could cancel at pleasure, one condition being that if the latter power were exercised the unearned part of the fee should be returned. In Dawson 14 applicants agreed to conform to the restrictions. Ten took out permits early in May. In Klondyke City, a suburb across the river, there were two applicants, both of which were recommended, but only one had taken his permit before Major Walsh's arrival. To govern the places up the creeks—half-way houses they were called the regulations were modified. The fee for these was fixed at \$1,000, and the only restraint put on was the prohibition of sales on Sunday. With men working and travelling in the night just the same as in the day, night closing could not well be applied to the half-way houses. The money collected in Dawson was \$19,802, the uneven amount arising thus: The first permits were dated 30th April. Some were not issued until a few days later. It was decided to make them continuous, and for the shorter year they remitted a proportionate amount. For Klondyke City one permit was issued—\$2,000. For half-way houses there were six applications. Two were granted—\$2,000. In addition they collected an inspection fee. Before permit was issued the premises had to be inspected, and a small fee of \$50 was levied to cover the cost. The \$50 was deposited with each application. The fees thus collected totalled \$1,000. The total collections were \$24,962. In justice to the traffic, Mr. Bulyea had to say that he never saw people submit to restriction more readily and willingly—when they had to—than the dealers in Dawson. He was informed that, during the four weeks which elapsed before trouble arose, no liquor could be obtained in prohibited hours. Affairs were progressing most satisfactorily to himself, to the board and to the public. On all sides he received congratulations on the change brought about in the living habits and customs of the place. Before there had been no Sabbath; under regulation the Sabbath was observed, and Dawson City had become more like a Canadian town.

The first intimation of coming trouble was the receipt by Mr. Constantine of a letter from Major Walsh. When the former resigned from the board, as a result, he gave Mr. Bulyea by request a copy of the letter. Mr. Bulyea read it to the house. Major Walsh wrote cautioning Mr. Constantine against recognizing the man sent out by the Northwest Government to issue wholesale liquor permits (Mr. Bulyea said that of course the House knew that that was not correct), and regulate the traffic; that Mr. Bulyea seemed to be a first-rate fellow, but had no business to be there. Mr. Bulyea pointed out that such a letter from his superior officer placed Mr. Constantine in a difficult position. He fully sympathized with the work of the commission, and believed that the Northwest Government position was legal and right, yet he had to resign from the board. There was no difficulty in filling the vacancy, and Mr. Gouin, of Calgary, was appointed. Things were proceeding very satisfactorily, the dealers were observing the regulations, and the public were highly pleased with the better order prevailing.

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(To Be Continued.)

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