

Maritime Farmer.

FREDERICTON, N. B., February 21, 1883.

Assimilation of the Franchises.

The subject matter of the sixth paragraph of the Speech—the amendment of the laws relating to the representation of the people, and the assimilation of the electoral franchises existing in the several Provinces—is of great importance, and any measure submitted for these purposes will create interest and be closely criticised. We do not suppose that the Government will make great haste in bringing down a measure. There is no great hurry. This is the first session of a new House, and as the Government is backed by a strong majority there is not much likelihood that they will be forced to appeal to the country before the natural time of dissolution. It may be objected that human affairs are uncertain, that circumstances may arise which will compel the Government to go to the country, and, if it is important that such a measure should be passed, it is important that it should be passed without delay. If the Government takes that view, we have no objection. No intimation has been given, that we have seen, as to the nature of the amendments the Government contemplate proposing to the laws relating to the representation of the people. Mr. Blake, in a way that the Government intend to amend the "Gerrymander" Act of the present session, redistributing the districts in the form they were before the Act was passed, surrendering the power of nominating returning officers, and giving the local courts jurisdiction in the trial of contested elections. But, we imagine, the "Gerrymander" Act will stand. Looking at the result of the late elections in Ontario, as given by Mr. Blake, which reduced the Government majority from 36 to 18, and gave the Government only 3100 majority on the total poll of 209,900, or 136,300 Ministerials, against 132,200 Opposition, it does not appear, to have much helped the Government. Nor do we suppose that the measure to be submitted by the Government will propose a scheme to "gerrymander" New Brunswick, as some Opposition papers have given out. The *Telegraph* expressed a sensation by publishing a draft of a bill for the redistribution of the constituencies in New Brunswick, by which the County of Albert was to be wiped out, and added partly to Westmorland and partly to St. John, giving Westmorland a French representative in addition to its English one, and altering the bounds of all the other counties. It treated it as if it was the actual scheme to be submitted by the Government. But it is entirely repudiated by Government organs. Hon. Peter Mitchell, in the Reply debate, complained of the "misrepresentation" of the Province, and gave instances of disproportionate representation. Westmorland, with a population of 37,719, York with 30,307, Northumberland with 25,103, Charlotte with 26,017, had only one member, while Sunbury with 9,651, Restigouche with 7,068, Albert with 12,329, Victoria with 15,680, each also returned one member. The average population of each County in the Province is about 20,017, but there are nine counties largely over that average, and six counties a long way under it. He called on the government to deal with these incongruities this session. The scheme as printed in the *Telegraph*, may have suggested to the mind of some "janus" in the reporter's gallery by Mitchell's speech. The *Telegraph* may choose to take it seriously, but, if for no other reason than that Sir Leonard Tilley smiled when his friend the Hon. Peter made the proposal to distribute the representation according to population, we conclude that the government have not the least idea of bringing in a bill to disturb the present representation.

The assimilation of the franchises has long been contemplated. It was thought of at the time of Confederation, but could not then be carried out, and since then the diversities in the local franchises have been increased. For the present, we are inclined to think, that there is no strong reason why in each of the Provinces there should be two franchises, a Local and General; or why the same qualified voters should not elect representatives to the Local Assembly and Dominion Parliament. It seems to us that the proposal to assimilate the franchise has arisen from the present antagonistic position of the Dominion government and the Local government in Ontario. The government of Ontario have foreshadowed a measure greatly to enlarge the local franchise, and the Dominion government have an idea that were done, constituencies would be created in that Province which would be elected from those which elected the Ontario members to the present House. As Sir John put it, "we instead of going back to our old constituents—to those who sent us here—when we return to give an account of our stewardship, we may find another and different body of men to judge our conduct." If the franchise are assimilated it will not be another instance of the preponderating influence of Ontario in the confederation? For, as far as we can see, it is the relation of that Province to the Dominion Government, that has determined that government to contemplate the measure.

Bist-Sibericus.

As if there were not plagues and pests enough this continent is threatened with the invasion of snow fleas from Eastern Siberia, if we can believe a *New York Sun* reporter. A natural history arises before accepting any information through such a source. The story he tells is that in a voyage from Hull to Montreal, after a snow squall off the banks of Newfoundland, there was collected on board of the British Steamship *Glencaster*, a small quantity of snow looking stuff, which was forwarded to Philadelphia, where it was microscopically investigated and found to be composed of myriads of minute insects. One of the investigators, a Professor of natural history, informed the said correspondent that the snow-flea, or to give it its scientific name, the *Bist-Sibericus*, belongs to the family of *Fleurodidae*, or "spring-tails," and, although very much smaller than the ordinary black flea, closely resembles it in form and habit, one great difference being that, while it is capable of leaping, it does so by means of its legs, and not as the flea does—with its wings. The leap, in the case of the snow flea, is performed by doubling the tail up under the abdomen and suddenly throwing it backward, which results in a forward movement of the body; in fact, it is from this characteristic that the name "*Bist-Sibericus*" is derived. They are very tenacious of life, and breed very rapidly, especially where the weather is cold and dry, damp weather seems to destroy them. In Eastern Siberia the people have to use every precaution against the pests, and many legends speak of them as the "snow of ladies," and say that the souls of the wicked are being tortured by being exposed to driving storms of them. As yet," continued the professor, "we have found but few cases in this city where people seem to have suffered from the insects, but should a spell of cold, dry weather set in, it will unquestionably be the signal for much complaint. The insects, which can only be the closest scrutiny be distinguished from fine snow, fasten to the clothes of the pedestrians, and cling there until the person enters a warm temperature, when they at once begin to bite in the most vicious manner, and, although the bite is not poisonous, it is for a few moments even more painful than that of the ordinary flea.

For Croup, Asthma, Bronchitis and deep seated Lung troubles, use Allen's Lung Balm. See adv't in another column.

Reports Arent the High Commissioner.

There is a report that Sir Alexander Gait's Edinburgh speech on Canada's connection with the Mother Country has not met with acceptance from the authorities at Ottawa. In connection with it, there is a rumor that Sir Charles Tupper, at the close of the present session, will supersede Sir Alexander as High Commissioner. We will not wonder if the report turn out to be unauthenticated and the rumor a mere canard. The principal passage in Sir Alexander's speech, the key-note of which, as reported in the Scotch papers is the following:—"The bond of union is one of mutual attachment and as a bond we should strengthen as much as possible. But I rather doubt whether the mere bond of sentiment is strong enough. I think we should have a union of mutual interest on some subjects in which the colonists would share the loss and share the danger." In closing, he is reported to have said, after giving various reasons why it was against the interests of both Canada and the United Kingdom to separate, "I therefore think it is not desirable and certainly not necessary for any change or separation to take place in connection with our colonies." If, in the first passage there is a suggestion of Imperial Federation the latter paragraph neutralises it and leaves the relation between Colony and Mother Country in statu quo, and no cause of offence is given. But if Sir Alexander's intention was to lead his hearers to believe that he had done it by another utterance on the tariff, which he attributed much of the present prosperity of Canada. It is all very well to make such a statement here, but when spoken in the ears of free trade England it provokes adverse comment, and draws attention to the main grievance England has against Canada, that its protective barriers prevent the free inflow of her manufactures, and as it is thus becoming less valuable as a market—the reason for maintaining the protective connection is weakened. By one utterance Sir Alexander gives reasons why the bond between Canada and England should be strengthened; by the other he suggests a reason why England might not care to strengthen it. The *London Times* commenting on Sir Alexander's statement regarding the effect of the tariff—considers that the prosperity of the Dominion is largely due to the general revival of trade, and he thinks it will be interesting to see what Sir Alexander will say when the usual cyclical movement has ended, and business is again dull everywhere. Probably then again he will set to work to persuade Canadians to add another row of bricks to the Chinese wall with which they have surrounded themselves. Sir Alexander no doubt thinks that he must do something to justify his position as High Commissioner, but it might be asked whether he does not do as much harm as good by his speeches, and they being thus neutralised, whether he had better make none at all?

The N. S. Railway Syndicate.

Last session of the Nova Scotia Legislature a grand flourish was made over the transfer of the railways to a powerful Syndicate, of which Sir Henry Tyler, was the President and Mr. Plunkett, the moving spirit. But correspondence submitted to the legislature now in session, goes to show that the scheme had no solid foundation in capital. The government sent over agents, first Mr. Creelman, who in London from 7th June to 10th September 29th, when he was relieved by Hon. Mr. Vail, who stayed on until near the end of December. The agents of the Nova Scotia government before giving the Syndicate the guarantee, was the deposit of \$5,000,000 in the Bank of Montreal. The Agents could get no satisfaction. The Barings wanted to get out of the undertaking all together. Sir Henry Tyler, President, protested he knew nothing about the financial arrangements, and looked to Mr. Plunkett to furnish all the necessary funds. Mr. Plunkett had not the funds, and the Syndicate, or the Nova Scotia Railway Company, as it is called, when brought to the point, were compelled to admit, in effect, that they could not carry out the undertaking.

A Canadian Military Scheme.

The *London Standard* lately published a note which is said to have caused a little flutter of excitement at the clubs and in military circles, and it is calculated to cause no less a flutter and considerable surprise, to boot, in Canada. The note goes:—"A scheme has been for some time under the consideration of the War Office, drawn up by the military authorities in British North America, by which the Dominion of Canada, would be able to supply 10,000 men fully trained and equipped to the Home Army, in case of emergency. The men would all be enrolled in and trained with the active militia, and would, it is believed, willingly undertake the duties imposed upon them. Hitherto, unforeseen difficulties have arisen to prevent the carrying out of the proposal, but pressure is likely to be brought to bear on Lord Hartington to induce him to re-open the question in deference to the wishes of all classes of the Canadian community." The note was copied by most of the London papers and favorably commented upon. If England, on the urgent emergency of a great war required 10,000 Canadian soldiers, she, we believe, would readily get them, but who in Canada has heard of such a scheme, or having heard of it, has raised the question? A scheme would tend to strengthen the bond of connection of which so much has been spoken lately, and which is very desirable, Canadians might do worse than wish to have it carried out.

Progress in Medical Ethics.

The New York State Medical Society, on evening lately held a discussion on the revised code of medical ethics, and by a vote of 105 to 48, ratified the special feature of it which has raised the bit of controversy, and followed a more conservative position, viz, the following: "Members of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and of other societies in affiliation therewith, may meet in consultation legally qualified practitioners, emergencies may occur in which all restrictions should in the judgment of the practitioner, yield to the demands of humanity. The opponents of the new code protest strongly against this rule, which they denounce as an outrage, and practically puts the regular physician upon a level with homopaths and quacks, and all who have been led astray by false dogmas, and those who are given over to abortive practices, abortionists in fact. But the sense of the meeting above mentioned was that the law of the land determines who shall or shall not practice medicine, and the question of consultation between those on the intelligence and honesty of the independent practitioner, and the physician who requires to be directed how to behave in the case of a practitioner. Exclusive dogmas are not confined to the homopathic school. They are found among many who belong to the old school, and many of those exclusive dogmas are far more dangerous than those of the honest homopathic. Exclusive dogmas are constantly met within the profession, and these dogmas are generally a rejection of the accumulated experience of physicians. One of the speakers at the meeting, Dr. C. R. Agnew, said:—"My position is simply this: I believe in nothing more than the truth, and not with persecution. From some of the things which have been said here to-night, one might suppose that we were living in the first half of the seventeenth century. Error never has been and never can be destroyed by persecution. I advocate the new code because it is in keeping with the refined ethics of the time in which we live. Nothing can be safer than the new rule governing consultations. When the old code came into existence there were, perhaps, a score of homopaths in this country; now there are fully 6,000. What has persecution done to defeat error here? You cannot repress the old prescriptive, trades union code, if you want to. It is a dead letter like the Fugitive Slave Law, and this society should recognize the fact."

Another Editor heard from.

Headache is one of those distressing complaints that depends upon nervous irritation, congestion, stasis, or a disordered state of the stomach, liver, bowels, etc., and is cured after years of suffering with headache, now testifies to the virtue of Burdock Blood Purifier.

The Legislature.

The Legislative session and season will open to-morrow, and everybody who is anybody, politically or socially, is speculating over what they will bring forth. Reversing the common maxim, business before pleasure, it may be taken for granted that the guests will not be public, or on a large official scale, and that it will be marked by pleasant parties, and social interludes. As for the session we have no doubt but that the Government will be sustained by a good working majority, though those who cannot believe in anything until it is actually proved, will be on tenter hooks until the strength of parties is tested by a straight vote. The election of the Speaker will not be a test vote, but the Government, of course, will carry their nominees, Mr. Lynott, of Charlotte. We do not suppose that the Governor's speech will present a large "bill of fare," or rather of work, to the Legislature. It is safe to say that it will be congratulatory on the prosperity that has attended the Province during the year, though we do not think much stress will be laid on the harvest, which was fairly good, and that allusion will be made to the deputations to Ottawa on the Eastern Extension claim, and a favorable answer to it at an early date will be promised. Economy in the expenditures of the revenues will, we presume, be urged upon the Legislature, and they will be told that during the past fiscal year the expenditure has been kept within the income. Reference will probably be made to the Railway Subsidy Act of last session, and some railway legislation will be promised. But there is no use in indulging in further speculation, as the Speech itself will soon be in everybody's hands.

THE LOCH LOMOND MURDER.

Story of the Crime as told by an Eyewitness.

The brief mention of the terrible murder committed at Loch Lomond, St. John County, on the 13th inst., made in our columns last week, is supplemented by the following description of the tragedy, from Mrs. Thompson, the mother of the murdered woman. She says:—"My daughter, Mrs. Cassie Hughes, came to my house on Thursday morning early, she was very pale, and her eyes were red. She had been reading in Carleton, the day previous, and had walked out to Mr. Miry's house during the day, remaining there over husband because he treated her badly. This was no new story to us, as we knew it had happened before. She remained with me until Monday afternoon, nothing particular occurring, except by the usual course. She greeted him in a friendly manner and he answered her, appearing glad to see her again. After some conversation with his wife, she went to her room. She said, 'Well, Cassie, I want you to go home with me to-morrow.' She answered him very decidedly, 'No, I will not go; you have treated me badly.' He then said to her, 'Cassie, you must come home, as I cannot go without you.' She replied, 'I will go back and live with you if you will live with me at Carleton.' Hughes then said to her, 'I cannot go back to Carleton just now, but if you will go back I will move from Carleton after awhile.' He then attempted to play with her, but she pushed him away. She did not think that she had any play with him. They talked some more about going home and then they went to bed. He told me that he wanted to get up early as he had to be in town at 8 o'clock before noon. I stayed up most of the night to wake him up in the morning, and called him about daybreak. We have no clock and cannot see the time, but I saw that Mrs. Hughes had dressed herself all got up, and she would go home with him, but she refused, stating that she would not go that day. He would go next day with her. He told her she must go, and promised if she did he would use her well, to which she replied, 'I cannot go; you have used me so badly. I have believed your promises for so long, and you have not kept one. You have often already, and can place no more confidence in you.' He appeared very angry at this remark, but said nothing. Cassie was washing dishes at the table, and she had had told him she would not go with him, she added, 'I loved you once as I loved my life, but I love you no longer.' It was this who was the only child, which is living with Mrs. McEwen in Carleton. Cassie was twenty-one years old when she died.

I had left the house Hughes came outdoors and walked up and down in front of the house. When the neighbors had collected I returned to the house with them, and shortly afterwards he went out and crossed the fields to Mrs. Corbett's house where he was arrested.

Another witness described the scene as follows: "The assassin raised the hatchet and hurled it at the head of his wife. Four blows, in rapid succession, followed, and almost without a moan the unfortunate creature fell dead at her husband's feet. The most ghastly spectacle of the blood which flowed from her wounds in torrents, eclipsed the frenzy of the murderer, and the hatchet fell to the floor from his semi-paralyzed hands. It struck close to her lifeless body, and there it lay until the officers took it up. In a trunk close to her lifeless body the hatchet was found. The floor of the little hut was literally covered with gore and the walls were bespattered with the crimson fluid that gushed forth from arteries and veins in succession severed by the keen blade of the hatchet in the murderous hands of the enraged negro.

Ireland's Climate.

Archbishop Lynch of Toronto, has been writing to the papers on the condition of Ireland, and as might be expected, taking a very gloomy view. It is not only its disturbed political and social state; the miserable wretchedness; the want and misery in many districts that oppress him. The damp, dark climate depresses him, which, year by year, seems to be growing worse. He puts the blame on the warm Gulf Stream, which now, he says, embraces the land and inundates it with its thick vapor. However that may be, the climate cannot be cheerful and good agriculturally, if the following description given by him is correct:—"A change is going on in those countries of the west of Ireland, which is not only a loss of their best pasture, but English and Irishmen should urge their Governments to take into serious consideration the altered state of things. The climate of Ireland and England has undergone the last fifty years a very great change. There are now constant rains and fogs, so that certain crops do not mature as formerly. What is unproductive, potatoes, most common, which were ripened in Ireland fifty years ago now shrivel on the trees: America supplies that commodity. The moisture of the earth is destructive to the hocks and sheep and lay in thousands. There is not enough of sunshine to dry the turf which is the fuel of the poor. This state of things will become the normal state of Ireland. The summers will be shorter and the winters longer, and the large masses of heavy leaden clouds, almost touching the ground, are seen careering over Ireland and nearly every day pour down their heavy showers on the already flooded earth."

The British Cabinet, as at present made up, consists of fourteen members, seven of whom are peers and seven Commons. The average age is 57. Mr. Gladstone's age being 73, Earl Selborne's 71, and Earl Granville's 65. None of the other members have passed 60. Some of the salaries are as follows:—Mr. Gladstone, £5,000; Mr. Childers, £5,000; Sir W. Harcourt, £5,000; Lord Hartington, £4,500; Mr. Chamberlain, £2,000; Earl Selborne, £10,000; Earl Spencer (Lord Lieutenant of Ireland), £20,000; G. O. Trevelyan, £4,425. Along with these figures are given the rank and position, and total rental of the various Ministers. Mr. Gladstone has 2,139 acres and a rental of £4,425; Earl Spencer, 24,254 acres and £42,219 rental.

CURRENT COIN.

The former cashier of one of the large Boston banks is now a porter in a New York hotel.

The small-brother in Chicago is driven by a Russian nobleman. He is probably pined.

It is estimated that Winnipeg will assess about \$100,000,000 for 1883, an increase of \$10,000,000 over last year.

The rumor is prevalent in Ottawa that at the close of the present session the Marquis de Lorne has been offered the position of High Commissioner for the United States, which will cost him the equipments, more than \$5,000,000,000.

The wife and two children of Mr. Henry Latourville, of Montreal, were poisoned by eating canned lobsters of which the lid had been off for some days.

The relief of the late Jesse James confirms the story that his hair turned prematurely white. It is suggested, therefore, that his hair has got the start of his soul by several hundred years.

Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry cures Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Whooping Cough, Croup, Asthma, Consumption, and all diseases of the Throat, Lungs and Chest. 50 cents and \$1 a bottle.

The tendency in the Western States is continually in the direction of increasing stringency in regulating the sale of liquor. The imposition of a \$500 license fee for the sale of liquor, and \$250 for malt and lighter drinks is proposed in Chicago.

WEDDALLS!

White Cottons, White Sheetings, ALL WIDTHS. Pillow Cottons, from 40 to 54 inches wide. Grey Cottons, Grey Sheetings, Feather Tickings, Patchwork, Knitting Angola, Knitting Cottons, ONE CASE, New Hamburgs, VERY LOW, Neck Frillings, NEW PATTERN LAGES, KIERSTEAD'S, All of which have been marked at Lowest Prices.

The King Oak in Windsor Forest, England, is 1,000 years old, but the oldest tree in the world is the tree of the sacred city of Annapolis, in Burma. It was planted 288 B. C., and is therefore now 2,170 years old.

It shows the magnitude of American fortunes in a single week, in a single city, two men have died, the one being estimated at over \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000, and the other from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

The dying words of Commander Rawson to Sir Garnet after the victory of Tel-el-Kebir were to live in history as illustrious as the names of Queen and country.

Her Majesty has accepted, as a souvenir of the late war, a photograph of the New Testament which was procured during the assault on Tel-el-Kebir by a Remington bullet, while in the harness of Private Boone, one of the 74th Highland Light Infantry. That Testament saved his life.

I CERTIFY that I obtained immediate relief during a severe case of bronchitis, when in Camp Sussex this year, by the application of Minard's Liniment.

Prof. Young, of Princeton College, says: "Take a railroad from the earth to the sun, with a train running 40 miles an hour without stops, and it would take about 285 years and a little over to make the journey." He estimates the fare, at a cent a mile, to be \$293,000. These figures look like the project.

Parvair Strup cures Dyspepsia, General Debility, Liver Complaints, Bilis, Humors, Chronic Diarrhoea, Nervous Affections, Female Complaints, and all diseases originating in a bad state of the blood.

FEBRUARY OPENINGS.

White Cottons, White Sheetings, ALL WIDTHS. Pillow Cottons, from 40 to 54 inches wide. Grey Cottons, Grey Sheetings, Feather Tickings, Patchwork, Knitting Angola, Knitting Cottons, ONE CASE, New Hamburgs, VERY LOW, Neck Frillings, NEW PATTERN LAGES, KIERSTEAD'S, All of which have been marked at Lowest Prices.

St. John, 13th November, 1882.

John J. Weddall, LEASING AGENT, 10 PER CENT. REDUCTION—CASH ONLY!

WINTER UNDERCLOTHING, Wool Scarfs, MUFFLERS, GLOVES, SOCKS, Etc., GREAT REDUCTIONS.

At the above reduction to clear. Ladies and Gents' Felt Slippers. Ladies and Gents' Solid Comfort Slippers. Ladies and Gents' Oscar Wilde Slippers. Ladies and Gents' Felt Lace Boots. Ladies and Gents' Fancy Moccasins. Ladies' Jenny Lind Felt Shoes. Ladies' Felt Lined Skating Boots. Gents' Felt Long Boots. Gents' Felt Foxed Long Boots. Men and Boys' Oil and Indian Tanned Moccasins.

G. H. THOMAS & CO., Gents' Furnishers, And Custom Shirt Makers, QUEEN STREET, 2 Doors below MARITIME BANK. January 31, 1883.

Don't Forget! That anyone buying any of the above articles for CASH, WILL SAVE 20 per cent, or 20 cents on every dollar.

A. LOTTIMER, Next Door Below Dever Bros. Queen St., Ft'on. Former price 35 cents. February 7, 1883.

GREAT REMNANT SALE.

All Remnants that have accumulated for the past year will be sold at Half-Price.

White Cottons, White Sheetings, ALL WIDTHS. Pillow Cottons, from 40 to 54 inches wide. Grey Cottons, Grey Sheetings, Feather Tickings, Patchwork, Knitting Angola, Knitting Cottons, ONE CASE, New Hamburgs, VERY LOW, Neck Frillings, NEW PATTERN LAGES, KIERSTEAD'S, All of which have been marked at Lowest Prices.

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DEVER BROTHERS. SALE TO COMMENCE JANUARY 3RD, 1883. Frederickton, January 9, 1883.