

Nova Scotia Politics.

It appears that when the session reports passed the Nova Scotia Assembly, there were but twenty-one members present, out of a House of thirty-eight. Fifteen of the number voted in favor of secession, and six against the latter, including Mr. Pipes of Cumberland, a Government supporter, and ex-Premier. Had there been a full house, there would have appeared fifteen members against the secession of Premier Fielding and his associates. Every man who voted for secession was a Grit, and the opponents of the resolution, with the exception of Mr. Pipes, were Conservatives. The Fielding Government has been in power four years, but their tenure of office has not been marked by any conspicuously able legislation. Like our own Local Government, they have succeeded in running the country further into debt, and to blind the country to their misdoings, they bring forward the policy of secession. They represent the worst elements of the old anti-confederate, repeal party, and would undo all that the union has done for the Province to cover up their own misdeeds. They are not likely to succeed, however, and if Mr. Fielding and his associates go down with the suicidal policy they in the last hours of the legislature inaugurated, there will be little sorrow among the right thinking, loyal, and patriotic people of Nova Scotia.

The Halifax Herald, the best edited journal in the Maritime Provinces, sees in the Government's action, a fitting finale to the career of the now defunct legislature. "Burglars and murderers," says our contemporary, "not unforgetfully seek to destroy by fire, the scenes of their crimes, in order thereby to destroy the evidence of their guilt. It is with a similar motive that the present Local Government, after the most inglorious career that ever disgraced a Government, propose to convulse, and if possible dissolve the country in which they find themselves so thoroughly discredited. After four years of power they are able to point to no one act that reflects the slightest credit on them. Not a mile—not even a half mile—of railway has been constructed. The Province saddled with a bonded debt of about a million dollars. Provincial property worth millions of dollars traitorously given away, solemn pledges regarding the Legislative Council flagrantly broken, a valuable institution of learning closed, and a humane institution ruined in a struggle to maintain the spoils system, a legislature corrupted in the most profligate manner, and the laws of the Province generally mutilated and the administration of the Government generally degraded,—these are all they have to show the people as the results of their four years of Government. It is no wonder, therefore, that they seek to cover their retreat from the legislative halls, by applying the torch of the incendiary to the constitution of their country."

The Premier and Mr. Mitchell.

The breach between Hon. Peter Mitchell and the Dominion Government, of which the member for Northumberland was up to a year ago, a warm supporter, is evidently widening, and it is unlikely that the Hon. Peter will ever come back to the Government fold. Mr. Mitchell has been feeling badly ever since 1878, when Sir John constructed his Government and left Mr. Mitchell out. The latter was Minister of Marine and Fisheries in Sir John's Government, when the administration was defeated in 1872, and he considers himself badly treated in being left out in the cold, when his old associates returned to power in 1878. His being thus ignored, is undoubtedly the cause of Mr. Mitchell's present discontent, and he loses no opportunity to embarrass the Government, his attitude during the present session of Parliament being exceedingly hostile to the Premier, so hostile indeed that he even voted condemnation of the Government for executing Riel. The other day the Premier and Mr. Mitchell, who naturally is a pugnacious temperament, came into personal collision in the Commons, and the wordy conflict was intensely amusing to the House and galleries. Sir John maintained his usual coolness, and his manner towards his opponent was so sarcastic and taunting, that the latter is described as having got quite angry. The discussion arose over a proposed appropriation to pay the salary of a Chinese interpreter, in British Columbia. Mr. Mitchell considered the appropriation too high, and in the course of his remarks, hinted that it was another scheme of Sir John's to provide an office for a Mr. Trutch, whom he characterized as one of the Premier's pets. Some one remarked that Mr. Mitchell had very little confidence in the Government, and the following dialogue ensued:—

"Not much," replied Mr. Mitchell. "I have given them more confidence than they deserve. I vote in this House according to my convictions, and when I don't, it is out of the generosity of my feelings." Sir John Macdonald—"It is very clear that if the hon. gentleman has little confidence in the Government—" Mr. Mitchell—"Not much." Sir John Macdonald—"He certainly has a good deal of confidence in himself." Mr. Mitchell—"You bet." The hon. gentleman proceeded to say that when he was in the Cabinet, in 1871, at the time of the union with British Columbia, the Hon. Mr. Trutch came to Ottawa and stipulated for certain remuneration to himself in the event of union. Sir John Macdonald (stipulatively)—"That is not so." Mr. Mitchell—"Yes." Sir John Macdonald—"I say it is not so." Mr. Mitchell—"It is so. I have as good a memory—" The Chairman—"Order."

Another account of the little episode says that Mr. Mitchell took occasion to pitch into Mr. Trutch, whom he designated as a pet of Sir John's. Sir John remarked that, Mr. Mitchell himself used to be one of his (Sir John's) pets, but that for some reason or other, he had been out of temperately. "Yes, and I'll tell the reason why, some day," retorted Mr. Mitchell. There is a very strong probability, that when the friends of the Government in Northumberland meet a few months hence to select a candidate, that another gentleman will be substituted for Mr. Mitchell.

The Railways of Canada.

At the close of the last fiscal year, there were 10,773 miles of railway track laid in Canada, and 10,150 miles of road in operation. The amount of capital that has been paid out for the construction of the various lines, reaches \$625,754,500, or more than \$60,000 per mile. The earnings of all the roads for 1885, amounted to \$32,227,470, and the working expenses to \$24,015,350, leaving a net profit of \$8,212,118, or less than two per cent on the paid up capital. The Dominion Government has contributed to these roads in loans and bonuses, the sum \$155,307,000, Quebec has given \$8,223,000, Ontario, \$5,946,000, New Brunswick, \$4,000,000, and Nova Scotia \$3,000,000, but these amounts do not include municipal bonuses given by the various Provinces. Last year the Dominion Railways carried 9,722,600 passengers and 14,659,000 tons of freight. Only 1,228 miles of the whole 10,773 miles of railways, are laid with iron rails. These figures are an interesting study, demonstrating as they do, the great progress Canada has made in railway development.

The Home Rule question is the all absorbing question in England, and it is admitted on all hands that Gladstone cannot carry his measure in its present shape, if indeed at all. There is great excitement in Ulster, the loyal Irish Province, against Home Rule, and the Orangemen are arming to resist the measure. Three thousand men belonging to the London volunteers and one hundred officers of the same force have offered to join any army put in the field by Ulster in rebellion against Home Rule. The Orangemen of Lagan, County Armagh, are enrolling themselves in military associations, organized for the purpose of resisting Home Rule government. It is stated that in the event of an Ulster rebellion, a loyalists' expedition will be ready to march on Dublin, leaving a strong garrison in Ulster, and an army of observation on the Shannon. John H. A. Macdonald, member for Edinburgh and St. Andrew's universities, presented in the House of Commons, Monday night, a petition against granting Home Rule to Ireland. The petition was signed by 106,894 Scotchmen. It was one and one-quarter miles long, weighed 274 pounds, and was born into the house on the shoulders of stalwart attendants. Another dissolution of Parliament is imminent.

Sir Fred. Middleton, commanding the Canadian militia, in his annual report advises the formation of corps of mounted rifles in the North-West. There are strong reasons, says the Montreal Witness, why they should be formed in every county in the Dominion. They would be popular among that horse-loving class the young farmers of Canada, who would be greatly the better of being occasionally seated on, and not behind their beasts. From the nature of the duties such corps are required to fulfil, they could be brought to a much higher degree of efficiency than can a militia cavalry force. The good service rendered by Boulton's Horse, in the campaign that virtually closed a year ago the prominent part taken by the mounted rifle corps in the Egyptian campaign, and the formation of many corps of this arm as an addition to the volunteer force of Great Britain are, of themselves, reasons sufficiently strong to justify the Militia Department in taking action. In Great Britain, several companies of mounted rifles have been formed as adjuncts to battalions of infantry, and the plan seems to work well.

The Telegraph says that the Globe's views on the fishery protection question are in direct defiance of the general public sentiment, and that had the Globe propounded them before, instead of after the recent local election, in which Mr. Ellis, the Globe editor was a successful candidate, and whose candidature was very enthusiastically supported by the Telegraph, they might have been taken notice of in a way to be remembered. This is pretty lively talk from one Grit editor to another, and may lead to serious complications, more serious indeed than the fishery question itself. Wonder if the Telegraph, after spitting at the Globe in that manner, will support Mr. Ellis' candidature for the Speakership of the Assembly?

The "Tory party" in New Brunswick will be surprised to learn from the Halifax Recorder, that the result of the recent election has been a regular Waterloo for them. Out of forty-one seats, says the Recorder, the Tories only managed to get eight. What Mr. Longley don't know about New Brunswick politics, would fill several volumes of the Recorder. The Farmer's calculation as to the relative standing of the Conservatives and Liberals in the new Assembly, placing the number of the former at twenty-two, and the latter at nineteen, has not been questioned.

Some of the American papers are making a great spread over the seizure of the fishing schooner, by H. M. ship "Lansdowne," and already they talk of grave complications. The New York Herald says, "like a hungry vulture the fishery flagship bore down upon her unsuspecting prey," which leads the Montreal Star to remark, that if this kind of talk is allowed to go unchecked, the next thing we shall hear of will be a desperate effort to float the United States Navy as far as Digby basin.

Another American fishing schooner has been seized at Englishtown, Cape Breton, for violation of the fishery and customs regulations. Her captain admits the purchase of bait. The case of the Adams will come before the Admiralty Court at Halifax, in a few days.

In the House of Commons Thursday, Hon. Mr. Thompson said that the contract had been entered into by the Government for the construction of the Short Line railway from Montreal via Fredericton to Salisbury with the International Railway Co.

A MONCTON GIRL'S CRIME.

An Opulent Home Desolated by a Double Tragedy.

Two Shots in a Bedroom.

Hawthorne is the name of one of the pretty suburbs of Patterson, N. J., and among its pleasant hills stands a number of mansions of the wealthier citizens of Patterson. The location has attracted thither also a number of citizens of New York and Brooklyn, who over summer homes among the hills and near the banks of the Passaic. In July of last year one of the attractive houses, romantically situated on the crest of a hill and surrounded by all that makes the country attractive in the summer season, was leased by Perigo Fernandez, who subsequently removed thither with his wife and a number of servants. The family spent most of their time during the winter months in New York, but as the weather became warmer, they settled down permanently in their New Jersey home. Their residence lies about a mile from the railroad station. The neighbors got to know very little about the family except that they were good neighbors, at all times obliging, but not inclined to mingle in Hawthorne society. Fernandez had a fondness for cattle and poultry, and he indulged his liking to a considerable extent, owning a number of fine cattle, and having in his barns incubators and all kinds of poultry, and a few horses. Fernandez was a Cuban, and that he was the senior partner of the firm of Fernandez & Castro, sugar planters, New York. He frequently spoke of his father, a wealthy sugar planter in Cuba, and for whom the house which his son was a member, acted as commission merchants. The people about Hawthorne were well pleased to have the Fernandez family, and they were not suspected that there was any trouble in a house which to all appearances was the abode of happiness and wealth. The couple had a child, but she died when she was about six years of age, and he had been adopted as a son. Six weeks ago, Mrs. Lottia Saunders, sister of Mrs. Fernandez, came to the house on a visit.

A SABATH MORNING HORROR.

Early on Sunday morning the 9th inst., the neighborhood was aroused and shocked by the horrible intelligence that both Perigo Fernandez and his wife, were dead, and that their deaths were due to a pistol in the hands of Mrs. Fernandez. Mrs. Fernandez was lying near the house, and none cared to approach, although asked to do so by the servants. Nobody seemed anxious to have anything to do with the matter, and the police were called, but their heads and declared that they did not propose to be mixed up in any such business. Word was at once sent to Patterson, and Colonel Huggon and Chief of Police Graul hastened to the scene of the tragedy for the purpose of making an investigation. The bodies of both husband and wife were found in an elegantly furnished bedroom in the upper part of the house. Fernandez was dressed in an overcoat and heavy shoes, and his ordinary clothes which he wore when he was busy with his cattle and poultry. His body lay reclining with his head against the wall. At his feet lay the body of his wife. She wore an elegant pale blue Mother Hubbard wrapper. The bedclothes had been turned up, and beyond these there were no indications that the couple were getting ready to retire when the bloody work was done. On the floor were two large pools of blood caused by the wound of Mrs. Fernandez, who had been shot to a more comfortable position before death. There was a stain of blood on the shirt front of Fernandez and near it a hole in his clothing. The bullet which had entered his coat, vest and shirt, and had entered the right breast about the middle of the lung. On the right temple of the woman there was a horrible wound from which the blood was still oozing. A circular indentation about the wound showed what determination she had pressed the muzzle of the revolver to her head before firing the fatal shot.

"Jealousy" was what the neighbors whispered, and when questioned, none seemed to know of any reason for the existence of that passion. It was mentioned that she and her part, for there was no other plausible way of accounting for the murder and suicide.

THE COACHMAN'S STORY.

Henry Scroggins, the colored coachman, who has been in the employ of the family for eight years, told the authorities the following story: "I was called out on Sunday night to go to a party, and I was sent a despatch saying that he would be home shortly before five o'clock. I drove to the depot and brought him home. He met his wife, and I did not notice anything wrong. They talked pleasantly together, and if there was any altercation it occurred while I was absent. Shortly after Mr. Fernandez got into the house, he tended to his incubators, and then came into the house. He had been upstairs and put on his old clothes. He and Mrs. Fernandez sat down to dinner about ten o'clock, and then they spent some time in the parlor and about the house. Mrs. Fernandez always called her husband Dede, and he called her Belle. About ten o'clock they wanted some coffee, and asked me to get it. I went to do so, and they drank coffee together in the dining room. Mr. Fernandez went out again to look after the poultry and Mrs. Fernandez went to her room. I saw Mrs. Fernandez go down stairs early in the evening.

A MIDNIGHT PISTOL SHOT.

"I went to my room and had just undressed myself, when I heard a pistol shot in Mrs. Fernandez's bedroom. I hurriedly dressed and ran into Mrs. Saunders' room and called her. She had not heard the shot, but I told her that a shot had been fired in Mrs. Fernandez's room she hurried to that room with me. As we entered we saw Mrs. Fernandez lying on the floor, and she was dead. I asked her what she had done, and she said she had fired a shot at her husband. I then hurried back to my room and had just undressed myself, when I heard a pistol shot in Mrs. Fernandez's bedroom. I hurriedly dressed and ran into Mrs. Saunders' room and called her. She had not heard the shot, but I told her that a shot had been fired in Mrs. Fernandez's room she hurried to that room with me. As we entered we saw Mrs. Fernandez lying on the floor, and she was dead. I asked her what she had done, and she said she had fired a shot at her husband. 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