

The Railway Resolutions.

The St. John Valley Railway, from Fredericton to Woodstock, may be considered an assured fact. Yesterday in the Assembly, Hon. Mr. Blair tabled resolutions asking the authority of the Legislature to subsidize this important line, and that body, understanding the pressing importance of the work, will no doubt give its approval. We congratulate our friends in the river parishes on their prospect of early railway communication with the rest of the world, and they will very readily be fair sure, awarded to Mr. Temple and Mr. Blair, the deserved meed of praise for securing to them what they most desired, a railway. But the proposed line is not only of local importance. The Temiscouata Railway about finished, and the St. John River Railway projected from Fredericton to the N. B. Railway to Westfield, uniting with the line from Fredericton to Woodstock, will give St. John and Quebec direct connexion, running through the very garden of the Province. This will be the dream of a central line, which was temporarily dispelled by the location of the Intercolonial, be realized.

The other lines proposed to be subsidized by the resolutions before the House are, the Temiscouata, from Edmundston to the Quebec boundary, the St. John and Eastern from St. John to Barnesville on the St. Martins and St. John, via Loch Lomond, and the St. John Extension to Fairville. The resolutions will probably come up for discussion in the Assembly to-morrow evening.

A Legislative Surprise.

The Quebec resolutions were introduced in the Nova Scotia Assembly Thursday, by a vote of twenty-two to eleven. Premier Fielding moved to refer the resolutions to a two hours' speech. When he concluded, some wag shouted "division." It was exactly 6 o'clock and every one expected a night session. Premier Fielding was momentarily engaged in replying to a question from one of his supporters while a few humorous members shouted "divide," "divide." A moment later the speaker put the question, and before any one realized what was being done, a faint yawn was followed by a roar of ayes, and a division was called for. Attorney General Longley shouted "hold! hold!" but it was too late, the names were being recorded. In less than a minute, without any discussion and, therefore, without any detailed knowledge of the question, the majority had passed the Quebec resolutions. The members who have for a month past been preparing elaborate speeches are furious with rage. The funniest part is that Mr. Fielding only skimmed the question in his speech, reserving many features to be elaborated by his co-delegates, Mr. Longley and Mr. McGillivray. Three Government men voted with the Opposition. The suddenness of the vote was regarded as a great joke on Attorney General Longley, who expected to deliver himself of an exhaustive speech on the resolutions.

A Cabinet Row.

There is a split in the Mercier Cabinet at Quebec, that has set all Canada talking. The only English speaking member of that strange governmental mixture, Hon. James McShane of Montreal, an Irish Catholic who held the office of Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, has been dismissed to please the fancy of Mercier's French colleagues, the Rielite Conservatives who carried the Premier into power. "Mr. McShane has been simply crushed out of the Cabinet," says a prominent member of Mercier's party. "One of the reasons given for the minister's dismissal, is his alleged disregard for Cabinet secrets, but the trouble first originated, says the Montreal Star, in consequence of an appointment insisted upon by Mr. McShane which was coveted by some of Mercier's other followers. The next trouble was over the Montreal tramway bill which Mr. McShane succeeded in killing, and which bill was said to be a very promising piece of paper for the promoters and lobbyists. Mr. McShane's interference with that bill has never been forgiven. One of the great troubles with McShane was his exceeding liberality. He even committed the unpardonable sin of supporting Conservatives in some contracts. A favorite expression of one of the members of the Cabinet was, "D—n that fellow, McShane, he cannot keep his mouth shut." A good many little schemes were upset, perhaps not intentionally, but nevertheless by McShane talking so freely to members who were not in the schemes. All sorts of devices have been resorted to to get the Minister of Public Works to go to the Minister of Finance to justify Mercier asking for his resignation on the score of injury inflicted on the party. There was considerable rejoicing on the part of the clique when it was learned that an attempt was to be made to disqualify McShane in connection with the Leprieux election. It will be remembered that Mercier sailed for England suddenly and unexpectedly on the 18th of January. A week before he sailed, two of his most prominent followers were heard to say, "Get Mercier out of the way and we'll fix McShane. The plots against the Minister have at last succeeded, but probably Mr. McShane's dismissal will be but the preface to Mercier's downfall. Mr. McShane is a great political fighter, and a favorite with all parties. He is a very strong man in his own constituency, Montreal Centre, and stands high in the esteem of the masses of the people, and especially with his people of the same race and religion.

The Quebec Conference resolution advising abolition of the Legislative Council is what struck the Upper Chambers.

Mr. Skinner's Attitude.

Mr. C. N. Skinner, M. P., for St. John, by instinct, education, and association is a Liberal Conservative, and in the last general election was found in the Grit party, simply because he had been very shabby treated by a portion of the Conservative party in St. John. He was nominated for Parliament by the Grits, because his personal popularity was a guarantee that the ticket which he led would win, and they were not mistaken. But Mr. Skinner never had any sympathy with the Grit party, its principles, or with the Grit party, after one year's association with them, he has evidently concluded that further he can have very little in common with them. Just now Mr. Skinner's political attitude is causing some discussion at Ottawa. He was one of the speakers in the Reciprocity, or rather Commercial Union debate, which has been in progress in the House of Commons for the past fortnight, following Mr. Ellis who declared that unless New Brunswick got reciprocity, the Province would secede from the Union. This text which Mr. Skinner furnished evidently dwelt in Mr. Skinner's mind, as well as his hatred of Mr. Ellis' annexation sentiments, for during his address, Mr. S. in an uncharacteristic manner, his faith in the National Policy, and his love for British connexion.

In his speech, Mr. Skinner said that he had stated to his constituents that he would support the National Policy, inasmuch as the country had approved of it, and he thought the business of the country should be on a stable foundation. He wanted free trade with the United States, but it should be gained in such a way as to preserve our national existence. He did not think that free trade with the United States would have the inauguration of universal prosperity and happiness. He believed that this country was capable of becoming wealthy and prosperous without the aid of the United States at all. He hoped as a British subject and a native born Canadian, that one day every foot of British soil on this continent would be under confederation. He favored reciprocal trade relations with the United States, obtained step by step as the Americans seemed willing to enter into such an agreement; he would not see anything in that which would do him any harm. We were not in need of charity. If we were proud of the greatness of our country. He instanced the astonishing record of the city of St. John from which he came, and said that after the loss of the shipbuilding industry and the terrible holocaust which had devastated it in 1877 they could never have recovered had it not been for the manufacturers, which had been fostered under the National Policy.

These extracts from Mr. Skinner's speech indicate that at heart he is still a supporter of the Government policy, and entirely out of tune with the absurd policy of the Grits for Commercial Union. The delivery of Mr. Skinner's speech seems to have been entirely disappointing to the Grit party in Parliament. When he arose to address the House, the Opposition cheered loudly, but they felt blue enough before he had concluded. An Ottawa despatch thus describes the occasion: "Mr. Skinner was greeted on rising with prolonged Opposition applause. He is generally looked upon as one of the pillars of the party and much was expected from him in his advocacy of the Cartwright resolution. It is impossible to describe the utter consternation that pervaded the Grit ranks as Mr. Skinner proceeded to state that he would not vote to interfere with the main feature of the National Policy. He held the views expressed by Mr. Blake at Malvern, which was a desirous of having a just, equitable and equally advantageous treaty of reciprocity with the United States, the proposition to have absolute free trade with that country could not meet his approval. He rebuked those who had been crying the country. At this stage of the speech every member of the Opposition had turned around in their places and were staring the speaker in the face. One of them could not contain his indignation and shouted, "You're a Tory." Mr. Skinner, nothing daunted, said they might call him what they liked, but he thought if they wished to get commercial relations with any country the best way was to speak well of their own land's resources. If they desired their country they must not be surprised if their neighbors took them selves. The speech was a bombshell in the Grit camp."

How Mr. Skinner's attitude as regarded from an upper Province Conservative standpoint, may be gathered from the Montreal Gazette:—"The untoward course of the Opposition leaders in regard to the Canadian Pacific railway and the National Policy drove a large number of Liberals into the ranks of their opponents. Their equally ill-advised conduct on the trade issue to-day is completing the work. Mr. Skinner, M. P., elected as a Liberal, a representative of New Brunswick, and the colleague of Mr. Ellis, felt it his duty to his country to disregard his party ties in the present crisis, and last night announced his intention of supporting the Government in its resistance to Sir Richard Cartwright's unrestricted reciprocity resolution. A single vote in Parliament is a small consideration; the significance of the action of the member for St. John is that it is the visible sign of the growing opinion among the people hostile to the Liberal party, that party that had defied the patriotic and national sentiment of Canada. It is now reaping its reward."

Bradlaugh and the Oaths Bill.

One of the most important bills passed during the present session of the Imperial House of Commons, is Bradlaugh's Oaths Bill. In 1880 when the radical member for Northampton was first elected, he had already made himself many enemies by his pronounced stand he took as an atheist. After election, a few days prior to the opening of Parliament, he declared publicly that he should take the oath, but it would be an empty and meaningless form to him. This statement induced the House of Commons in 1880 to refuse to admit a member who has been duly elected, causing bitter wrangling and disgraceful scenes which have become a matter of history. Bradlaugh resigned and was re-elected three times. Mr. Gladstone finally tried to end the matter by proposing that Bradlaugh be permitted to come to the table and affirm, but this was defeated. A few days ago, however, Bradlaugh's bill abolishing the oath either for witnesses in court, or for legislators or public officers who do not choose to take it, was carried by 100 majority. It is doubtful, however, if the bill passes the House of Lords.

The bill, based on this bill, says a London correspondent, clearly shows the state of public opinion on religious matters in England. One member declared that: "If at the present time the cause of Christianity and, as I believe, of truth in its highest aspect is falling in this country it is because those who are Christians are rotten and broken down in their belief, whereas those who are the champions of unbelief have had the courage and manliness to state what they believe. Their course of conduct has won them the respect of all mankind."

Other remarks in the same tenor openly assumed the decadence of Christian theology. The Daily Standard, in an editorial article, declared that England is no longer a Christian nation, and that a very large percentage of the population of the country no longer accept religion as embodied in the Bible. These facts, if they are facts as startling in their nature, and would seem to indicate that England's numerous missionary enterprises should be more largely confined to home.

A Monster Barbecue. The representative butchers and drovers of the United States are to meet in National Convention at Philadelphia the last week in May, and at the close of their deliberations, they are to celebrate in a novel way. It is expected that four thousand delegates will attend the convention from all parts of the Union, and a procession on an immense scale, headed by two bands from New York and Baltimore, each five hundred strong, will parade the city. Then a barbecue of proportions never before seen in this country will be prepared in Schuylken Park. The carcasses of fifty oxen and one hundred sheep will be roasted for the occasion, and to season the dish, there will be required sixty pounds of butter, one barrel of salt, six pounds of black pepper and fifteen gallons of vinegar. It is expected that fifty thousand people will be fed at the barbecue, and to the roast will be added thirty thousand loaves of bread. Four "barbecuers" from the west have been engaged to prepare the feast, and they will be assisted by a dozen Philadelphia workmen.

The Ottawa Evening Journal has been getting the views of prominent clergymen throughout the country on the subject of the union of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Among those who write favoring it, are Rev. Principal Grant, of Kingston, Rev. Dr. Potts of Toronto, and Rev. Mr. Hunter of St. Catharines. Says Principal Grant: "The spirit of church union is in the air. It is the spirit of the age. It has operated and certain to continue operating along the line of least resistance. Its first triumphs in Canada were the unification of the various Presbyterian churches, and subsequently the unification of the various Methodist churches. Its next and more important triumph will, I believe, be the union into one body of the Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. The union of that body with the Episcopal church will doubtless, follow and we shall have as the result a great free Protestant church, such as the reformers of the sixteenth century hoped for. Bliss were it then to be alive."

While the N. B. Assembly concurred in the Quebec resolutions by a vote of 34 to 4, the Legislative Council declined to have anything to do with them. Mr. Young moved a resolution declaring it unwise to concur, and embodying the proposition to send an address to the Queen, urging non-compliance with the terms of the resolutions. It was carried by a vote of 11 to 4. Hon. Messrs. Harrison, Thompson, Flaveling and Holly, voting in the negative.

The Nova Scotia Assembly has passed a bill to abolish the Legislative Council of that Province, but it will doubtless meet the usual fate of such bills here. It will be met at the head of the stairs with a club. When the Holmes Government was in power between 1878 and 1882, they went to the foot of the throne with a petition praying for the Council's abolition but they were told that they had not shown sufficient reason for their abolition.

The FARMER very sincerely congratulates Mr. John D. Chipman on his elevation to the honorable and responsible position of Mayor of his native town, to which he was elected by acclamation on Monday. St. Stephen honors itself in the selection of Mr. Chipman, a young gentleman who is bound to make his mark in public life.

Young Tupper, M. P., for Pictou, got off a good thing in Parliament the other night, when referring to the Grit party and its attempt to foist on the people of the Dominion, Commercial Union, under the alias of Reciprocity, he said: "You may fool some of the people all the time; you may fool all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool a majority of the people all the time."

A former local politician, writing from a distant Province to a friend in this city, remarks, that after reading the debates of the present session of the Assembly, he concluded that Mr. Hanington and the Attorney General had discovered in each other, a long lost brother, so cordial apparently are their relations.

York County is not asking any legislation this year, and the only Frederickton introduced is that to authorize a \$200 assessment for the Victoria Hospital.

Capt. Bremner has arrived at Winnipeg and assumed his position of Adjutant in the School of Mounted Infantry.

The Ball at Government House to-morrow night, will be the social event of the season.

The Legislature will probably be prorogued a week from to-morrow.

THE QUEBEC RESOLUTIONS.

(Continued from first page.)

He had appointed six gentlemen to the Legislative Council and their appointments were to be to the country. They were to be made by Sir John Macdonald, would, to say the least, compare favorably with appointments made by the Grit Government. The resolution read resolution 5, and said he had no doubt the Lieut-Governors of the Province have the same exclusive authority as the other Governors and Lieut-Governors of British colonies and provinces, on subjects within provincial jurisdiction. He regarded as one of the most important of all the resolutions submitted to the House. This was the one which limited the power of the Dominion Government in the granting of aid to local works. Every member of the House had a right to be pleased. But no one should misunderstand the effect of a vote in favor of this resolution. Hon. members who approved of this add who were looking for aid to their railways would have to explain their course to their constituents. They should be told that under this power the Dominion Government is now able to assist either the building of railways or bridges. If this resolution were already in force he would not aid could have been given by the Dominion Government on the railway bridge at St. John or the bridge at Fredericton. He wanted it to be strictly understood that under this resolution the Dominion Government would be able to grant aid to local works. It was among other reasons in order that the Dominion Government might be able to grant such aid in the case of the Miramichi bridge. He had no hesitation in saying that this resolution was the work of the Ontario Grits. They have a surplus of \$1,000,000 or so, and the friends of the Government are willing to give them hundreds of thousands of dollars more under the proposed arrangement. Ontario spends little for education, compared to what we do. The Grits of that province say that they have a surplus of \$1,000,000, and they have made Sir John and his Government popular. If we can destroy that power—the power of giving railway subsidies to the Dominion Government, we will lose this influence, and may be able to drive him from power. That was the real lesson of this resolution. The Grits of Ontario were always opposed to railway subsidies for this reason. The Dominion Government was the only aid this province ever got from the Grits was some old rails for the Richibucto and some other road. The act of 1883 did not give them the least aid for the Miramichi bridge. He would say, notwithstanding the Attorney General's statement, that the Local Legislature had all the power over the railways for the present. He regarded the railways aided by provincial money and afterwards declared to be in the public interest of Canada. Those of our friends who needed railway assistance should consider well the effect of this resolution before they gave their vote in favor of it. It was unfair to ask the House to vote these resolutions on 600. There was no doubt that many more would have been given if they had had the opportunity of speaking to the country as well. If hon. members by their votes shall decide to be in the hands of the Dominion Government, they should be aware that the Dominion Government would be able to grant such aid in the case of the Miramichi bridge. He would say, notwithstanding the Attorney General's statement, that the Local Legislature had all the power over the railways for the present. He regarded the railways aided by provincial money and afterwards declared to be in the public interest of Canada. Those of our friends who needed railway assistance should consider well the effect of this resolution before they gave their vote in favor of it. 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