

THE SHORT LINE.

We have good news. The Harvey—Fredericton—Salisbury link of the Short Line Railway will be built.

The Dominion Government has once more proved true to the best interests of this community. The pledges made on their behalf by Sir Hector Langevin in Parliament, will be redeemed.

Sir John A. Macdonald has announced in Parliament, that the C. P. R. Company, having failed to build the Harvey-Salisbury link, the Government itself will undertake the work immediately.

It is further announced on authority, that when the road is constructed, the C. P. R. Co. will operate it, and the Fredericton Bridge will be made free.

All this is excellent news to Fredericton and the surrounding country. But it is gall and wormwood to St. John.

The efforts of our foggy neighbor to block the completion of the Short Line and shut Fredericton out, have proved vain and futile.

The opposition of Mr. Ellis and his majority of one might have been ruling at Ottawa to-day, if the Government had been dependent on St. John for support.

Fredericton is going to be on the National Highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Even Laurier, Mills & Co., who opposed the Short Line subsidies in the first instance, are now opposing the completion of the Short Line, will be powerless to prevent our claims being honorably met.

The proposition of the Government is, to ask Parliament at once for a lump sum, of \$2,000,000, to carry out the the solemn contract.

Parliament will vote the money. And everybody will be happy. Your health Sir John! Our sympathy Saint John!

Woman Suffrage.

We surrender a large portion of our space today, to a report of the discussion in the House of Assembly, on the question of granting women the right to vote. The speeches of Hon. Mr. Ritchie against the proposition, and Dr. Stockton's closing address in support of the resolution, however, are unavoidably held over until next week.

On the question itself, the FARMER may say that it does not agree with the advocates of woman suffrage. We do not believe in the principle, neither do we believe that there is a general demand for such legislation as is proposed by Dr. Stockton and his backers. It appears to us that women have an ample sphere in the domestic circle, and in philanthropic endeavor, for the exercise of the many noble characteristics and virtues with which nature has endowed her, and that it would be a serious error to embroil her in the turmoil of politics.

Repealing the Scott Act.

The Scott Act got a severe wrenching in the vote of Thursday last, when it was repealed by large majorities in twelve counties and two cities of Ontario, and one county in Nova Scotia. In every contest, the anti-Scott Act party were successful, and the majorities are large enough to leave little doubt as to the feeling of the electors.

Table with 2 columns: Previous vote, Thursday's vote. Lists names of constituencies and their respective votes for and against the Scott Act.

Last year, ten counties in Ontario repealed the Act, on Thursday four, ten counties and two cities followed suit, and it remains in force now in but six counties of that province, namely, Oxford, Elgin, Lambton, Middlesex, Leeds, and Grenville, but in four of these the vote on repeal will be taken during the present month.

Colchester is the first constituency in the Maritime Provinces to repeal the Act, and the peculiarity of Thursday's contest there, was in the fact that the temperance party were the repealers, while the liquor dealers were indifferent spectators.

The Montreal Gazette thus comments on the Scott Act defeat under the head of "A Staggering Result." "The result of Thursday's voting on the Scott Act, the repeal of the measure in fifteen cities and counties, if not to the law, is at least a blow from which it will take it long to recover. The defeat is overwhelming; it is much more than was calculated upon, and coming after last year's repeated rebuffs, can only be regarded as a popular condemnation of legislation, which, theoretically good, and unquestionably productive of good results, has been shown to be incapable of efficient enforcement.

The failure to carry out the provisions of this Act is unquestionably the cause of the revulsion in feeling that has taken place. It is a hard law to execute, and its opponents regarded it as tyrannical. They did not scruple to evade it whenever it pleased them, and very often illicit traders, who were detected and punished, had the sympathy of the mass of the community. Popular sentiment is not yet educated up to the point of regarding the use of strong liquor as a crime. The repeated punishment of offenders, while it was the only way to make the law effective, also made it obnoxious. Non-drinking people even, seeing how often it was infringed, concluded that it was better to return to the license system. The result can be called a triumph for rum. There is in the world no soberer community than is to be found in the average Ontario rural district, and it is by these the Scott Act has been condemned. There have been mistakes made by advocates of the Act, but these were only drops in the bucket.

There has been a distinct preference shown for the license system, which in Ontario and Nova Scotia especially is a very strict one, requiring that a tavern shall be a place for the accommodation of the public as well as a bar, and providing that the number of licenses granted shall not exceed the legitimate requirements of the locality. It is people who are not drunkards who have given this verdict, just as it was people who were not total abstainers who first put the Act in force. This is a fact of least promise to ardent advocates of prohibition but it cannot be gainsaid. Since January of last year, twenty-four counties and two cities have pronounced on the measure, and only two—Richmond and Westmorland—have favored its continuance. The present defeat is only the preliminary of what it is evident that it will be a long time before the Scott Act begins to regain its lost popularity.

Our Senators.

This constituency is most unfortunate in its position as regards representation in the Senate. The supposed Senator from this district is Hon. W. H. O'Dell, but he lives in Halifax, and is never heard lifting his voice in the interest of Fredericton or York County. Another gentleman who hails from Fredericton, but who was appointed a senator while a resident of Kent, is Hon. David Wark, and we find him, when the Short Line question was being discussed, advocating that the line should cross the St. John river at Gasquet, because he thought it desirable to utilize existing roads. We fear there is too much truth in the report that Senator Wark is serving brother-in-law Burpee, who is a heavy stockholder in the New Brunswick Railway. Somebody ought to get up a memorial to Parliament, showing that neither Senators O'Dell or Wark are representatives of this community.

Comptroller White of the North-west Mounted Police, says that the latest reports he has received from the territories indicates perfect quietness among the Indians. For years past, every spring there have been rumors of Indian uprisings, but this year not even a whisper had reached him of anything of the kind, and, he thought, indicated peace and contentment. Many Indians, he was able to report, had subsisted on flour made from wheat of their own raising.

Says the Montreal Gazette:—Hon. Mr. Wark, the Liberal senator from New Brunswick, is the latest dissident from the party's policy of making Canada the fiscal vassal of Washington. The Opposition is hoping a very unprofitable row in New Brunswick, apparently.

At the recent annual meeting of the St. John River Log Driving Company the following were elected directors: James R. Warner, president; W. H. Murray, C. J. Woodman, Wm. Tiedje, W. B. Beveridge, J. Fraser Gregory; was elected secretary-treasurer.

WOMEN SUFFRAGE.

Continued from first page.

great stretch of the imagination to see the hon. member or his successors, at some future date, wishing to give women the right to sit in this house and to reduce the age of the franchise to that of the male sex, to the verge of childhood. Such was the necessary result of the policy now advanced. How long will it be before a lady would occupy the seat of the soldier, or the sailor, or the crown in chancery, and before the speaker would be addressed as Mrs. Speaker?

How far did they propose to go, and when did they propose to stop? He thought the hon. gentleman had based his resolution upon the franchise bill from

an ENTIRE MISCONCEPTION of what the franchise act meant. He (Stockton) evidently thought it was based upon property. The fact was that it was based upon the question of residential manhood suffrage. The reason why property was introduced at all was that the legislature did not wish, while conferring the right to vote upon those who now possess it, to take it away from any who did possess it. Property was simply a collateral and subordinate feature. The bill was not intended to confer the right to vote and to franchise upon those who were not enfranchised by the act alone. To be consistent the hon. member ought to have moved for the enfranchisement of all women whether married or single.

Mr. Tweedie—Oh, no. He thought that this was that the widow desired to enter that happy state again. Their state was that of transition, and as a question of public policy it seemed to him to be in a high degree undesirable to confer the right to franchise upon people who, following out the law of nature, would, in so following out the law, divest themselves of that right. It was a ridiculous exercise of his rights, under the constitution, by personal right the question as to whether it was in the interests of the state or that of the other body. Until he could make it appear that it was in the interests of the state he would feel that the hon. gentleman had made out no case whatever for the bill to the serious consideration of this House.

Dr. Stockton—You say it is a privilege and not a right? Hon. Mr. Blair—Yes, it is the general public welfare that has got to be considered in all public questions. It devolved upon the promoters of this idea to show that the general welfare of the country would be promoted by the step proposed. Another question which he thought might fairly be asked was what were the grievances which called for so extreme a remedy.

Mr. Blair dwelt at some length on this point, claiming that the legislature was always as eager—yes, more eager—to preserve and conserve the rights of women than those of men. In respect to property the rights of women stood in a better position than that of men.

Dr. Stockton—Yes, but only a few years past. Hon. Mr. Blair—Yes, but there have been great advances made in all countries with respect to women. These advances of legislation had been adopted by degrees. It was no argument to claim that because woman had rights with respect to property which they did not have formerly, she would also have the right to vote. He would ask the hon. gentleman to mention what grievance woman had to-day that demanded to be dealt with? He would ask the hon. gentleman to mention what grievance woman had to-day that demanded to be dealt with? He would ask the hon. gentleman to mention what grievance woman had to-day that demanded to be dealt with?

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STAIN HIS RESOLUTION.

unless he stood on that proposition and confessed that he was a host to the franchise. So that he thought, taking a broad view of the question, looking at it from the standpoint of practical government and administration, there could be only one answer which would not be tantamount to a made and that answer was in the negative. In her proper position woman is supreme. The hand that rocks the cradle, it has been said, is the world's real ruler. The woman would demand her, he would needlessly drag her down from the high position of influence and strength she stands in, and deprive of the privilege she now enjoys of ruling the cradle of men, and at the same time do an act which, when its effects came to be appreciated would be, from a domestic and political standpoint, recognized as one of the most disastrous acts ever committed by the Legislature of a country. (Great applause.)

MR. EMERSON said the arguments of the Attorney General were feeble, although he had clothed them in poetic language. He had been framed in the words of the poet, "the cause which he advocated was not his own ability to do justice to that cause. While he listened with pleasure to the speech of the Attorney General, he was not without some misgivings as to the propriety of that speech, he could not but regret the attitude of the hon. leader of the Government on this question. The latter had shown up the residential manhood suffrage and had had nothing to refer to the advocacy of the resolution as fanciful sentimentalism, but the advocates of woman's suffrage, he had the authority of Sir John A. Macdonald that Gladstone is a warm advocate of giving the franchise to women. Indeed, it is said he would have extended the right to women. He had been framed in the words of the poet, "the cause which he advocated was not his own ability to do justice to that cause. 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