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The North Star.

CHATHAM, NB. MAR. 5, 1881

J. E. COLLINS.....EDITOR

ATTENTION!

As our representative J. B. Snowball, Esq., has again reached Ottawa, when the Session is nearly over, when the Pacific Railway Bill has passed, and when the Budget debate is concluded, we would call the attention of the electors to a brief review of the past political history of our country, since Confederation.

When the first Government of the Dominion was formed, the Hon. Peter Mitchell, then a senator, took office, as Minister of Marine and Fisheries. With his usual energy he set to work and soon made the department one of most efficient, and best conducted, in the service. He, in a manner, created it, and all the successes that have since attended it, notably the large award received for our fisheries from the Halifax Arbitration, are directly due to the labors of the first Minister of Marine. But in the general work of his department, arduous though it was, Mr. Mitchell did not forget his own county. Against the most powerful influences he succeeded in getting the Intercolonial Railway, by the Northern route. In his own department the interests of the county were not neglected. At confederation only three small lights existed on our coast, for the guidance and protection of our mariners and fishermen; when he resigned twenty two lights were in operation on our coast, and the lights that first existed were enlarged and improved. Lights were placed on Magdalen Islands, Bird Rock, Cape Ray on the Newfoundland coast and other points, facilitating navigation in the Gulf, and aiding the trade of our port. In consequence of this enlightened policy, our trade since confederation has constantly increased—our total exports in 1868 being valued at \$436,259 while last year they were valued at \$1,215,258; and the number of square rigged vessels arriving at our port increasing from 130 in 1870 to 349 in 1880.

When our first Dominion member, the talented and lamented Hon. J. M. Johnson died, the county decieved by false canvasses, sent the Hon. Richard Hutchison, a personal opponent of Mr. Mitchell, to Ottawa, as the representative. Mr. Hutchison was head of a large lumber concern, and after a session or two, he found his public duties and private interests to be incompatible, and he contemptuously neglected the peoples interests, went to England instead of to Ottawa, during the sessions of Parliament, and the burden of the county's wants were placed on the shoulders of Mr. Mitchell who was always at his post.

When the term of the first Parliament expired, Mr. Mitchell was requested by a requisition signed by nearly every elector in the county, to resign his seat in the Senate, and become our representative in the Commons. The feeling against Hutchison for desertion of his post was so strong that no one thought of asking him to run again. He was simply ignored. Mr. Mitchell complied with the requisition, resigned his seat in the Senate, and was elected by acclamation. The Hon. Wm. Muirhead, a gentleman who by his industry, and energy, and high standing had attained the highest mercantile position in the county and won the respect and gratitude of the people at large was called to the Senate in his stead.

The Pacific Scandal, so called, soon followed, and the Government of which Mr. Mitchell was a member resigned. This was followed by a general election, when Mr. Mitchell was opposed by J. B. Snowball. Snowball appeared as the champion of the Grits, and boasted on the hustings that he possessed the patronage of the county. However Snowball was defeated and Mitchell remained

Northumberland's representative up to 1878. During this time he was in Opposition, but was always at his post, and was ever ready to attend to the wants of his constituents. But while he worked and watched in the House of Commons, his opponent—by the most easy and ordinary arts of election by dinners and visits, by "How do you dos" and "my worthy friends," endeavored to move him out of his seat, and made promises and entered into engagements as if our members laborious zeal in his duty had been a regular abdication of his trust." He, Snowball, possessed the patronage of the county, and he had Mitchell's opposition as a canvass against him, as it prevented the county receiving any favors from the Government. Well, these arts succeeded and in 1878 Mitchell was defeated, and Snowball became our member. Though for five years he distributed the patronage of the MacKenzie Government, though he was the regular candidate of the party, yet when the telegrams flashed the news that the Government were defeated, he had the ineffable meanness, to go back on the Grits and call himself an "Independent." He has now followed Hutchisons example and this winter deserted Ottawa to attend to his own private business. The henchmen whom he employ say he is powerless! that he can accomplish nothing!! Compare him with his predecessor and the great mistake the people made in 1878 is at once apparent. But in 1883 the electors will again as in 1872 relegate the deserter to his proper obscurity, and call upon their old true and trusted friend Peter Mitchell to represent them again.

SUBLIME CHEEK.

We understand Mr. Snowball has been complaining that Sir Leonard Tilley in the supplementary estimates has made no provision for the Escomine breakwater, but w'll Mr. Snowball pray tell us, how was the Government to know that any such grant was needed in Escomine? The wants of the counties are only known to the Government through the representatives of the counties. But when Sir Leonard brought down his estimates, there was no one in the Commons to ask that Northumberland be granted her rights, for our unfaithful and disloyal member Snowball, was then in England bartering about his deals!

THE "NEWS" PLATFORM.

Like the dew on the mountain,
Like the foam on the river,
Like the bubble on the fountain;
Thou art gone and forever.

For a week past—fortnight past—the crooked, unstable, watery St. John News, has been publishing in great awkward, small pica type the "Platform of the Opposition." On Wednesday it was there, brazen looking as a psalm written across the forehead of a horse thief. Wednesday night the vote was taken, and Thursday morning the "wriggling" News came out without its usual "platform." The thing disappeared suddenly at it came, vanishing like the unstable fog on a bright July morning.

MARTIN J. GRIFFIN, ESQ.

We congratulate Martin J. Griffin, Esq., on his accession to the Editorship-in-Chief of the Toronto Mail. Mr. Griffin was for many years Editor of the Halifax Herald but thence received a situation in the office of the Minister of Justice. This position was too narrow for a man of Mr. Griffin's mind, so he returned to his first love, the press, becoming attached to the Mail's staff. He now takes charge, and is well fitted to take charge, of the leading paper in Canada.

LITERA SCRIPTA MANET.

In a Fredericton despatch in another column today will be found the contents of a letter written by P. G. Ryan, touching the alleged offered Councillorship, and read by Hon. Robert Young before the Legislative Council. The contempt which so many people must feel for Mr. Ryan forbids us to use any harsh words now that he is convicted out of his own mouth, but he will pardon us we know, and he ought to thank us too, for advising him in the future to rise above the mean and unmanly practice of telling lies; and to assure him that in the end the truth is always best, and that few men have ever earned position or good name in this world, or everlasting happiness in the next by telling falsehoods.

The Telegraph describes Mr. Blair as "a mere infant in legislation." It is only scant justice to Mr. Blair to say in reply that the infant is at least a precocious one.

Two important Sirdars, bearing letters from Ayoub Khan to the Indian Government, have arrived at Candahar.

The Coercion bill, they say, is to be held rather in *terrore* over the peoples heads, than put in practice.

Three weeks more ought to close the provincial parliament.

DEATH OF HON. J. S. COVERT.

The whole Province has learnt with regret of the sudden death of Mr. J. S. Covert, M. P. for Sanbury County. Mr. Covert had been a member for Sanbury County for several years, at one time held a seat in the Government, then became leader of the Opposition, which position he maintained till 1879, and dies suddenly in the room of his hotel in his 53rd year, and only a few hours after he had made one of the ablest speeches of his life. It is seldom the truth "in the midst of life we are in death" has been brought more forcibly home than in the case of Mr. Covert, for ere the people had yet finished reading the words in the morning papers scarce cold from his lips, the news was told that he was dead.

In the presence of death political differences vanish and we speak of the man as he lived, and as we found him. John S. Covert had few enemies, but he had many friends. He was a "plain blunt man," possessed of a frank and generous heart, and could not condescend to play the hypocrite, to say one thing when he meant another. In politics he was unfortunate, but that was rather due to circumstances, to fate if you will, than to a lack of qualification, in himself. His whole life in politics and out of politics was a struggle, for which his gatherings were little, and though often wanting the very necessities of life, and though exposed during such trying times to the temptations to which politicians are exposed, we have never heard of honorable minded John Covert taking a bribe. He once said to the writer, "I can understand a man selling his vote if he have an empty stomach," and if John S. Coverts record has ever shown ought that would be a tarnish on an honorable career, it is because that straitened circumstances made it necessary.

In debate Mr. Covert was a man of few words and has told the writer he "never took much stock in those who could talk all day about a broom stick," but what he said was to the point, had a bluff frankness and sincerity about it, that those who did not agree with the politician, could not help admiring the man. If he discovered short-comings in an opponent, he denounced them with all the candor of his nature, and then made an end of it, treating it rather as a matter which pained, than gratified, him to dwell upon.

Many a one in New Brunswick to day regrets that the veteran politician, and the frank and generous John S. Covert has passed away. He died they say of heart disease.

At a meeting of the Land League on Wednesday Dillon said county meetings had been definitely fixed for Sunday week, when twenty demonstrations will take place to show the strength of the League.

The London Morning Post will be shortly issued as a penny paper, and be the official organ of the Conservatives.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND RAILWAY.

There is a good deal of excitement over in Newfoundland about the railroad, and it is no wonder. On the one hand the people cannot be wondered at for being jubilant over the prospect of a railroad connecting their northern towns with St. John's, and on the other hand they cannot be blamed for moving with great caution in an enterprise of such moment. To our Island brethren, railroading is a novel, and a fascinating work. The people are apt to look at the bright side of its future, and to pay no heed to the dark side, to revel in anticipation of the advantages it will bring, but to make no count of the cost. Building the road, when the Government can afford to give a fair surplus is one thing, and a work for which the Island will have many bidders, but running the road after it is built, is quite another thing. For a railroad is not like a clock that when once built need but be wound and will run itself: there is a staff of men to be paid, and such a staff is a small army—from ballasters up to trackmasters, to station keepers, accountants and clerks, conductors, drivers, train hands and what nots?—then through the stormy Newfoundland winters, armies of men and snow ploughs; the fierce frost tilting up the road, and costing thousands to make it level in the spring; the wear and tear of rails, smashing of cars, the breaking up of engines (\$10,000 a break, and within a week this winter three were broken on the Intercolonial), the cost of fuel, insurance of buildings, supply of axles, wheels, rails, etc., etc.

If the Islander has only looked at the biting winter's morning, the storm howling outside, and he reading some railroad story beside a railroad stove, he ought to look at the dark side too.

Now we do not believe the proposed island railroad, built we say as proposed, will ever pay, or can even half pay. These are our reasons: The road will run through a district the soil or the forests of which will yield no freightworth taking into account. It will have to depend for its existence on the passenger travel between the northern towns and St. John's and some freight between these points. In spring and autumn the railway will do little business in the freight line, because so long as the bulk of Newfoundland people live down by the sea, and boats are in a great measure their highroads to the market, and it costs them little to carry their fish by them to market in the fall, or to go for their supplies in them in the spring, they will not take the trains in preference. Yes, the road will find a coast rivalry at least in spring, summer and autumn, which will make paying its way for the road a sheer impossibility. But if branch lines from the main road could be made to tap the fertile belt, which looks quite inconvenient however, the road then might pay. Still we would not oppose the road, because a railroad is at least a necessary luxury, and in this life those who have even such luxuries must expect to pay for them.

We publish all of Mr. D. McLellan's speech that has come to hand, and only regret the speech is not a longer one. It is just like Mr. McLellan, straightforward, manly, and full of common sense, and sound argument. We are pleased to note that Mr. McLellan administered a lash or two to the slippery little Mr. Ritchie.

KOUCHIBOUQUAC NEWS

A short time ago a Frenchman named Placid Votore, while chopping in the woods at the head of Kouchibouguac, came to a tree in which there was an old bear and her two cubs. He succeeded in dispatching them with an axe, and thus secured his game.

Mr. M. A. Jimmo had his house and all its contents burned there a short time ago. The fire broke out at 2 o'clock in the morning and no help being at hand, all hope of extinguishing the flames was abandoned.

—Mr. Leon Blanchet is building two lobster boats for Mr. Noble, for the coming summers operations. He has one all but completed.

—There is to be a millinery shop opened in the Butler building uptown, by two ladies named Maher, late of Halifax, in a few days.

Dog Ravages

The dogs have been at work in the New Jan settlement. Mr. John Varrier of that place, and two others lost this week twelve sheep. And still it is for killing harmless, mythical bears, that government will persist in granting bounties.

The time is drawing near when societies for prevention of cruelty to animals should include the unfortunate bear in their list of worthy objects. For years now the Government has been pursuing the bears of this country with a hate and a zealousness worthy of a better cause; while the dog which does all the mischief is pampered and petted by our firesides, follows ma-lady when she makes her calls, trots up into the very sanctuary—and kills the sheep set down to the unfortunate, maligned, and much exaggerated bear.

Far off Cows

The advance guard of the exodus hence for the past few years have returned, and inform a STAR reporter that when they went to the far off fields they were greatly disappointed. Scores of the young men they say who left here worked for months on half time, and are thankful to get employment at all.

Gypsum

We understand Mr. Geo. Watt will import from Entry Island the coming summer a large quantity of gypsum or "plaster" which he will sell to the farmers round about. Kings County farmers use gypsum with a good deal of success.

Mr. Chas. Cassidy of St. John, who runs a large ginger pop, lager beer etc. establishment here in summer, is at present in town. He intends making some slight improvements in his establishment before the summer's business commences.

Advertisements

Furs wanted. See Mr. Browns advertisement, Newcastle.

Mr. Phinney advertises his large stock of tinware, stoves, etc.

The Market report appears today corrected and revised.

TELEGRAPHIC.

MR. COVERT'S DEATH—THE

WORK OF THE SESSION—

MR. YOUNG DENIES RYANS

STATEMENT IN THE COUN-

CIL—MR. RYAN'S UNTRUTH-

FULNESS—&c., &c.

(Special to STAR.)

FREDERICTON, March 5.

The melancholy death of Mr. Covert is a great blow to the Opposition and whole House, when they look at the desk vacated so suddenly.

Now that we shall have no further Want of Confidence this year, it is expected the business will be put through in about two weeks more.

The Provincial Secretary gave notice this morning that he will move on Monday, changing the order of the day from half past 2 to 12 o'clock, which will expedite business.

The estimates were brought down this morning and will be considered on Monday afternoon.

The matter of promises of seats in the Legislative Council is no longer a question of voice between Mr. Ryan and the members of the Government, an unfortunate letter from Mr. Ryan having turned up at an opportune moment.

This morning in the Legislative Council Mr. Young denied that he ever approached Mr. Ryan or offered him a seat, and substantiated the denial made by the other members of the government by reading a letter from Mr. Ryan to a friend up North dated 19th Feb. '81, kindly placed at Mr. Youngs disposal. The following beautiful passage occurs. "The Government have not yet spoken to me on the subject except a slight intimation from two members of the Government, and somewhat of a slur from a third." This coming from Mr. Ryans pen several days after the date on which he says he was approached and offered the seat by Government leaves the question one of veracity between his spoken and written statement and exonerates the Government.

JOSEPH GILLIS BIGGAR.

In a former issue we gave short sketches of Charles S. Parnell, the leader of the Irish patriots, and we now append a short account of J. G. Biggar, the inventor of the obstructive policy, the teacher of Parnell in his early career in the House, and now his trusted lieutenant.

Biggar is now in his fifty-second year, though from his appearance you would judge him to be considerably younger. He received his education at Belfast Academy, and engaged in business as a provision merchant in that city. For many years previous to his entering Parliament he was well known in the local politics of Belfast as an advanced Radical and took part in municipal affairs, being elected a town councillor. He was a candidate for the representation of Londonderry in 1872, but was unsuccessful. Two years later, however, he stood for Caven County as the Home Rule candidate in the general election and was returned. On entering Parliament he soon began to force the attention of the House to the discussion of Irish questions, by obstructing the proceedings of Parliament. Until the recent nuzzling resolutions the rules of the House provided no means of shutting of discussion except the pressure of public opinion, which had always been found amply sufficient. But public opinion, or even the opinions of his own political friends, is a thing to which Biggar has proved himself supremely indifferent. Biggar's new policy gave rise to varied feelings of surprise, ridicule, amazement and indignation on the part of the English members, press and people, but all the denunciation and approbium lavished on "Joe Biggar" had no more effect on the cool, audacious innovator than "water on a duck's back," to use a homey expression. Biggar seemed rather to enjoy it, and he never failed to retaliate in his sharp, sarcastic fashion, which made members rather shy of attacking him. His knowledge of the rules and usages of parliament was of great advantage to him in his work of obstruction, and he soon found in Parnell an able seconder. As an instance of Biggars aggravating tactics we may cite the following incident that occurred in a debate on a question of privilege.

Biggar was complaining that Irish members did not get fair play at the hands of the press. The Speaker replied that an aggrieved member always had his recourse if he chose to see strangers in the galleries, when the members of the press would be forced to withdraw. This was what Biggar wanted. As it happened the Prince of Wales was in attendance that day in the Peers gallery, and Biggar looking up with a smile, remarked that he saw strangers present there now. There was no help for it, press, peers and prince had to be turned out. The papers were furious, and abused Biggar heartily next day, much to his gratification.

Biggar is a pronounced supporter of the land league, being in a line on that important movement with Parnell, Davitt and Dillon. At the last general election he was returned for Cavan County, Mr. Charles J. Fay, his colleague being the only other Home Ruler returned for an Ulster constituency. He was one of the Traversers in the recent State Trials.

In delivery he is rather hesitating but he has the facility of commanding attention by the substance of his speeches, as well as their point and aptitude. He is always ready to speak, and is so well versed on current topics that he can speak for

hours upon a subject without more reiteration than is necessary to drive home the points he desires to make. Born of an old Protestant family, he was for a time supposed to be a Free-thinker, but two years ago he joined the Roman Catholic Church.

Biggars personal appearance is as peculiar as his mental characteristics. He is little over five feet in height, hump backed and stout—with strongly marked and expressive features, betokening the audacity, energy, sarcasm and recklessness of the man. Despite his deformity he is remarkably strong and active, and given greatly to walking as an exercise. Like Parnell he is a total abstainer and resembles him also in avoiding the attractions of society and remaining in a state of single blessedness. He is remotely of Scotch origin, but in character and temperament is thoroughly Irish. He is one of the wealthiest men connected with the movement, and has not spared his means in promoting the cause. Ireland can not boast of any truer, abler, or more devoted sons than Joseph Gillis Biggar.

ABOUT EVICTIONS.

The era of eviction is about being ushered in in unhappy Ireland now. We glean the following from the New York Herald's correspondence, and the Herald has always told the least it could about the Irish sufferings and has never had more than the scantest pity for the Irish people:—

Signs of the coming battle in County Longford between Lord Anery and his tenants are already very numerous. His Lordship has instructed his agent to inform the tenants that he is prepared to evict those who cannot pay, and to take the over land into his own hands.

Numerous evictions, many of them of the most distressing character, are taking place all over Ireland. I have before me a list of details of many curious cases. I may allude briefly to the eviction of the Rev. Patrick Hurley, parish priest of Kilkoman, King's county, which has created no little consternation. The Rev. Father's predecessor took a house and farm of forty-two acres from a middleman landlord, and, retaining the house and garden, sublet the land to three tenants. The rent is £67 and the valuation £42. When the reverend gentleman was appointed to the parish he had to take up the land and work it at a loss. This was bad enough, but he had also to hold himself responsible for the rent of a sub-tenant who fell into arrears. The priest then handed the land over to an energetic young farmer of the neighborhood. The middleman landlord refused to recognize this tenant and took proceedings against Rev. Mr. Hurley and sub-tenants on the smaller portions of the farm. The County Chairman refused to grant the decree, but the case was taken to the Queen's Bench. The result was that on Tuesday morning last the parish priest was evicted and his furniture put into the street, and his sub-tenants were similarly treated.

If this takes place in the prosperous King's county, where the tenant offers rent above the valuation, what may we expect in the South and West? This eviction was effected without a single attempt at resistance, or so much as a demonstration of disapproval. Not so in the case of the recent evictions at Newton and Hamilton, County Armagh, on the property of Rev. Mr. Geogh, where the people assembled and some of the women stoned the bailiffs and invoked curses on the landlord while aged and sick people were being carried out and laid on the roadside.

Chatham Markets

CORRECTED AND REVISED FOR THE STAR.	
Flour, from \$6.00 to	\$6.50
Corn Meal, per bbl.....	3 75
Oat Meal (Canada).....	5 75
do. (home made).....	5 00
Beef, Mess, per bbl.....	14 00
Prime Mess, do.	12 00
Pork, Mess, do.	20 00
Prime Mess, do.	17 00
Pork Hams (covered) per lb.....	12
Home Made do.	12
Fresh Pork.....	11
Salt Pork, per lb.....	11
Salt Beef, do.	10
Butter (Irish), per lb.....	20
Butter (in roll), do.	22
Eggs, per doz.....	25
Salmon (in case).....	20
Lobster do.	14
Oysters do.	20
Oysters (Harrington's best) p. bbl	2 00
From other sources.....	1 00
Mackerel (fresh) none.	
Mackerel (salt).....	25
Codfish (dried), per lb.....	04
Potatoes, per bbl.....	1 00

Raw Furs!

Otter, Bear, Fox, Mink, Lynx, Martin, Fisher, Beaver, Muskrat.
Any person having any of the above skins should take them to Brown's Store, Newcastle, where they will get the highest price going in CASH for the same.

JAMES BROWN.

Newcastle, March 1881.

J H PHINNEY

DEALER IN

Cooking, Hall & Parlor Stoves

OF ALL KINDS.

Japanned, Wired and Stamped Goods and Granite Ironware. Also manufacturer of

TINWARE & STOVEPIPE.

Orders from the country promptly attended to and satisfaction guaranteed.

Newcastle, N. B., March 5th 1881.