

Bill, although in every respect it did not meet his views. Rather than have it lost he would support every section of it.

Mr. Montgomery made a few remarks in opposition to the measure, as he did not think that it would answer to pass a bill that would give power to transient persons, who had but little stake in the Country, who by their votes would swamp the Freeholders.

Mr. McPhelim said all the most important features that he had been contending for, as regards an Election law was in the bill now before the Committee. He was not one of those who thought that broad acres put brains in a man, or was the sole qualification necessary for a man to exercise his Franchise at elections, but was of opinion that the true principle was, that all British subjects of sane mind who paid their taxes ought to have a voice in electing those who made laws to govern them.

Col. Hayward was in favor of a registration of voters. Formerly he had been opposed to vote by ballot, but when he saw last winter how well it worked in the election of Mayor for Fredericton, his mind became somewhat changed on the subject. However, he cared but little whether that part of the bill passed or not. He did not approve of the extension of the Franchise as contemplated.

Mr. Gilmour in an able speech supported the Bill. He approved of the ballot, but did not think so highly of it as some Hon. Members. He considered that all who paid taxes should be allowed to vote, who were British subjects; and the time was not far distant when such would be the case. The bill was not as perfect as he desired, but still he would support it.

Mr. McNaughton highly approved of the ballot, but would be sorry to see universal suffrage introduced in this country. Although he would rather have the Franchise remain as it now stood, he would forego his wishes in this respect and support the bill.

Hon. Mr. Smith in a long and able speech defended the course the Government had pursued, and justified the appointments that they had made. Although the bill did not in every respect meet his views, but he considered that it was such as the country required at the present time; he therefore hoped that it would pass.

House adjourned.

The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1855.

THE ELECTION BILL.

We have the gratification of announcing to our readers that the Election Bill has passed. We say passed, as it has had its second reading without any of its Sections being disturbed. The necessity for a change, and the principles of the Bill—providing a remedy—have been acknowledged by a large majority; and although Mr. Street has given notice that he will "divide the House on the third reading of the Bill," we do not anticipate he will affect any material alteration in its details. The intelligence cannot fail to be pleasing to every well wisher of his country.—The rotten and corrupt system of exercising the franchise of the country has been cast to the winds; and we offer our most hearty congratulations to the Government of the day for the courage—the moral courage—they have displayed, and the marked success that has crowned their efforts in the introduction of a measure that, we are confident, will be gratefully acknowledged from one extreme of the Province to the other.

We do not as, perhaps, some others do, view the provisions of the Bill as a perfect system, and as one that will prove an "antidote to the corruptions that so generally prevail at the election of our Representatives. We do not believe that the Ballot will operate so effectually as to remove all the evils attending the improper use of the right of franchise. Far from it. Until men can truly appreciate their right to a voice in the representation of their country; until they have learned to exercise that right honorably, and with a due regard to the interests of the community at large, apart from all sordid and selfish considerations; and until they have learned to despise and to shun the mean truckling character, that would barter his birth-right for any pecuniary consideration—however great—we do not look for—we do not expect that any law—that any system can entirely eradicate those evils that have been so strikingly prominent at our various elections.

The Ballot, we have no doubt, will remove many of those evils. Difficulties of various kinds have occurred to prevent voters from acting inde-

pendently. They are frequently surrounded by embarrassments of a peculiar character. They may have been induced by personal influence—by ties of party; or by pecuniary obligations, to pursue a course directly opposed to the dictates of their own judgment. Many have told us that their peculiar circumstances compelled them to vote for candidates that they did not approve; that they did not wish to make enemies of persons who had the power to injure them; and that their only alternative was to consult their own personal interest, without regard to the general voice of the country. The Bill contemplates the removal of such obstacles—when men can freely deposit their votes without the fear of ulterior consequences; and the man who expects to buy his seat, will hesitate before he pays a sum of money for what he has no guarantee he will receive a satisfactory equivalent. Another result of the introduction of the Ballot will be an avoidance of tedious and expensive scrutinies, that engross much of the time of the House that might, to say the least of it, be more profitably employed.

The leading provisions of the Bill, viz:—Vote by Ballot, Registration of Voters, and extension of Franchise, have our most hearty concurrence. We have several objections however; but as they refer to what may be strictly termed the minor details, we deemed it advisable to offer no opposition,—entertaining the hope that with the acknowledgment of the more prominent features, the objectionable parts of the measure may, at no very distant day, be so modified and so simplified as to divest it of so much cumbrous machinery.

We cannot see the justice of non-residents having the privilege of voting in another County distinct from their own residence. We are aware that a Member of the Legislature is not elected merely to represent his own County, but to legislate for the whole Province. It is well known, however, that wealth gives influence; and any man of means desirous of exercising that influence may secure property in every County, and thus may materially affect the result of every election in the Province. This might be obviated by causing all general Elections to be held simultaneously throughout the Province on the same day. Such a course would not only, to some extent at least, remove this difficulty, but would prevent any person, having forfeited the confidence of his constituents, from offering and securing his return for another County, by means neither creditable to himself nor the people by whom he might thus be elected.

The difference in qualification between a voter holding real estate, and one possessing personal property is certainly too great. We cannot see the necessity for such a distinction. The amount of purchase has been paid in both cases; and why the one who has only personal property is obliged to accumulate £100 out of his hard earnings, before he can be placed on an equal footing with the man who has invested merely £35 in real estate is what we cannot conceive. Again, the scale of Annual Incomes we conceive to be out of proportion. Three-fourths of a large and intelligent class will derive no benefit from the new Law in this respect,—we mean Parish School Teachers, very few of whom have salaries ranking so high as £100. Had the qualification been put at £50 for personal property, and the same for Annual income, there would have been a nearer approach to justice; and even then, the difference would, in our opinion, have been too great particularly in relation to property. Had our present Government consulted the wishes of the people on the subject, we are satisfied that they would have found a large majority in favour of giving the right to vote to every rate payer on property.

A better system of Registration is that contained in the Municipal Act. It requires in some respects to be made more stringent, particularly in reference to Collectors making out return lists.—The system provided for in the new Bill may perhaps infuse a greater vigilance in preparing lists, but it is a cumbrous piece of machinery at best.—Any one who gives the Communication of our able Correspondent "Causidicus," in to-day's impression, a careful perusal, will be convinced of this fact, and that it will be attended with a great deal of expense. A more simple method than the following, cannot in our opinion, be devised. Let the Assessors for the different Parishes, when they post up notices, requiring persons to furnish statements of their properties &c., be authorized to state that up to a certain date, parties furnishing attested statements of their property may have their names enrolled on the lists; that such lists will be Registers for any elections that may take place during the succeeding year; and that any names not found thereon will be disqualified from

voting at any election that may take place for Representatives during the said year. The method is simple and is attended with no unnecessary expense. There would no doubt be some inconvenience experienced at the first election by parties who, from carelessness, did not enrol their names. It would be their own fault however; and would not readily occur again. The same difficulty will occur in the case of Revisors, as they cannot amend the lists, more than Assessors, if the parties interested do not care about their own interests.

It will be seen from the provisions of the Bill that it cannot come into effect until 1857, unless a section be added to meet the difficulty which will doubtless be done. We have several other objections, but our limits will not permit our dwelling upon them.

Rumour states that it is doubtful whether the Bill, in its present shape, will be passed by the Legislative Council. We can scarcely credit this, as we can hardly conceive it possible that an intelligent body of men would have the least desire to throw obstructions in the way of a measure so loudly called for by the People at large. We have no doubt that the Government will guard against the occurrence of such a contingency.—The matter is of great importance, and constitutional means will be adopted to secure its passing into a Law. There are some three or four vacancies, we understand, in the Council which in cases of emergency will be filled, and we earnestly urge upon the Government to see that every County is represented, as far as practicable, by men of liberal principles.

Should the Council deem it advisable to thwart the efforts of the Government when endeavouring to advance the interests of the country, the people will see the necessity of a re-construction of that body, and it is highly probable that Public opinion will be strongly in favour of making it elective.

☞ Mrs Segee requests us to say that she will be in Woodstock to day, where she will remain for a short time; and that she hopes all persons owing her will call and settle, as she wishes to leave the Province as soon as she can conveniently.

☞ Collectors of Rates for the several Parishes in this County, are reminded that they are required to give Bonds to the Municipality, for the due and faithful discharge of their duty.

☞ The goods and chattels of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa, Canada, have been seized under an execution for a small debt.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

FREDERICTON, March 2nd, '55.

Debate on the Election Bill resumed at 11 o'clock. His Honor the Speaker was in favour of vote by Ballot and registration of voters, but did not think that the Country required the extension of the franchise. Mr. Harding would support every principle in the Bill, and thought the country was prepared even for universal suffrage.—Mr. Steadman advocated the same views as that of Mr. Harding.—Mr. Gilbert supported vote by ballot and registration, and would extend the franchise to lease-holders.—Mr. Stevens supported similar views as those of Mr. Gilbert, but rather than lose the Bill would vote for it.—Mr. Street moved an amendment to the first Section, to continue the franchise as under the existing law, and made a long speech.—The Honble Solicitor General followed in opposition to the amendment, and strongly in favor of the present Bill. He said that if the amendment was carried, it would have the effect of destroying the Bill, and then there would be but one of the two courses for the Government to adopt, either to resign or appeal to the people. Mr. Gray supported the amendment—opposed by the Honorable Provincial Secretary, Mr. Tibbits, and Mr. Partelow.—Bill sustained,—yeas 28,—nays 10. House adjourned at 7 o'clock. R

March 3d.

Arestook Boom Company Bill passed.—Mr. Boyd moved his Resolution relating to Denominational Schools, which was again postponed.—Election Bill recommitted. All the Sections passed without any amendment, several attempts to do so but failed.—Mr. Gray moved for an increase of Representation for St. John, Kings, Queens, Sunbury, Carleton, Victoria, Albert Kent, Gloucester, and Resrigouche,—lost.—Bill passed except inserting the different polling places—to be

done on Monday morning.

House adjourned at 5 o'clock. R

March 5th.

Progress made in the Nashwalk Boom Company Bill.—Election Bill having been recommitted to insert the different Polling places, when the Chairman reported—the Bill agreed to.—Mr. Street gave notice that he would divide the House on it, at its third reading.—Mr. Boyd's Resolution and Mr. Connell's amendment relating to Denominational Schools, discussed and lost. For the amendment, yeas 5,—nays 21. For the Resolution, yeas 11,—nays 17.—House adjourned. R

March 6th.

Mr. Connell introduced a Bill to incorporate the New Brunswick Mining Company.—Several local Bills passed with but little discussion.—Progress made in a Bill for the purpose of settling disputed boundaries of wilderness and partly cultivated lands.—Honorable Provincial Secretary brought in a Bill to prevent the sale and manufacture and traffic, in all intoxicating liquors.—Messrs. Street and Montgomery thought that such Bill ought to have been brought in before the Revenue Bill passed.—100 copies ordered to be printed.—St. John Protestant Orphan Asylum Bill discussed, and passed without any amendment.—St. Stephen's Church, of St. Stephen's, Incorporation Bill passed.—House adjourned at quarter past 4. R

March 7th.

Honble Mr. Johnson divided the House on the Bill to incorporate the St. Stephen's Church, in St. Stephens.—Bill, lost,—yeas 10,—nays 9.—Mr. Harding said that the statements in the New Brunswick of the 6th instant, in reference to the Albert Scrutiny were false.—A Bill passed relating to making a tender into Court. Also a Bill to authorise the Dorchester Manufacturing Company of New York, to hold property in this Province. House in Committee of supply from half-past 12 o'clock. R

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 27.—The steam towboat Thomas McDaniel exploded her boilers below this city yesterday, killing seven persons and wounding several others. The towboat is a complete wreck.—Two ships which she was towing were somewhat damaged.

A large fire occurred at Vicksburg last night. Loss \$30,000.

St. Louis, February 26.—Navigation to Kansas, is closed. Weather colder than ever.

HIGH LIVING.—In San Francisco, geese are only \$10 per pair; turkeys \$1 per pound; butter, 75 cents to \$1 per pound; eggs, \$1 per dozen; apples, 10 cents a piece. They live high in the land of gold!

HUSBANDS AND WIVES.—According to the English census, husbands live longer than wives.—The average age of the wife forty and a half years the husband forty-three years—the latter of course living two years and a half longer.\* The reason of this is obvious enough, when we consider the brutal treatment which women often receive from their husbands, especially among the lower class of English. Woman it is said have more fortitude than man, and she certainly needs it for she has much to endure.

☞ A bashful printer refused a situation in a printing-office where females were employed, saying that he never "set up" with girls in his life.

☞ Which is the oldest tree?—The elder tree.

☞ "Come out here, and I'll lick the whole of you," as the boy said when he saw a jar full of sugar-sticks in the shop window.

☞ "The Mormon" is the title of a newspaper published in New York that goes in for polygamy "the worst kind."

☞ There is a report that the top of Mount Blanc has fallen off. The fall made a great noise and frightened the villagers.

SWEETENING.—In 1854 the Yankees consumed 54,491,010 gallons of molasses.

☞ It is estimated that there are 15,000 Christian Jews in the world.

☞ The British have captured no less than 92 Russian prize vessels.

CHEAP!—A piece of land was recently sold in London at the rate of two millions of dollars an acre.

☞ The oldest preacher in the world is Rev. George Fletcher of London who is 107 years of age the present month.