

THE CARLETON SENTINEL

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

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"Our Queen and Constitution."

[A. C. & J. A. McLAUCHLAN, PUBLISHERS.]

VOL. IX.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1857.

NO. 36.

Provincial Politics.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. TILLEY'S SPEECH, AT A MEETING IN ST. JOHN.

Now he stood before them on the present occasion in a better position than their friend, for Mr. Harding was one of that "factions opposition" they had recently heard so much about. If he had been in the House it was most likely he would have been one of that unfortunate body, but he was not there. But he stood not only in a more favorable position than Mr. Harding, but also than any of the gentlemen who were on that platform the other night for Mr. Speaker Simonds had told them that he had listened to speeches in the House for several days and had not heard one word of patriotism from any of their lips (cheers and laughter.) If that be true where were the men who stood beside him on the platform, they who showed no spark of patriotism? He (Mr. Tilley) was an outsider and therefore had the advantage of being able to examine the state of affairs more intelligently and impartially. Now he was told that the Opposition were factious in moving a want of Confidence and Mr. Gray, who had been accused of doing something on a previous occasion, had said the circumstances were entirely different. He had said that during the Session of 1855 the Opposition had not voted a Want of Confidence. He had said that they had done so. Simply because a motion would be useless, for the Opposition then only counted twelve men in the House (laughter.) It was therefore true that they did not oppose measures much, and certainly they never amended any brought forward by the Government. On his (Mr. Tilley's) first introduction to the Legislature six men were elected for the City and County of St. John to oppose the Government.

What did they do? The first thing they did was to meet in solemn deliberation, and determined to hurl the Government of that day from power. Mr. Gray and Mr. Wilnot supported that vote, and then they did not think it factious. In 1856 they brought forth a vote of Want of Confidence three times. If Mr. Gray had been correctly reported the other night, he had omitted to state one important fact in relation to his conduct in opposition. He had omitted to state that he had supported a vote of Want of Confidence in the late Government before it had been in existence two hours, and before he (Mr. Tilley) and some of his colleagues had been re-elected, and consequently before they could either speak or vote on behalf of the Government (cheers.) He would now endeavor to meet the charge brought against the Opposition as factious. He must investigate the arguments made use of to sustain the charge. What were the arguments made use of? It had been alleged that the Government had too much influence in the House, and all sort of proposals had been made to reduce that influence, but he believed it was necessary to guard not only against that influence, but also against undue influence on the constituencies. The power of constructing railways placed great influence in the hands of the executive, an influence which ought not to be in the hands of any government. In order to avoid this, and to take the best possible course experience could suggest, the late government, before they framed their railway measures, had consulted the Commissioners of Railroads in Nova Scotia, and with the assistance of their advice, and with the light of their practical experience, they had formed the present Law. Thus guided they had determined to put all the power into the hands of non-political commissioners, and though another place might have tended to keep them in office, they had preferred to seek independently the public good (cheers.) [Mr. Tilley here read sections of the Railway Acts.] These things (he continued) took the management and patronage entirely out of the hands of the government, and out of the hands of all political parties. The present Government had not appointed the Commissioners on the ground of economy, but the real difficulty was, at that time, they could not get such men to fill the office as would strengthen them. He would like to have the advertisements for tenders for the thousands of sleepers that had been purchased pointed out to him, for he had not yet seen them, nor had he seen notices for tenders for the construction of the piece of road out here on the Marsh. It was said that it was constructed by private contract, but, if this were true, it was directly contrary to law. A good deal had been said about constructing this railway in winter, but admitting that it could be constructed as cheaply in winter

as in summer, what was gained by it? The station was not located, and if it had to be moved the money was thrown away. The road as it stood was far from being even graded. In some parts it was too high, in other places too low. In some places it would have to be raised, in others lowered. It had been alleged that it was made in the winter to convey men and materials to the rock cutting, when he would ask were they going to begin this? Had there been no disruption of the Government last year the line from Moncton to Shediac would have been finished, and they would have been prepared to have completed the rock cutting during the winter. Mr. Harding had referred to the tenders for the completion of the Moncton and Shediac line; he would read Mr. Otis Small's tender. Now the charge against the Government was that they had advertised for tenders for portions of the road, and they had refused to accept Mr. Small's tender for the construction of the whole road, merely because it was informal, as he ought to have tendered in portions in compliance with the terms of the advertisement. Yet, Mr. Small's tender was lower by over five thousand pounds than the aggregate of the lowest tenders. That was the charge against the Government and their answer. Now, had commissioners been appointed it would have been their business to have called for tenders for the whole as well as parts, and the country would have been saved the expense of the present contractors had they named, whereas the present contractors had left it in such a state that he was advised by competent authority it would take £5000 more to finish the line. Here was a direct loss of four thousand pounds, at least entirely through the want of business men to superintend the work. Mr. Small was a responsible man, and he would have found responsible sureties. Commissioners would have given him the contract, had they been appointed, & for this loss through the non-appointment of commissioners, he, as an elector, held the Government responsible (cheers.) He did not blame Mr. Light. Mr. Light was no doubt, a respectable man, and a competent engineer; the late government had sent for him from Canada, and would have employed him. But it was no part of an engineer's duty to make contract, that was the part of men of business, and it must interfere with Mr. Light's professional duties to thrust such a burthen on him. Mr. Tilley then referred to the Emigration scheme, reciting some of its provisions, and declared that if an emigrant did not fulfill all the conditions he would lose time, money, labor, land and everything, and this was the late Government's mighty scheme to encourage Emigration and Colonization! (laughter.) But the late Government also had a scheme for the settlement of Crown Lands, and under it a man could apply for a lot of land and take five years to pay for it, and how was he to pay for it? why he could have worked on the railway or as an agricultural laborer, he could have made the road up to his own property while he was at leisure from his necessary farming pursuit. Well, the new scheme was to be carried out by Mr. Perley, and that gentleman had published the great scheme in England with the obnoxious clauses left out. There (holding up the Emigration Record) was the London publication in which it appeared without those clauses. (Now, Mr. Perley was to get £200 for expenses, yet there were gentlemen then present who heard Mr. Perley in that very hall say he was going to England on a mission entirely independent of this government, and at the expense of the Home Government (cries of "He did!") All these things considered then, all these acts committed before the Legislature opened, he thought the opposition had full ground for opposing the Government at the opening of the Session (cheers.)

Now with reference to the Election Law. Was there a man present who had not heard that law condemned in unmeasured terms at the last election? Was not every body told that the Act could never be carried out and that it was a most outrageous Act and that it must be amended immediately?

It had been asserted that the Government had not since been defeated and yet the cry was still heard that owing to the factious Opposition the Government could not bring in their measures. But this was mere subterfuge; the government were well known to be unable to agree. There was the Board of Works for giving the franchise to every one who could bite the name out of a baker's loaf, which some one said would be a great injustice to old men with no teeth (a laugh.) The Attorney General was for enfranchising "intelli-

gence and industry" though how he defined those elastic terms he did not say. They were told Government Bills had been prepared and printed here long ago; he would congratulate the City on its new position, things were tending downwards. If they had the Queen's printer here they would soon have the seat of Government. But as to these Bills, the Government child was still born (laughter) it never saw the light of day, and whoever the midwife was, that excellent person's duty had not been properly performed, (loud laughter.)

Now, when the Government introduced their Election Bill this winter, Mr. Johnson moved an amendment, and this had been rejected, but two of the Government supporters declared they could not vote for the Bill unless it were amended. And what was the nature of the amendment the Government had submitted to? they proposed to have two election laws, one for one part of the country, and another for the rest! Even the Speaker declared that the Attorney General would not know his own child! This was a virtual defeat of the Government, and at that time the Government ought to have resigned. But they sustained a clear and palpable defeat on Mr. Perley's motion for the production of certain papers, to which the Government refused assent. The House divided against them, and they were obliged to give the information they refused. It was true they gave very lame and evasive information. Time would show whether the supposition that a Member of the Legislature had been elevated to the Council was correct. At all events he was not now a candidate for the County he had lately represented. It had been asserted that the late Government had not been sustained by the confidence of the Legislature, and yet they had been able to pass all their measures. Their Railway Bills had been opposed in every stage, so many caucuses were held, so many local interests were brought to bear against individual members, that they experienced great difficulty in passing them, but they had passed them in spite of every effort to thwart and oppose them. At the late election this opposition was not discontinued; all sorts of stories were put about. So disastrous were the effects which the Government anticipated from their predecessor's Railway measures, that one of them said he could not sleep at night for thinking of them (laughter.) Yet what remedy had these men proposed, now they were in office? If the Bills were good now they were good in '56, and they ought to have supported instead of endeavoring to thwart them (cheers.) The Government took great praise to themselves because our Debentures were at a premium, but the value of these debentures, and all the existing works were owing to the late Government. When he saw the iron horse snorting down the valley, and heard the cheers, his blood boiled to think that the men then riding along the line would not have given the country an inch of railway if they had had their way (cheers.) Yet the Government of which he was a member and the present Opposition were charged with obstructing public works! But it was not because they had been opposed that the Government dissolved. He would tell them when the ministry thought of a dissolution. It was when they attempted to introduce the old Education Bill for another year, and when Mr. McMonagle (loud cheers) determined to oppose them. Then it was that being in an absolute minority, they found they could go no farther. Now they were beginning to make a great outcry because this bill had not been passed, about the "poor schoolmaster." This reminded him of the same cry last year, and of the empty treasury out of which the "poor schoolmaster" could not be paid.

This was a very good cry if they could delude the schoolmaster with it, for they were a class having much influence, and deservedly so. But he would venture to say that the warrants for their grants would be ready and paid by the first of May, and that the schoolmasters would suffer no inconvenience whatever, (cheers.) But about this "factions Opposition" again, it was perfectly absurd to say they prevented the introduction of measures. Suppose there were fourteen hundred persons here prepared to vote, seven hundred on one side, and six hundred and ninety nine on the other. Suppose the question were put, and carried by the seven hundred, would not that be large enough? (cheers.) He would like to see the factious opposition that would oppose good measures. If the truth were told, the Government's own supporters would not support their Bills, or they might have carried all their measures with twenty one votes to twenty. How much more statesmanlike, how much more dignified it would have been to have

brought down a measure, and if defeated on it to have then come on that measure before the country instead of with nothing but a cry of "factions opposition," and the power of the Government in their hands, power taken away from men who gave up their seats for the assertion of a principle. (cheers.) He would not assail the characters of individuals not present, as had been done on that platform the other night, but he might take the liberty of saying a word in defence of those assailed. Mr. Lawrence, if he was correctly reported, had assailed Mr. McAdam, and declared he never wanted to meet him again. Perhaps Mr. Lawrence did not wish to go back to the House again, for as sure as a House met, Mr. McAdam would be returned. Why, he was a man of men, he was known in his own neighborhood as "honest John," and there was not a more respectable man in the county. In St. Stephen, the parish in which Mr. McAdam lives, he took 442 votes, at the last election, out of 530, and yet this was the man Mr. Lawrence did not want to meet again! Then, again, Mr. Lawrence had assailed Mr. Ferris, a man deservedly esteemed in his own neighborhood, where a man's faults were soon found out, if he had any. The late member for the city had compared this gentleman to Balaam's ass, but the comparison was very inaccurate. He was not aware that there were any ladies in the house, and yet if he read his book aright, Balaam's ass was a she ass. (laughter.)

As he had referred to the Prohibitory Law, he would also distinctly give his own opinion of the present condition of that question. He would go for no Prohibitory Law that was not approved of by a majority of the people through the ballot box. (Loud Cheers.) He could not canvass them telling one story here and another there, suiting his views to every shade of individual opinion; all he could do was to meet them face to face to explain his views, and let each man vote as he thought proper. (Loud Cheers.)

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of Correspondents, unless editorially endorsed.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel:

Sir,—I again address you a few lines, thankful for the insertion of my former letter, and regretting, (if you regret it,) that it should have caused so strong a feeling, as I understand it did, among the tape and thread gentry of Woodstock.

One of the gents alluded to in my last as not possessing a superfluity of beard, the other day seeing a very respectable farmer from Jacksontown—a man advanced in years—going down the hill, accosted him, and in a very patronizing and familiar manner poured into his ear, sundry and weighty reasons why he should vote for the "Independents" Candidate. When he had got thro', says the Jacksontown friend, "I'm an old man, and I'll give you a little advice: Just mind your own business, for your canvassing will do the Major more harm than good."

Another acquaintance of mine, having been some time harangued by one of the Independents, asked, "Are you done?" Yes. "Well, now just want to ask you one question before I tell you who I shall vote for; and I want a straight-forward unequivocal answer: Does your mother know you're out?" Phancy his phelings!

Two or three Independents, talking ever their prospects in Jacksontown, one of them said— "There's old Deacon —," (naming a respected and worthy deacon of the Baptist Church.) "We can't buy him for two dollars now as we before at last election! but there's big mutton-head, we can do what we please with him!"

To another, some of the Independents, second class in by appt. RT HAY, him on their side, said—"We are deterred by carry our point. The Electors can be bought what John Allen said of York is true; going to buy. Our man must go!"

HARDSCI

April 16th, 1857.