

THE CARLETON SENTINEL



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"Our Queen and Constitution."

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[From our Extra of Saturday last.]

We publish to-day an Extra, in order to lay before the country an account of the extraordinary proceedings which marked the close of the last Session of the Provincial Legislature, and which occurred too late for our regular issue.

The history of our country presents no parallel to the events of THURSDAY last; and when our fellow-countrymen are made aware of the circumstances, we believe they will unite with us in feelings of the most profound indignation; and will resolve, in the name, and for the sake of all they hold dear, as associated with New Brunswick, to make a strong, determined, united effort to raise the country from its present abject position; to stay its rapid descent to threatened destruction; to stamp with eternal shame the present Government; to hurl them from their offices, in which they would fatten upon the public interest,—and tell them, in thunder tones, that in the hearts of the freemen of New Brunswick there still exists a love for home! for liberty! for constitutional rights!—and that they will no longer remain Tory Bondsmen!

The speech of Mr. McMonagle will be found an interesting feature in this sheet. This gentleman is a Member for King's County. He is a farmer—of very considerable influence, and of superior intelligence; extensively known, and wherever known regarded as an honest man. He came to the Assembly last Summer pledged to support the Prerogative, and the repeal of the Prohibitory Law.—Since that time he has, believing in the competency and political honesty of the present Government, given them his support, until convinced by their failure to bring in any measures of importance—confining themselves simply to attempted re-enactments of old and obsolete laws; by the ridiculous displays made by individual members of the Government; their utter disregard for the interests of the country in their leech-like adherence to office in the face of a strong, popular, united Opposition, and finally, their puerile attempt to impose upon the country the old School Bill,—all combined to force him to change his opinion, and to condemn them in the speech which we quote below;—a speech which shows the *Man*—open, bold, energetic. It will be read throughout the Province, falling, with unmistakable effect, as the death-knell of the Government.

THURSDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

After the Attorney General had stated that, in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Executive, who assumed the whole responsibility, His Excellency had determined to prorogue the House, in view of an immediate dissolution, Mr. Smith rose and said that, for himself and his associates, who had been styled "the Opposition," he disclaimed and repudiated any odium which might attach to the act of prorogation and the consequent delay of the public business. The Opposition had not, he declared, offered a factious opposition, but had been and were prepared to assist in carrying out any good measure which the Government should bring down; but no such measure came before the House. The weakness and incapability of the Government was becoming every day more and more evident. Some of their own supporters were convinced of this, and had expressed it. And finally, as a last and most extraordinary effort to cling to office, they had determined to prorogue and dissolve, instead of resigning, and giving His Excellency an opportunity of endeavoring to form a working Government, which would have been the constitutional step; and to test whether this latter was the

opinion entertained by a majority of the members of the House, he would move the following resolution:

Whereas the present Executive Council have declared their inability to carry on the business of the country: therefore *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this House that they should immediately resign.

Mr. Street rose and spoke for an hour in opposition to the resolution, when Messrs. Lawrence and McMonagle both rose together. The Speaker having decided that Mr. Lawrence had the floor, that gentleman, being provided with copious notes and a large number of authorities, then proceeded to make a set speech.

By this time it was about 11½ o'clock, and the understanding was that the House was to be prorogued at 2. Mr. Lawrence had spoken for an hour, and then had not fairly got into his subject, and was speaking very wide of the resolution, when the Opposition, seeing that the object was for Mr. L. to keep the floor until it was too late to take the question upon the resolution, determined to insist upon the question, and loud cries of "Question!" and "Order!" ensued.

Some hon. member got up to speak to question of order, declaring that Mr. L. was not speaking to the question. Speaker stated that Mr. L. was in order. An appeal from the Speaker's decision was made, but he refused to put it to the House—thus departing from all Parliamentary rule. Immense confusion followed, in the midst of which some one in the gallery called, "Put Smith out." Mr. Smith, with very excusable warmth and indignation, declared that if the members of that House were to be subjected to such insults from a Frederickton mob, it was time the Seat of Government was removed.

After some trouble the Standing Order was enforced, and the galleries and lobbies cleared. Mr. Lawrence remained on his feet, endeavouring to make himself heard.

The Government—finding that the Opposition were determined upon having the question on the Resolution taken—sent an express messenger for the Troops and His Excellency; hoping, by the clash of arms, the strains of the military music, and the bellowing of the cannon,—to gag the people's Representatives, and hush the storm of popular indignation, which they, the Government, had so wantonly provoked. But they failed!

Unintimidated by threats, and by clamour, the twenty-one stood firm; and when His Excellency commanded the attendance of the House in the Council Chamber, did not obey the summons—only nineteen, including the Speaker, going up. The twenty-one, and Mr. Godard, of St. John, remained; and Mr. Gillmor being moved to the Chair, Mr. McMonagle was called upon for a speech, when he rose and addressed the Chair.

MR. McMONAGLE'S SPEECH.

Mr. Chairman,—I came to this House last Summer—a Representative of one of the finest and most independent constituencies in the Province—pledged, voluntarily, to vote for the repeal of the Prohibitory Law, and to sustain the Governor in the exercise of what I considered his constitutional prerogative. Having done that, sir, I fulfilled all my pledges, and felt free to form an unbiased opinion respecting the Government, and those measures which might be brought before the House,—studying ever to advance the interests of the Province of New Brunswick, and particularly that portion of it which I have the honour to represent.

I am free to confess, sir, that I did place very great confidence in the present Government; believing them possessed of the necessary ability and energy to carry on the business of the country; that they were individually influenced by a sincere desire to promote the prosperity of the Province; and that the principles of Responsible Government—principles which I, sir, have long and warmly cherished—were as safe in their keeping as they would be in any other body of men.

But I have discovered my mistake. I have been

deceived in them and by them. They have falsified their promises; belied their professions and principles. Wherein they have promised to bring in measures of a broad and liberal policy, they have substituted obsolete, patched-up, illiberal measures; adopted the acts of the late Government, which they have formerly so bitterly condemned—and, first having maligned, and misrepresented, and injured as far as possible, those men, have now endeavoured to make use of their intelligence and wisdom and industry, and take the credit to themselves.

Sir, I am fully convinced of the impotency and weakness of the Government. Their vacillating policy has disgusted me; the scales have fallen from my eyes, and I see them in their true light—mere office-seekers, mere helpless parasites upon the goodly tree of our glorious Constitution.

And, Mr. Chairman, I cannot allow this occasion to pass, and the House to separate, without expressing this change in my opinions,—without letting my voice be heard throughout the country in condemnation of those by whom my country and myself have been deceived.

I regret, sir, that I have not been able to obtain a hearing in a full House. Since the day when the Government introduced, and summarily withdrew, the old School Bill, with which they insulted every honest member of this House, I have sought this opportunity. The Government knew how my feelings had been reversed; they saw that the eyes of other hon. gentlemen beside myself were being opened; they felt that *Ichabod* was inscribed upon their administration,—that their united incompetency, their individual consistency, the ridiculous, aye, disgusting and profane displays made by some of their members, had done its work; and therefore they hurried this prorogation in order to gag the members in the free expression of their opinions, and prevent the passage of a resolution such as that introduced by Mr. Smith, which would hurl them from power. But even now, amid the bustle and noise of the prorogation, I am thankful for the opportunity, and trust that, without these walls, these my views will be known.

I have supported the Government from the time they first took office, and should have continued so to do, had they not proved recreant to all their pledges, regardless of the interests of the people, destitute of all moral regard for the people's welfare; but now, in justice to myself, to my constituents, to my country, it becomes me to range myself in the ranks of the Opposition, to denounce the Government and its acts, and to declare that I shall use every effort; that, should I not again myself be returned to represent the County of King's, some man will come charged with the carrying out of my political views,—pledged to oppose the present Government.

At the conclusion of this speech, the Governor still being in the act of proroguing the House, three cheers, which shook the whole Parliament building, were uttered for "Our glorious Queen!"

Mr. Mitchell having briefly and pointedly addressed the Assembly, and the Speaker and the minority having returned, the House was declared prorogued.

Thus terminated perhaps the most eventful session which ever met in our Province; because of weighty import is the result. The people have the facts before them; they are to judge. It will be their fault if the Augean Stables are not completely cleansed. It will be for them to determine whether an irresponsible oligarchy shall rule the destinies of our fair Province; whether she shall advance in the march of nations; whether or no we shall remain free and happy under the genial influences of our cherished Responsible Constitutional Government. Let them say—and say it loudly and boldly—whether the present *imbecile, inconsistent, unconstitutional* Government shall remain in power, or whether a Government shall be formed from the people, having sympathies in common with the people; having foresight to conceive, wisdom to mature, and moral and political power to sustain, measures adapted to the wants of our blessed country.

Our Queen! Our Constitution! Our Country!

WHAT WILL THEY SAY IN CARLETON!

We have been repeatedly asked, within the last day or two, how Carleton and Victoria would go?

We have unhesitatingly answered that in both those Counties, the old members would be returned. Indeed we do not believe that there will be any opposition. A large majority of their constituents are "Liberal"—opposed to Toryism; and are prepared, we believe, to reiterate their unequivocal dislike to the present Government, as expressed at the last election—which has been increased by their reckless conduct with reference to the Railway works at St. John, spending thousands of pounds of the public money, contrary to law, in building a road on snow and ice, which the first great thaw of Spring will render useless. And, inasmuch as the present members have consistently followed out the line of conduct avowed at the Hastings, their former supporters cannot but renew their confidence in them.

In Victoria, then, Tibbets and Watters, we believe, will be returned.

In Carleton, the two Charles's, so called, we feel satisfied, will meet with no opposition. If they do they will only have to walk the course and win.

The question at issue is one of principles. Constitutional Government is involved; and we know but little of the good people of Carleton if they do not, when called upon, send back to the Legislature the two men who have so nobly stood forth for the right, during the Session just closed.

Charles Connell and Charles Perley are the men whom the people will, when the election takes place, declare their Representatives.

HOW STAND THE LIBERALS IN THE PROVINCE!

Were the electors of the Province destitute of intelligence, wanting in patriotism, blind to the interests of their country; were they as the Solicitor General, J. C. Allen, Esq., has asserted of York,—where, according to that gentleman's statement, not the poor and indigent, but the most independent and respectable farmers of the County, can be bought like sheep at the shambles;—if these were truly characteristics of the constituents of the Province, we would tremble for the result of the coming election, and fear that it would prove the sepulchre of all our hopes for the present independence and future weal of our country; but, inasmuch as we know full well that the people of New Brunswick are as intelligent, as independent, as honest, as patriotic, as consistent, as are the inhabitants of any land on God's green earth, we look forward to coming struggle as one which will result in a terrible defeat of those who have so long tampered with the interests of their masters—unworthy servants, who have proved recreant to their trust and unworthy of confidence;—terrible to those who have bartered their freedom of thought and speech and become tame followers of a shattered administration; who, when they so far forget their own self-respect as to endeavor to uphold, at all hazards, and in all their acts, the last Tory Government of New Brunswick, forfeited their claim to the respect of all honest men;—terrible to all lovers of old systems,—to all those who weep over the good old days of despotism, of family compactism, and all those vileisms which spring from and are included in the term Toryism;—terrible to those who fear lest the poor man and the son of the poor man,—the men from the ditch (so called by hon. supporters of the Government),—should rise to place and distinction and power, and offend their nice sense of exclusiveness and gentility, and all that, by coming in contact with them. To all such will the result of the election be terrible. But to those who believe in the maxim,

"Honor and shame from no condition rise:
Act well your part—there all the honor lies;"

who believe that no circumstance of birth or position should give preference to incompetency and imbecility, over worth, and talent, and ability, however humble its possessor; who "cherish Roy