

work and made the usual money appropriations for schools, roads, bridges, and the other public services; and then an appeal to the people should have been immediately made. It was nonsense to talk about the Government resigning. If twenty-one could not carry on the Government, how could twenty have done it? An appeal to the people must have been made even had the Liberals come into power; and their cry for the Government to resign was merely a dodge to obtain the reins of power. He held that the country had a heavy bill of damages against the late House.

Such a state of things as this incessant contest for office and the consequent neglect of the people's interests must not be allowed to continue. The cure consisted, he thought, in an increase of the representation, and an exclusion of all government officers except the Heads of Departments. The manner in which the Government party of twenty-four in 1855 was reduced to twenty in 1857, showed the necessity for a reform. One was offered the Postmaster Generalship in the new administration if he would assist in ousting the Government; he went over. Another was offered the office of Auditor General, salary £500 a year; and he went over. A third had applied for an office, and had been refused; and he went over to the Opposition. A fourth who had in the short session of 1856 voted both for and against the Government, and who had perhaps little politics and less principle, also went over. Thus the Government party were reduced to 20 and the Opposition increased to 20. The fact was that there were more hungry expectants than the Government could provide for.

It might be thought that increasing the number of members would increase the expenses of the Legislature; but his plan was to establish immediately by Act of Assembly Municipal Institutions in every county in the Province, and to transfer the local legislation to the County Councils. The Legislature then need not sit beyond thirty or forty days. As an additional security against waste of time members might be paid a certain sum for the session, instead of a daily allowance.—The right to vote at Elections should be extended to all rate payers on property.

He had a few words to say about Governments. He thought every Government should be tested by its measures. The people did not care about men, but they wished good measures. He would not pin his faith to the sleeve of any man or of any party. No Government could stand which was not progressive; which did not conduct the public business "in accordance with the well understood wishes of the people"; which did not keep pace with the age. He should give to any administration, whatever they might be called, a fair trial.

A report had been set afloat that he was opposed to Railways because they would injure his stage line. By the same reasoning he should be opposed to steamboats. The truth was that Mr. Connolly and himself were, he believed, the only persons in the County who had ever taken stock in a railway. He himself when on a journey in New England many years ago had travelled in a stage for a long distance crossing often the track of the railroad then building from Salem to Portland, and heard the stage drivers curse loudly the "iron road" declaring that it would throw all the horses out of employment, and ruin the country for agricultural produce. The result had proved the folly of such anticipations.

The new House, he thought would contain many new members. If not the state of things which existed in the late House would continue, and the interests of the country would suffer. What, when the Legislature again met, should the House first set about? Did the people wish that the first week or two of the session should be occupied with another no confidence debate? Should they not rather immediately set about the business of the country, and grant the necessary supplies for the public service? The latter was the course which he should advocate. He would set his face against long speeches, and against anything which improperly retarded the public business. In conclusion he had only to say to them that if they wished a continuance of the present state of things, if they desired to see the public business at a stand still, they should return the two late members. But if they wished a reform in these matters, and desired to have attention paid to the wants of the country they should make the best selection out of the late members, and along with the person thus elected send to represent them in the Assembly James R. Tupper.

## MR. CONNOLLY.

Fellow Electors: I have seconded the nomination of Mr. Perley, and now I wish to state my reasons for so doing. Mr. Perley is an Agriculturist, he is engaged largely in the business of the country, he has extensive interests at stake, and when he legislates for this County, he legislates for himself; what benefits him benefits us all.

It has been said that we should go upon the principle of "Measures, not Men;" this is all well, but we want good men to suggest, to promote, to carry out good measures, and we can't have the measures unless we have the men.

The question before the people is, have they confidence in the present Government? Mr. Tupper has told you that at the short session on a test question the House divided 16 to 22; at the last session it was 20—20. During the recess then the Government lost 4; what was the cause of this? why was this? Simply the pressure of public opinion, the people had lost confidence, the representatives of the people had lost confidence in the Government—it was no factions Opposition—it was no condemnation without trial, they had been judged, they had been tried, and public opinion condemned them.

From the first the present Government, formed in '53, was objectionable, but it was said, it is only a provisional Government, and will be re-modelled. Therefore to some extent the people acquiesced in it; but when it was found they were determined to

remain in power, and hold on to office, then the people withdrew all support.

It has been intimated that the Government had not had a trial; but I think, as I believe you do, they have had sufficient trial to convince us they are not the men.

Take their emigration scheme, that shows their ability, that displays their talent, that is a measure which proves them incompetent to govern this Province; there they give us a scheme rather calculated to frighten away than to attract to our country emigrants.

The policy pursued by the Government with regard to Railroads is another ground of opposition and condemnation.

They have not proceeded economically; giving out the work by piecemeal, thereby incurring a very large expenditure more than reliable parties offered by contract to do the whole work for.

They have proceeded illegally, not having appointed, as the law directs, Commissioners, under whose directions, according to law, the work should be carried on. What was their excuse when this charge was brought against them in the House? They said, they had not appointed Commissioners because there was nothing for them to do, and they wished to economise; but what says Mr. Hatheway?—They (the Government) offered me the Commissionership, and tried to persuade me to take it. This statement of Mr. Hatheway the Government did not contradict; it was true, and it proved that the Government were not politically honest, and that Mr. H., as has been stated, did not want office under the Government.

It has been said the Opposition retarded the business of the country, and were factious; but there is no proof before the country to substantiate this charge. Had the Government brought in good measures, and had the Opposition then opposed them, they would have grounds for this charge, and the intelligent people of this Province would have, in unmistakable terms, condemned them as factious; but the Government did not bring in any good measures, and consequently the charge falls to the ground.

The attempt of the Government to revive the old Election Law throughout the Province was opposed. I wonder if any of the 400, who are entitled to vote at this election for the first time, will find fault with the Opposition for their determined efforts to prevent them being disfranchised. Throughout the whole, the Government and their organs have attempted to mislead the people with respect to the Fisher Election Law. They said the law was impracticable; then, in the House, they said the whole Province was disfranchised; and, finally, they were brought to admit that in five Counties elections could be held under that law. Happily, we are of the five; and, I doubt not, you who have a vote now for the first time will remember, in giving that vote, that you owe the privilege to the so-called "factious opposition."

How can we have confidence in the honesty, integrity and industry of the Government? We are told to judge them by their measures; but they are men of no measures at all.

So far from the Opposition showing a factious disposition, I find that some of them proposed an adjournment till the following week, in order to afford the Government time to prepare their measures, as the House had nothing to do. I believe, candidly, that the Government and the Government only are responsible for the delay of business.

The late Speaker has been praised for the part he took in sustaining the Government, and for his condemnation of the Opposition; but how have the constituents of St. John condemned him!

Mr. Smith has been condemned by friends of the Government as factious, as throwing obstacles in the way of the Government, and it has been declared he could never get back to the House; but see by what an enormous vote he has been returned by the electors of Westmorland, who, with him, have returned all the Liberals who offered!

Not only has this County reason to feel that it has been injured by the Government, but likewise that, with reference to the appointment of Sheriff, insult has been added to injury. [Here Mr. C. alluded to remarks which he had read in a Government paper, with reference to this appointment, in connection with Responsible Government.] The Sheriff is purely a County officer; his jurisdiction does not extend beyond the limits of the County; and who can know better than the people of the County who is best suited to fill the office? I was not pleased at the removal of Mr. Winslow; but for the same reason I do not think Mr. Dickinson should have been removed. I am not prejudiced in favor of either of those gentlemen—of the two, I rather prefer Mr. Winslow; but 1100 inhabitants of Carleton signed a document requesting a change, and in accordance with that request a change was made, and Mr. Dickinson appointed. I have heard of no charges or complaints against this gentleman since that time; and, this last winter, the representatives of the people in the Municipal Council signed a request to the Government to continue Mr. Dickinson in office. This was not signed by a bench of Magistrates, irresponsible to the people, but by Councillors, who were elevated to that position by the voice of their fellow men; and I think the Government ought to have paid some attention to their request. Not doing so, I think they have treated the people of this County with contempt, and have shown that they desire to go back to the old system of irresponsibility. They have always opposed self-government; they have to their utmost opposed Municipal incorporations, and thrown every possible hindrance in the way of their working well. But we have obtained that system of local government, although we were the first, and had to contend sharply to get it. We by a two-third vote claimed it; and now, I believe, by a large vote, we will sustain those members who have so manfully fought side by side for this and other progressive measures.

I don't believe the people of this County are prepared to go backward; I believe they are a progressive people;—they are being more and more enlightened; they know and feel what liberty is; they have tasted of its sweets, and will not again submit to be slaves and serfs. No! we have received liberal institutions from Great Britain; we are thankful for the political privileges we enjoy; we will preserve them in their purity, and hand them down unimpaired to our posterity. [Here Mr. Connolly very happily illustrated the position of a certain party by an allusion to the giants in Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, which was received by the crowd with rapturous applause; but we did not catch Mr. C.'s words, and cannot, therefore, do the illustration justice.] Those who would retard our onward advance, who would keep in ignorance the independent mind of man, are fast dwindling down and will soon become extinct. Other Counties are nobly expressing their opinion; in St. John at the election in May last 6 Tories were returned; at this election just past 4 Liberals have been triumphantly returned, and 2 more would have been had they been up; we will, I am sure, follow their example—we who have been heretofore an example to the rest of the Province, who were the first to take upon ourselves self-government, we will not now be the first to desert those principles. Gentlemen, you elected the two members at the last election to oppose the Government—they did so; there is every reason why you should feel a stronger feeling against that Government now, and therefore will vote for the same men again. I have seconded Mr. Perley's nomination, I shall support him because he has fulfilled his pledges, because I feel he should be returned at this election, upon and to carry out those principles. I hope you think as I do, and will vote on Saturday next in accordance with that feeling.

## MR. W. F. DIBBLEE

Denounced the present state of things as abominable, and hoped the people would exercise their right, and do away with the existing evils. With regard to the petition alluded to by Mr. Connolly, he (Mr. D.) said the 1100 persons signed that not to have Sheriff Winslow removed, but to have the office elective; and the requisition said to have been signed by members of the County Council, was signed by them not in their corporate capacity, but as private individuals, in their own dwellings, when it had been carried.

Mr. Dibblee read from a late number of the Carleton Sentinel, a copy of the tender made by Mr. Small to build the Railroad from the Bend to Shediac, as follows:

"I will furnish all material and labour, excepting iron rails, chairs, sleepers, spikes and iron, and complete the European and North American Railroad from the depot at Shediac to the depot at Moncton, including crossings, cattle-guards and turn-outs, and sign-boards at the road crossings, meaning to embrace every thing for the entire completion of the Railway, as per plans and specifications, excepting fences and buildings, for twenty five thousand pounds."

This, said Mr. D., must be true, because it is in the Sentinel. Mr. D. then explained the terms of the tender, endeavouring to make the audience believe that the italicised words were put in by the Editor of the Sentinel, and were not in Mr. Small's original tender. [Here the Editor set Mr. Dibblee right on that point.] Mr. Dibblee resumed; said there must be something wrong about it, and endeavoured to leave the impression on the minds of his hearers that the exceptions in Mr. Small's tender were objections to his receiving the contract, or at all events were not in accordance with the advertisements by the Government.

Mr. D. read an extract from the Illustrated London News, bearing upon the political parties in the late House of Commons, and intended by him (Mr. Dibblee) to prove that the course pursued by Lord Palmerston was identical with that pursued by our Government.

He read a telegraphic dispatch from the Hon. J. H. Gray, in which it was stated that the £9 which had been charged for the Engine House door at St. John, was not merely for the boards, but was for the doors, casings, lintels, hinges, hangings, &c., all complete.

He deprecated the cry raised by certain persons about aristocracy; and as we understood him, contended that was all nonsense. He spoke of himself as having rode a tow-bow horse for years, and as being ready for a fight, drink of grog, or anything else up.

## MR. PERLEY

Rose and stated, in contradiction to the dispatch from Mr. Gray, that he had, on the Railroad Accounts laid before the House, seen the boards referred to charged, 180 feet spruce boards at 1s. per foot, and hinges 60s.

## MR. LINDSAY.

said Mr. Tupper had been brought out by the "Independents;" this was a new party, and he had been at a loss to know what it meant, but he had come to the conclusion that it was the old party who had opposed Municipal Incorporations, and every other Liberal measure; and who wished to hold office independent of the people.

Mr. Tupper has not stated which way he would go, but Mr. Beardsley, who seconded his nomination, charged and found fault with Mr. Perley for whiffing round. From this I am at liberty to suppose that Mr. Tupper's party oppose Mr. Perley because he did not support the Government; therefore Mr. Tupper is pledged to support it. In Richmond Mr. Tupper found fault with the Opposition; here he is more general, and finds fault with all. They have all gone out of the way, and it becomes necessary to send him, Mr. Tupper, to the House as a panacea for all our evils. The term Radical has been applied to those who oppose the present Government, as the lowest epithet it was possible to apply to them. He might as well state what Radical

meant; it referred to the root; and the office of the root was to spread out through the surrounding soil, to collect sustenance for the trunk and branches. So the Tory party have always regarded the people as mere roots to collect sustenance for them—to do the work, they to receive the pay. Here Mr. Lindsay referred to the conduct of the Tories in St. John, attempting to beat one of the Liberal candidates; and said that a party had offered to bet £5 that he, Lindsay, would not be allowed to speak, and some of the Independents had endeavoured to hire a poor man whose only fault was too great a fondness for liquor to come there and interrupt him.

Here Mr. L. read from speech of late Speaker Simonds, showing that he condemned not only the Opposition, but likewise the Government, as exhibiting want of tact and judgement.

The fact that Mr. Simonds has not been able to buy his seat at this last election gave him, Mr. L., great pleasure, as it proved the people of the Province were improving. Mr. L. referred to the railway at St. John, and read from a speech of Mr. Harding, to prove that the road, as built there, was incomplete, and that money had been wasted there.

The emigration scheme proved the Government as incompetent, and as not knowing the wants of the country. [Here Mr. L. pointed out the absurd provisions of the scheme.] They had not only concocted this, but had sent Mr. Perley home to attempt to carry it out. One provision of the scheme was to appoint salaried officers through the country—land agents.

Mr. L. read from Freeman opinion expressed by its editor in '54 of Messrs. Wilmot and Gray, to show how the Government organs had turned round—for this same man was now eulogizing Wilmot and Gray and their Government. The Government had pursued a system of favouritism with the public works. They had given out the Shediac line of railroad in small sections, in order to patronize their friends, had spent £8,000 more than Mr. Small offered to complete it for, and their own organ acknowledges that it will take £15,000 to finish it. The revival of the old election law was another of the Government measures which, had it passed as introduced, would have disfranchised many hundreds of persons. Mr. Johnson moved an amendment which would have rendered the new law operative in all the Counties in a short time; this, however, could not be carried, but the opposition fortunately carried an amendment which ceded to five Counties the right to hold the present election under the Fisher law.

The whole policy of the present Government seemed to be to revive old laws, and this indicated very clearly a desire to return to the old system of Toryism and Family Compactism. His hearers knew something of that system; they remembered the time when a few families held all the offices in the Province, and held them for life, at high salaries. That system was oppressive in the extreme. [Here Mr. L. read from a speech made by Mr. Gilbert in the Assembly, in which that gentleman described very graphically the nature and effects of the old system.] The old system was opposed to true liberty; it was contrary to the genius of the British Constitution, according to which, in the language of Alfred the Great, "Englishmen should be free as the air they breathe."

The present Government rode into power on a hobby—the repeal of the Liquor Law; but for which they never would have regained place, having been ignominiously turned out in '54, a majority at least of them having been part and parcel of the Street Government.

Mr. Tilley stated that should the law prove inoperative he would go for its repeal at the next succeeding regular session. Mr. Tupper stated that it was necessary to repeal the law in order to obtain the necessary funds to carry on the public works. But after the expenses of the short session were paid, the country was but £2,000 better off than if the repeal had been delayed until the regular session. Objections had been raised against Mr. Johnson because he referred to Mr. Lawrence as a turner. Mr. J. only referred to the fact that Mr. Lawrence had a few days before the election declared that the prohibitory law was necessary to preserve the church and state—but he turned round and taking advantage of the excitement took a seat in the House to repeal it. It was somewhat singular that the precious sheet called the Journal, now so loud in defence of Lawrence and in condemnation of Johnson, a few years ago, when he, Mr. L., talked of offering as a candidate, founded as a great objection against him that he smelt strongly of leather. He, Mr. L. professed to be honest in politics, and as to his honesty in business, he left it to those who had dealings with him to judge.

It was somewhat strange how parties could turn round. Some who were a few years ago, strongly opposed to Municipal Corporations, were now all at once very warm advocates of them. He had always been in favour of these Incorporations, and he felt that the country was pleased with them.—By them the people governed themselves, and knew how the funds were appropriated. He himself had not a great while before been called impertinent when in Court of Sessions he asked information as to the expenditure of the public money.

It had been stated that Mr. Perley had not fulfilled his pledges; but he (Mr. L.) had been present in June last; had heard Mr. P. speak, and was satisfied he had fulfilled all his pledges. The great ground of opposition on the part of the "Independents" seemed to be because Mr. P. had fulfilled his pledges, and not supported the present Government.

The late Judge Beardsley was the first gentleman who advocated Liberal views in this County, and he was called a rebel.

In conclusion Mr. L. said he was satisfied the feeling of the County was in favour of liberal and progressive views; and he would be disappointed and surprised if any person holding Tory views could be elected here.