

February 21.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

In this body, today, the hon. Mr. Ostell moved for an address of condolence to Her Majesty the Queen. The very few remarks which hon. gentlemen indulged in were of a character leaving the subject and expressed in their own general feelings of sympathy, for our Sovereign, which universally abound.

GRAND DIVISION S. O. T.

While I think of it, although seemingly out of place here, the Grand Division concluded its quarterly session last night. The sessions were respectively attended and Harmony and a general desire to promote the interests of our order prevailed. The Carleton County Divisions were represented by Messrs. Temple and Lindsay of Carleton Division, and J. R. Hartley and the writer, of Melancthon. The next quarterly meeting is to be held in Woodstock on the 2nd Wednesday in May. The most important item of business done was the recognition of the Phalanx as the organ of the order.—To-night, perhaps while I am still writing, and the necessity of doing which has prevented my attending it, a meeting is being held under the auspices of the Grand Division the speakers at which, as per arrangement, are of the Temperance orators of St. John.

LUMBER LICENSE BILL.

The following are the main sections of Mr. Munro's bill to afford greater facilities for cutting and carrying away lumber from Crown Lands. The principal points of difference in this bill from that of Mr. Mitchell's, as will be observed, are, that while the latter threw all the land open this, all that was not occupied the previous year, and that persons making expenditures on berths on streams have their licenses renewed, by paying mileage, from one to three years.

That from and after the first day of May next all applications for permission to cut and carry away Lumber from Crown Lands in the several Counties of the Province, received at the Crown Land Office prior to the week appointed for the General Annual Sale of Lumber Licences in the month of July in each and every year, such applications being for Lands not under Licence the previous year, shall be granted to the first applicant on the payment of such mileage as the Governor in Council may direct, provided that no application for the same ground the same day, and that no one application be for less than two or more than four and a half square miles.

That the General Annual Sale of Lumber Berths under Licence the previous year, shall take place by public auction in the month of July in each and every year, under such regulations as are or shall be made by the Governor in Council, such General Annual Sale to include all Licences granted under this Act, either to the first applicant or by auction, prior to the first day of May in each and every year in which such General Annual Sale shall take place, except as hereinafter provided.

That after such General Annual Sale, all applications for Licences to cut and carry away Lumber from recent Crown Lands, when only one application is received for the same Lumber Berth the same day, shall be granted to the first applicant in the same manner as is provided in Section second of this Act, provided that not less than two or more than six square miles be included in any one application.

Whenever it shall occur that two or more persons apply for the same Lumber Berth on the same day, the Surveyor General shall appoint a day for the sale thereof by public auction, of which due notice shall be given and sale made by auction to the highest bidder under the following rules and regulations, to wit: That the Crown Land Office, or such other office as the Governor in Council may from time to time appoint.

That when the occupier of a licensed Lumber Berth not less than three square miles, situate on any of the streams of this Province, shall incur heavy expenditure rendering such stream navigable for the purpose of carrying away timber to market, and shall provide such expenditure and the amount thereof to the satisfaction of the Surveyor General, either by the certificate of the Local Deputy of the District in which such Lumber Berth is situated, or by the affidavit of two disinterested persons cognizant of the facts, before a Justice of the Peace of the County containing such Lumber Berth, the same shall be lawful for the Surveyor General to continue to such Licensee the occupation of such Lumber Berth from one to three years, in proportion to the amount expended rendering such stream navigable, in manner following, that is to say:—For an expenditure of over one hundred dollars, an occupation of one year longer than the term for which the License was first granted; for an expenditure of over three hundred dollars, an occupation of two years longer than the term for which the License was granted; and for an expenditure of five hundred dollars and upwards, an occupation of three years longer than the term for which the License was first granted; such occupation to be subject to the payment of such annual mileage, and such rules and regulations as the Governor in Council may from time to time appoint.

February 22.

To-day ends a week which on the whole has been marked by pretty close attention to business by the House. A number of bills have been passed and progress made in several more. Short speeches have been the order of the day or days. That's encouraging, is it not? The bills passed and the speeches made have been of a character not sufficiently interesting to our readers or local position, to warrant us devoting space to reproduce them in extended form—this by way of explaining why we have not published any speeches yet.

Mr. Lindsay got the House into committee on the bill relating to sale of lumber from non-payment of taxes. The mover explained that the present law was very defective, as it made no provision for the surplus proceeds from sale of lands, for non-payment of taxes, nor to compel Collector's to make a return. The law, now asked for, was a necessity, especially in the County of Carleton as there was, there, much land held by non-residents, the taxes on which it was, under the existing law, almost impossible to collect. If the land was brought to sale people were afraid to buy, fearing a doubtful title, and the authorities to avoid the risk incident to any proceeding, generally declined taking any action in such cases. He had known instances in which legal gentlemen had advised plebeians to pay their taxes, and the reply of them was called upon for their taxes, and threatened with an action, was go-ahead and do your best, you can't collect. This bill simplified proceedings as much as possible; was, he thought, effectual and easy of application, and would, if passed, prove a public benefit. The present law did not even state the form of warrant for the Sheriff's deed, indeed under it the Assessors might as well be told that in making up the assessment, they need not include non-residents at all. It was hard, he contended, for poor residents to have to bear the burthen of taxation, while the rich non-resident was allowed to go scot-free. The bill now before the House provided that:—Whenever any Collector of Rates or Taxes for any Parish or District within this Province, after having given public notice of the assessment according to Law, shall deem it expedient to make application for the warrant to sell Real Estate of any resident or non-resident defaulter, under the authority of the twenty sixth Section of the fifty third Chapter of the Revised Statutes, or of an Act of the General Assembly to which the provisions of the said Chapter in regard to such sales are extended, or shall hereafter be extended, such Collector shall make and subscribe an affidavit as near as may be in the form set forth in the paragraph marked A in the Schedule of this Act; which affidavit shall be annexed to the warrant directing the sale; and no Sheriff shall execute any such warrant unless such affidavit shall be annexed thereto, and delivered to him with such warrant.

Whenever any Sheriff shall sell any Real Estate according to the exigency of such warrant, the Deed to be by him executed to the purchaser of the property sold shall be in the form set forth in the paragraph marked B in the Schedule of this Act; and the said Deed, with the said affidavit thereto annexed, and the Sheriff's return of his doings thereon shall be by him forthwith filed in the Office of the Registrar of Deeds of the County in which the Lands so sold are situated; the expense of such Deed and of filing the said warrant to constitute a return, and any surplus money which may remain in his hands shall be by him forthwith paid over to the County Treasurer of the same County, to be refunded to whomsoever shall be legally entitled to receive the same.

The Deed of the Sheriff duly executed, acknowledged, and registered, with an affidavit of such officer, or his deputy, in the form set forth in the paragraph marked C in the Schedule of this Act, made at any time before the registration of such Deed, and sworn before and endorsed thereon by any person authorized to take acknowledgments or proof of Deeds, that the property so conveyed was regularly seized, advertised, and sold, with legal proof of the Justice's warrant and of the Collector's sale, and conveyance are founded, shall in all Courts be deemed and taken to be prima facie evidence of all things therein set forth.

He thought the bill would recommend itself to the House and country, and that, being carefully guarded in its details, it would be found to introduce a redemption clause to enable persons absent, who might not see the advertisement, to redeem their land or property within a certain period.

After some little discussion, in which the Attorney General and other members expressed a very favorable opinion of the bill, progress was reported.

CROWN LAND REPORT.

If not mistaken, we referred under a previous date to the Report of the Surveyor General. It presents a compendium of the various acts and their results, and we can only now reproduce some of the latter:

The Timber transactions for Licenses during the past fiscal year, comprise 3 classes, viz:—1st, those which were sold between the 1st day of November, 1860, and the 1st day of May, 1861, expiring on the first day of May, 1861. 2nd, those which were sold between the 1st day of May, and the 31st day of October, 1861, expiring on the 1st day of May, 1862; and 3rd, Applications for License entered and deposit paid in October, but too late to be advertised and sold within the fiscal year.

In the first class, there were 144 Licenses, covering 5584 square miles, at an average rate of \$5.22 per mile, and amounting to \$18388. 22. In the second class, there were 723 Licenses, covering 2490 square miles, at an average rate of \$4.29 per mile, and amounting to \$10571. 20. The first class ranged from \$4 to \$75 per square mile; the second class ranged from \$4 to \$50 per square mile; the details of each being fully exhibited in my annual Report.

The third class consists of 20 applications for 664 square miles, the prescribed deposit of \$4 per square mile having been paid at entry; and the berths being sold in November 1861, the advance on mileage, (if any) will be exhibited in the next annual return.

By the Regulations now and for many years existing, the Seizing Officer is authorized to retain for his services, twenty-five per centum of the sum received on licences, the balance alone being paid to the Casual Revenue.

The net receipts from this source have been \$427. 13. The total receipts within the fiscal year, on account of Timber and Lumber have been—

For the Casual Revenue, \$12,836 55
" " Sinking Fund, 304 00
Total, \$13,230 55

There have been sold within the past year, on account of the Casual Revenue—

14,343 acres, for which payment was made in full, \$8917 49; 21,948 acres, payable by 4 equal annual instalments, \$13,375 35; equal to 36,291 84 acres; total sales for Casual Revenue, \$22,292 87.

There have also been sold within the same period on account of the Sinking Fund: 3961 acres, paid (less discount) at the time of sale, \$2446 60; 2551 acres, payable by instalments, \$1518 60; equal to 6492 acres, and total for the Sinking Fund, \$3965 20. Making a general total of Sales for the Casual Revenue and the Sinking Fund within the fiscal year, 42,733 acres, at an average rate of \$9.61 15-2 currency per acre.

Certain tracts of Land had been destined for Towns at the first settlement of the Province, some of which, as Parr Town, (now known as Saint John, East) St. Andrews, and Fredericton, were immediately surveyed, and laid out into Lots of various dimensions and forms; these were almost wholly acquired by individuals under the Fee System, within a few years after their Survey.

Other tracts throughout the Province were also set aside by the Government for future Townships, and so described and sub-divided upon Sketches and Maps, without actual Survey, the greater number of which have been absorbed in larger Surveys and Grants as parts of farms.

The commercial and social wants of an increasing population, and the sub-divisions of Counties, made it necessary to survey and establish other Town Plats, the most recent of which are in the County of Victoria, one on the Peninsula of the Grand Falls, and one on the confinnence of the Rivers St. John and Madawaska. They are known by the names of "Grand Falls," (or Colebrook, West,) and Edmunston.

Five Lots in these two plats have been sold within the last year at rates varying according to locality from \$60 to \$200, and amounting to \$529. 00. Four lots in the third plat of Dalnoisic (surveyed in 1827) at the mouth of the Restigouche River, have been sold, at the price \$4 each. The whole value of Town lots thus sold within the year being \$536. 00.

The Contingent Receipts during the year have been—

Surveys of Land, \$181 08
Wild Grass, 42 17
Land and Timber Plans, (1st March to 31st Oct. 80 07
Total, \$304 22.

Receipts on account of the "Fishery Fund" have been only \$3.86, and Receipts for the Labour Fund \$242.59; the latter comprising not only payments by applicants where no previous payment had been made either by Labour or money, but also balances due on lots which had been partly paid for in former years.

The value of labour performed during the past year under Commission Act by persons indebted to the Government on Land as reported to my office, amounts to \$525.00.

The number of applications that have been approved under the Labour Act between the 1st November 1860 and the 31st October 1861, were 774, representing a quantity of 74,486 acres.

The number of approved Petitions up to 31st October, 1860, and the number of these applicants who up to the same time have paid in full or in part for lots approved to them, are as follows:—

1st. The total number of approved Petitions under the Labour Act, to the 31st October 1860, have been 8307
The number of these applicants who up to the same time have paid in full or in part for the Lots approved to them are 8152

2nd. Showing that nearly 5-8ths of the applicants have either abandoned their applications, or permitted them to expire by non-compliance with the Regulations within the prescribed period.

Office, the year named being in every case that in which the last payment was made, there being still a balance unpaid on each lot here enumerated:—

Total, 797 Lots, 76555 Acres.

The object of the Labour Act was to secure actual residence and improvement upon the lots approved to by the Government, and to the tenor of the Regulations through all their changes kept this purpose perpetually in view; but there are 361 lots that have been paid for in full before the year 1858, and no proof has yet been exhibited that the parties either reside upon, or have improved a single acre of the lots for which they have paid, and for which no Returns already received exhibit the following receipts for money received by the Collector of the facts under the Labour Law:— 294 persons have done work to the value of \$8276. 97.

A Register of applications now kept in the Office shows that between the first day of March and thirty-first day of October, 1861, there were 657 Petitions received for Land to be sold by Auction, and 821 for Land under the Labour Act, in all 1478 Petitions.

Between the first day of March and thirty-first day of October, 1860, 814 Orders to Survey Lots of Land have been issued out of my Office, a considerable number of which were renewed orders, the first originally issued had expired by the Regulations of April, 1861.

It had not been customary before the 1st March to number the Orders issued, and I can therefore only state as an approximation to the actual number, that at least 200 had been issued in the previous four months, making a general total of say 10,000 for an average quantity of 250 acres in each order—250,000 acres; many of these orders may never be executed.

There have been received in this Office during the fiscal year, 420 Returns to orders of Survey to 844 persons and for 80825 acres. No Lots offered for sale: \$29 advertised, 414 sold, 415 not sold. Reverting to my renewed orders of the Contingent receipts for "Surveys of Land," I have to state that within the past three years the Government have caused 14 tracts to be surveyed and reserved for actual settlement under the conditions of the Labour Act.

The tracts thus surveyed, are situated as under:

County and Tract.	Acres.
Carleton, a tract called Johnville,	10,500
Sunbury, a tract near Newcastle river,	6,000
Do, a tract near Hardwood Ridge	9,000
Queen's, a tract near Salmon River,	15,600
Do, a tract at Rider's Brook	10,000
Westmorland, a tract at Never's Brook,	10,000
Carleton, a tract called Glassville,	10,000
York, a tract at the Nashwalk,	3,000
Gloucester, a tract called St. Louis,	4,800
Kent, a tract at head of Richibucto River,	5,000
Albert, a tract called Lumsden,	5,200
Charlotte, a tract near South Oronto Lake	7,000
York, a tract on the River Nackawic	10,000
Carleton, a tract called Knowlesville,	17,000
Total	131,100

Petitions in the prescribed form, have been presented by a number of applicants in Glassville, Johnville, and Knowlesville, in the St. Louis tract;—in the tract on Newcastle River;—in the tract at Nackawic;—in the tract at the Nashwalk; and in the tract near the South Oronto Lake.

February 24.

The greater part of the day has been spent discussing a bill introduced by Mr. Watters, to enable the Governors of the Madras School to dispose of certain lands. We did not hear enough of the debate to be able to judge of the merits of the case; we have however the expressive commentary of the assembly upon it in their postponing it for further discussion for three months.

The striking of the committee in the case of the protest against Mr. Lindsay is put off for some reason not stated, until next Thursday. We notice none of the protesters are in town.

It was Mr. Munro, not Mr. Lindsay, who introduced the bill to alter the division line between Northampton and Brighton.

Mr. Costigan's bill to alter division line between parishes of Grand Falls and St. Leonard's, Victoria County, was agreed to. Progress was made in the bill by the same gentleman, to erect a new parish in Victoria County, on account of some informality in the bill.

Mr. Cudlip introduced a bill relating to privilege of members of the House—this is to take away their freedom from arrest.

In the Upper House, during a discussion, the information was elicited that the new copper coin had arrived in, and was now being distributed throughout the Province, and that the silver coin was on the way.

Mr. Watters presented a petition from the Right Rev. John Sweeney, Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of St. John, praying for an act of incorporation for himself and successors,—it was received and laid on the table.

Watters introduced a bill to amend the law relating to the liberty of the subject.

February 25.

A busy day in the House. The young members and the old ones too seem disposed to hurry on business without an over amount of talk. Several local bills were introduced and several others passed.

Mr. Kerr presented a petition from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Chatham, praying for an act incorporating himself and successors,—and Mr. Watters introduced a bill to incorporate the Roman Catholic Bishop of St. John.

Mr. Lindsay's non-resident tax bill occupied the attention of the House to-day, and after considerable discussion, was referred to a select committee composed of Mr. Lindsay, Allan, Kerr, Gillmor, and Cudlip.

Mr. Costigan's bill to set off, and erect out of, a part of the parishes of Grand Falls and Perth a new parish, was passed. The bill originally provided to include in the new parish a portion of St. Leonard's, but this was struck out.

Yesterday Mr. W. J. Gilbert asked the Government the reason for the removal of the hon. E. B. Chandler from the office of Clerk of the Peace and Court of Common Pleas, Westmorland. To-day the Attorney General gave an answer substantially as follows:

"I have always opposed the displacement of public officers as a general principle, although, at the same time, I have on many occasions, both here and in my own country, expressed the opinion that officials should not interfere in politics or take an active part in elections. I have run five elections, and have at each of them had the decided opinion of the gentleman referred to, and other officials of the County, and still no change has taken place but the one now mentioned. Many of my friends have become estranged from me in consequence of changes not being made, and the mild course pursued toward my opponent has not had the effect of conciliating them, as at the last election I encountered the most bitter opposition of Mr. Chandler. My colleague, Mr. Gilbert, receives his support, while my other two colleagues and myself had the whole force of his opposition and hostility. No change has been proved against Mr. Chandler, and no charge involving moral wrong or turpitude has been made."

Mr. Cudlip gave notice of motion for Thursday for appointment of a Joint Committee of the two Houses to enquire into the affairs of the Central Bank.

Mr. Kerr introduced a bill relating to railways. The provisions of this bill are intended to put a stop to the further issue of debentures. The debate upon this when it comes up will be exciting, probably.

A Government bill, providing for the expenses of the Legislature, passed. While under consideration, Mr. Kerr, after referring to the present low state of the finances, and the great necessity which existed for retrenchment, moved that the pay of members be reduced to \$3 per day. A round of speeches was delivered, and on the question, seven members voted for the motion. We noticed Mr. Munro voted for it: Mr. Lindsay was out at the time. Dr. Dow thought \$2 per day quite sufficient, and much more than hon. members had earned thus far. That there is a necessity for every possible reduction of the expenses of the Province no one can doubt, but then, as Mr. Anglin intimated, unless the reduction in the pay of members was made a part of a general reduction of the contingent expenses, it was scarcely worth talking about it.

A bill of Mr. Stevens' to regulate the packing of beef and pork for exportation, elicited an eloquent speech from the mover—in fact a speech worthy a more lofty theme. It was contended in opposition, that it was scarcely worth while to talk about appointing an inspector for beef and pork for export, while our exports of those articles was a blank, and our imports so large.

Mr. Stevens' object was anticipatory. He thought and we trust his hopefulness on this subject will be fully realized, that through the efforts of the Agricultural Board, a new era was dawning on the province, and that entering upon their avocations with renewed zeal, our farmers would soon prove that we can, if we have not, raise a surplus of beef and pork.

A number of notices of motion for address on a great variety of subjects were made, thus laying out work, and sharp work too for the future. Of these, Mr. Allan gave one for a statement of all warrants issued since the last of October, and for whom and what service.

SAD ACCIDENT.

We learn by telegraph that a sad accident occurred at Robtasy Station on the railway. It seems a wood train following the regular down passenger train, ran into the latter. There were two persons killed and ten or twelve seriously injured. The killed were Miss Wetmore, sister of O. D. Wetmore, York, and a young lad a nephew of that gentleman named Youngusband. Among the injured were A. R. Wetmore, Esq., not dangerously, John Tueker, badly burnt, John McArthur of Sussex, badly burnt, ——— Moody from Nova Scotia, not seriously, and others more or less hurt.

The train was on a steep grade, and the rails so slippery that the wood train could not be stopped in time. The passenger train was stopped at the station and behind time.

Storm has been terrific here all day, and below it is said to be even worse.

February 26.

Mr. Boyd's Denominational School Grant Bill was disposed of yesterday without discussion by passage of amendment leaving the matter with Government.

Several enquiries relating to lost money letters were made, and Steadman replied that necessary investigations were being made. Steadman, in answer to question by McPhelin said that Government did not intend to introduce money order system on account of at endant expense. A great part of the day was spent in discussing Watters' bill to abolish death penalty in certain cases.—Progress reported.

Mr. Skinner moved resolution that Lindsay, sitting member, be heard by Counsel at the bar of House, before the Committee to enquire into protest, be struck. Question turned on intention of law; lawyers differed, some contending such course perfectly regular, others that it would over-ride the law, and that the committee was the proper tribunal. Resolution lost by a large majority, adjourned at 5.

February 27.

W. J. Gilbert moved for a committee, to which should be referred all matters relating to the working, management, &c., of the E. & N. A. railway. He stated that he was induced to do this from late fatal accident, which showed bad management.

Tilley said such action would be anticipating the Inquest of Coroner which, with all other necessary papers relating to the railway would be here in a few days. Motion withdrawn.

Mr. Tilley submitted Adjutant General's return and McBean papers.

Mr. Kerr asked what action Government had taken in the matter of the petition relating to the Deputy Sheriff of Northampton.

Mr. Tilley said that Government had corresponded with the Sheriff but had received no answer as yet.

At twelve, noon, Mr. Skinner moved that Mr. Lindsay be heard by counsel; motion negatived. Mr. Skinner then proceeded to argue against striking committee on account of informality of the petition and preliminary proceedings. There was no motion, and committee was struck. Committee, Messrs. M'Phelin, M'Lellan, Anglin, Cudlip and Young.

Mr. Williston is petitioner's nominee, Mr. Skinner nominee for Mr. Lindsay.

We notice that the Freeman states that Mr. Fisher not only withdrew the expression " Jesuitical" which he used in debate on the "Address," but that he likewise promised not to use it again. We said it was an unhappy expression on the part of Mr. Fisher, and so we think it was at the time, and under the circumstances, but we can hardly think that Mr. F. has so far forgotten himself as to kiss the dust either to the Roman Catholic Church, or, in this instance, its representative, Mr. Anglin. The word, so offensive, as in our dictionaries, has a definite, as it has a very wide and expressive meaning, and it is time we knew it, if an ecclesiastical surveillance is to be exercised over the words used in debate by hon. members; still more necessary that we should know who our representatives are willing to submit to a gagging process.

GOREY'S LADY'S BOOK for March is before us, and a very interesting number it is. We have only space to say, in the language of a contemporary, "this valuable magazine is the best Lady's magazine in the world. Its literature is unexceptionable in its influence upon the family circle."

The storm of Monday and Tuesday last was one of the most severe experienced for years. The roads were rendered almost impassable by drifts, and the mail, due here on Tuesday night, did not reach here till Wednesday 10 p. m.

Since our last issue some two hundred more of Her Majesty's troops have passed through our town on their way to Canada.

The Legislative Council.

Hitherto but little sympathy with, or interest in, the Legislative Council or its doings has been entertained by the great body of the people. Beyond the immediate reach of popular influence, and unmoved by those political forces which ever and anon for many years have affected the Lower House, it has stood, calmly performing its constitutional office as the conservative element in the constitutional fabric of Legislation—caring not, apparently, to exhibit any great interest in the general affairs of the Province, and consequently little cared for.—Indeed, the press, which, if it is not, certainly ought to be the teacher of the people, inciting to correct views, has treated the Council very cavalierly and, while some have advocated the doctrine that it was a useless incubation, others have been sparing in their disrespectful epithets concerning it. Perhaps, at one time, it was of little service, and demanded but little respect. It once sat with closed doors; but a great change has come over it. Then we were in constitutional darkness, now we live in the full blaze of English Constitutional liberty. The influences which wrought this change have not passed by the Legislative Council, without leaving their mark there. It is said change is still needed, and for several years a bill has periodically been before the Legislature to effect this. This bill offers the Elective principle as a grand panacea.

"An elective Legislative Council" is a theme with which aspirants for the popular vote, have for years endeavored to charm the public ear. There is something right pleasant and self-satisfying in being reminded of unclaimed rights. To be reminded of that great engine of power, of which every voter is a working beam or piston rod, or some less important piece of the machinery, the suffrages of a free people—and sometimes we are worked up to that state in which we come to regard ourselves as martyrs, suffering under the infliction of a great wrong, when we are told of these things and, in connection, that we have not what we should have, an Elective Legislative Council. Would we gain by this innovation? Republicanism is only an extension of the elective principle, and tends only to what is vulgarly, yet emphatically termed, mobocracy. One step in this direction most certainly would be a change in the constitution of the Legislative Council in the way proposed. Following in due course would come an "elective Governor," then elective Sheriffs, and then the same principle applied to the Judges of the land—from which calamity God grant we may be preserved—and thus these Institutions become debased and, as they are wherever the elective principle is carried thus far, become mere receptacles of partisan influence.

If there is any sincerity in our professions of reverence for the British Constitution, we should surely stay and ponder well, before we commit an act which may topple over that fabric as erected in the Province.

The British Constitution, ours is the same, is based on a distinct recognition of three distinct, yet inseparable branches, as necessary to its completeness. The Lords are not more certainly recognised as the conservative branch—the safety valve—than are the Commons, or rather the people, regarded as the legitimate source of all power. The Constitution as we have it, in this particular, has stood, thus long. The nation as healthy, as powerful, as promising as ever, while the neighboring Republic, a giant of rapid growth, enjoying all the benefits to the full extent of the elective system which, but the other day, was boasting that it had outstripped its laggard parent in the race of human progress, seems about to founder under the weight of the first great difficulty it has had to encounter.

Are we not right in suspecting danger from such a material change in our Constitution. Our Legislation let it be remembered is not for ourselves, but for our posterity and for the stranger who cometh to our shores. For ourselves the effects for good or ill that follow such a change, are not for a day. For all time, the country we leave behind will be affected. To extend the elective principle to the Legislative Council, is to make it but a counterpart of the Lower House—the creature of the same breath, and therefore would render it unnecessary.

Still we are far from content with the Legislative Council as it has been and, although it now contains gentlemen who for scholarly attainments, ability as debaters, skill in comprehending the requirements of the country can scarcely be surpassed, and who are alive to the responsibility which attaches to their position, and who with becoming dignity set about the work they have to do, still we think an improvement on the course hitherto pursued in many of the appointments might be made. The Legislative Council should be something more than a velvet cushioned shell on which, in their declining years, worn-out party-men may be laid away, carefully, to rest, or where men who doubt their popularity may, by their vote in the lower, open up to their aspiring ambition the permanent luxury, and sloth, and twenty shillings a day, of the upper regions.

We should like to see a measure adopted which would ensure a certain amount of change at certain periods, so that the place would not be a life-long one—so that new element would be added now and again, and that element of the right sort—men of business habits—of stirring and comprehensive intelligence, men who would dignify the place, not be dignified by it. Such a man as Mr. Mitchell is a fair sample of the kind of stuff we recommend—such men as there are already many there, making their Chamber a source of pride to the country.

Of the result of the introduction into Canada of the system we are not in a position to speak positively, although, from what we can learn, it is not very popular; but its present success here or there does not alter the general tendency of the principle. There is one point on which it is essential the truth should be known. The Legislative Council as it is, and as it must be, under our present form of Government can not be entirely unaffected by wholesome public opinion, but to the popular will it must pay a certain amount of respect.

The foregoing is not by any means the result of a hastily formed opinion, last winter, we expressed ourselves distinctly, as opposed to the Elective principle being applied to the House of Assembly, and have, in writing, only carried out the intention then expressed.

We cannot do better in closing this article than quote the following just remarks from the Colonial Presbyterian:—

"In the absence of political maneuvering, in eschewing all low and vulgar language, and in calm and elevated discussion, it appears to me that the Council is far superior to the House of Assembly. For this reason, I think the Government, for the time being, should be careful in elevating men to this branch. It is an insult to the honorable gentlemen who compose the Council, and indeed to every patriotic and right-minded citizen, to see men of vulgar cast of mind, men of little or no intelligence, men of low social position, introduced into this branch. The men so introduced will speak for themselves, and they will speak against the Government to whom they owe their elevation. I should like to see at least one asylum for honorable, gentlemanly and high-minded debate, preserved under the constitution. I should like to be permitted to be thankful that we have a Legislative Council is for those who administer the Government from time to time to see to this. It is for the people who wish to see preserved here a miniature of the British Constitution," to help them to do so.—Above all, let the press secure this boon to the people."

Colonial News

Mr. Hart, of Wallace River, a very old eccentric inhabitant of that neighbourhood, died about a fortnight since. The deceased, who was over 90 years of age, had worked all his life at the problem of perpetual motion, at which he was engaged even the day previous to his death, saying that he had only a few more wheels to make to complete his machine. He fell dead the next day from his chair. Many years ago he was in the English mail steamer, by the British government, to explain his plans there. He was buried, at his own request, on one of the most lofty peaks of the Cobeguid Mountains, in his ordinary clothes, at a depth of 12 feet below the surface, and the grave marked by a large hemlock tree growing near the spot, which, by his directions, was cut into lengths of 10 and 12 feet and laid over the grave.—Halifax Sun.

A man named Patrick O'Neill, of Milltown, St. Stephen, was brought before Justices Street, Bradley, and Fitzgerald, on a charge of soliciting, two soldiers stationed in this Garrison, to desert. The fact was proved against him and he was fined £20, or 3 months in Jail. O'Neill paid the fine and was discharged.—Standard.

THE RECIPROcity TREATY.—A telegram from Washington dated Feb. 19th, says that the report by Mr. Ward on the reciprocity treaty, recommends the appointment of three Commissioners to meet a like number on behalf of Great Britain, to regulate the commerce and navigation between Her Majesty's possessions in North America and the United States, and to make them reciprocally beneficial and satisfactory, as was intended by