

## LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

FREDERICTON, April 19.—The committee appointed to investigate the charges against Chief Commissioner Emmerson met this morning. All were present and Mr. Carvell was elected chairman. Geo. Y. Dibblee was appointed clerk and F. H. Risteen and Miss Mowat stenographers.

The chairman read the resolution of Mr. Emmerson, which included the charges made by Mr. Hazen.

Mr. Hazen claimed the right to appear by counsel as well as by person if he wished to do so.

Mr. Tweedie Stated Mr. Pugsley had been retained by the Chief Commissioner but as he (Pugsley) was engaged elsewhere to-day he (Tweedie) would act for him. Mr. Tweedie said Mr. Hazen should give the names of all witnesses whom he wished to call at once, so as to save delay.

Mr. Hazen, in reply, stated he would be able to give the names of some witnesses by Friday morning, but did not think he should be compelled to give the names of all, as matters might turn up from time to time as investigation progressed which would make it unnecessary for other witnesses to attend.

Mr. Veniot thought Mr. Hazen should have the names of all his witnesses in not later than Friday.

Mr. Carvell agreed with Mr. Veniot and he said some of them should be given to-day. He said that in a court of law counsel was supposed to have the names of witnesses when cases were opened.

Other members of the committee supporting the government made their statement.

Mr. Tweedie saw no reason why the names of some witnesses should not be given to committee by Mr. Hazen this morning, and thought when he had been endeavoring to make charges since the early days of the session he should have been ready to go ahead now, as members were anxious to get home to attend to their businesses. And, he stated, that if it took until next fall the committee would stay and investigate the matter. He believed the opposition were trying to delay the matter.

Mr. Shaw thought it was not fair of Tweedie to say the opposition wanted to delay. What they wanted was a fair investigation, and they did not want to be crowded out at the start.

Mr. Hazen undertook to give a list of witnesses for Friday as far as he knew them at that date, but would not agree not to ask for an adjournment in order to get witnesses here.

Mr. Tweedie did not think that when the committee once started it should adjourn from day to day to wait for witnesses, some of whom lived outside of the province and might be considerable time in getting here. He thought that when Mr. Hazen once started he should be able to keep the committee supplied with witnesses without delay.

Mr. Robinson expressed the same opinion.

In reply to the chairman Mr. Hazen said if the committee adjourned till Friday he would try and have witnesses here that day, but if not ready by then he would have them by Monday at the latest. He wanted a list of tenders and other papers relating to the different public works mentioned in the charges.

The Provincial Secretary stated he would have all the necessary papers here and Mr. Emmerson's side would so conduct the examination that there would be no delay on their part.

The meeting adjourned until Friday morning at ten o'clock in order to give Mr. Hazen a chance to get a list of witnesses, and Mr. Hazen promised to do his best to have the case opened that day.

FREDERICTON, April 21.—Mr. Veniot, from the standing rules committee, and Mr. McKeown, from the municipalities committees, submitted reports.

Mr. Dunn introduced a bill further amending the general mining act.

Mr. Humphrey moved, seconded by Mr. Glasier, for a statement by the chief engineer giving the estimated weight of the metal in each of the three spans of the substructure of the Kingston bridge now under construction.

Mr. Emmerson said that while willing at all times to furnish every possible information that was in the public interest he could not consent to comply with the present motion. It would not be in the public interest that he should do so. The bridge was under construction and it was not desirable that the contractors should know what the government's estimate of the weight of the span was. There could be no objection to giving the information when the bridge was completed.

## SECRET BALLOT.

Mr. Hazen, seconded by Mr. Melanson, moved his secret ballot resolution. Mr. Hazen said he thought it was desirable to have a secret ballot for provincial elections, similar to that now used in Dominion elections. There was no secrecy about the present system, which had originated 40 years ago, when conditions were different. To-day there were so many large corporations, factories and railway companies that there was not the same freedom of choice as formerly. In nearly every civilized country the secret ballot has been adopted.

Hon. Mr. White said the Liberal party was something accused, since its accession to power of borrowing the policy of the Conservatives. The resolution of the honorable member indicated that he had become a convert to Liberal modes of thinking. The present dominion ballot became law under a Liberal government. He (White) did not wish to be understood as favoring the repeal of the present dominion ballot. It was sometimes the case that an existing law should not be repealed, though if it were not in existence it ought not, perhaps, to be enacted. If it was proposed to repeal the present local ballot system some serious and substantial arguments that would overbalance the expense and inconvenience of the change should be shown. The honorable member was taking a great risk in laying down as the foundation stone of his proposed law that the voter should be enabled to exercise his franchise.

## IN FRAUD AND CONCEIT.

Would any one venture to say that, under the present dominion secret ballot, elections are less corrupt than under the local system? The very reverse is the case. There may be other arguments that could be advanced in favor of a change, but the honorable members argument was not sufficient. It did not require a great deal of penetration to discern why the honorable member introduced this motion at the present time. The effect of this passage would be a declaration of admission on the part of the house that they were returned at an election where the voters were intimidated. He could quite well understand that the honorable member and his party might not be satisfied with the present law. Although he (White) would not ask the house to vote against the resolution he felt that it was a matter requiring very careful consideration. The matter of expense alone was one that should make the house hesitate. He would therefore move in amendment, seconded by Mr. Farris, that further debate and consideration of the resolution be adjourned until this day three months.

Mr. McKeown said he thought when this motion was presented that some good reasons would be urged for the adoption of so vital a change. The honorable leader of the opposition could not divest the motion from a certain suspicion of political influence. It was all very well to allege high ideals and to cover up political designs with a cloak of patriotism. The house was not unaware that subsequent to the recent election the opposition supporters and the press had made certain grave and startling charges. He had hoped the honorable member would have ventilated those charges to-day so that they could either be substantiated or disproved. A great deal of latitude is customarily allowed defeated parties in explaining their defeat, but there should be some limit to the gravity and

## FREQUENCY OF SUCH CHARGES.

Mr. Osman said it was not a pleasant thing for the honorable members to turn around and abuse the bridge that had carried them safely into the house. In his own county he had never heard any objection to the present law. In fact, he had most emphatic evidence in his possession that the present system was satisfactory. The evidence he was going to produce was a letter he had received from a very old and valued friend, who was so hearty in his approval of the election that he commences by thanking God:

"MAPLE GROVE, Feb. 27, 1899.

"DEAR MR. OSMAN—How thankful we all are to God for the great victory gained over our political foes. You laid Triton and Napoleon Peck prostrate on the field of battle. They met their Waterloo and their bones are now bleaching on the battle field. Foster, Hazen, Stockton and Company have been swept from the earth by the storm of public opinion and they are sunk deeper than the buried cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii, and buried beneath the ashes of a New Brunswick Vesuvius. They sleep their last sleep. They have fought their last battle, and no earthly trump can wake them again to glory. They have fallen like the leaves to rise no more. So be it and so it is. Amen." (Great laughter and applause.)

Mr. Tweedie said, if candidates wished to run a pure election in any county, they could do so under the ballot system of New Brunswick as well as under any other system. If a voter wished to keep his ballot secret, he could do so as well under the New Brunswick law as any other. He had yet to learn that many voters were intimidated. Certainly, as far as his experience went, civil servants were not interfered with unless they took an active part. He had yet to find that either government—whether Liberal or Conservative—interfered with one man who exercised the right to vote and nothing more.

## MR. ROBINSON.

Mr. Robinson said the county of Westmorland had received undeserved notoriety by reason of the misleading reports published in the Montreal Star. It was stated in that paper by Mr. Sumner that he (Robinson) had personally intimidated men in the city of Moncton—that he personally took the ballot out of the hand of a voter and compelled him to vote in opposition to his wishes. He (Robinson) wished to take this opportunity of denying that statement. He wished to state that he did not, in that election nor in any election, take a ballot out of any voter's hand in Westmorland nor any other county, and to state further that he had

offered a ballot to an elector who had none and it was taken out of his hand by the other party, and that was done in the case of several voters. In the election which he had run in 1896, with the whole power of the Dominion government against him employees of the I. C. R. came to him and said that the authorities were after them and were going to send them to Campbellton, and they did not know what to do, and he had told them to go out on their trains, that he could afford to lose their votes better than they could afford to lose their positions. (Applause.) He did not squeal after that election nor accuse his opponent of intimidation. It was well known that in that election the employees of the I. C. R. had been sent away by scores and kept walking the streets at Campbellton all day, and by that means he lost his election. It seemed to him that at the present time when this power of

## THE LIST AT MONCTON.

abuse was taken out of the hands of the Conservative party, it ill became them to whine. Everybody in Moncton at least knew about the list marked "O" and "X" that was handed in to the train despatcher and how Liberal voters were sent out of town and Conservative voters brought in. He could recite a list of such transactions as long as his arm. The Liberal party in Westmorland did not squeal but took the medicine. In the recent election nothing of the kind was done, but the railway men in Moncton were allowed to vote as they pleased, and he wished to say that when any newspaper said that the employees of the I. C. R. in Moncton were men that could be coerced, they were insulting manhood and intelligence. In 1896, with all the power of the dominion government against him he had got a majority of the votes of these men. He knew them all personally and he wanted to say that there was not a better class of people to be found in Canada. They could not be coerced by any government. Let the attempt be made, and it would be found that they had too much manhood and hardihood to be coerced. (Robinson) thought the

## THE PROVINCIAL SYSTEM SECRET.

present provincial ballot system was far superior in point of secrecy to the dominion ballot system. He knew that from actual observation. Under the dominion law, a partizan returning officer can see how every man votes. Under the provincial system, the voter can write his ballot at home and no one can tell how he cast it. The amendment should receive the support of the house for that very reason. His honorable friend (Melanson) the other day spoke of seeing visions. Now, he held in his hand a little piece of paper marked "confidential" but which he would read to the house. It contained the minutes of a meeting held on June 25th, 1890, of the supporters of the local government in the W. C. T. U. hall, Moncton. At that meeting the following resolution was passed:—

"Resolved, That this convention of supporters of the present local administration of New Brunswick desire to place on record its appreciation of the government's course in the general management of the affairs of this province, and pledges itself to extend to the government its hearty support."

By whom was that motion made? By Mr. Melanson, who spoke in favor of it, seconded by Mr. Killam. (Laughter and applause.) He thought somebody else must have, about that time, seen a vision, for within a few days after the passing of that resolution, the honorable gentleman was opposed to the government. (Laughter and applause.)

## OTHER SPEAKERS.

The debate was continued by Messrs. Melanson, Veniot, Burchill, Carvell, Gibson, Humphrey, Wells and Porter, and Mr. Hazen closed the discussion in a lengthy speech. The amendment was carried, the vote being 35 to 5.

After this the house advanced several matters a stage.

Mr. Humphrey gave notice of inquiry. Have contracts been let for any other steel bridges, superstructures, than the Kingston bridge? To whom have such contracts been let? What is the length of each span and the estimated weight of metal in each, and the total cost of each superstructure? Adjourned.

## A BUSINESS MAN'S FAITH.

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The Elder-Dempster Company Beaver Line SS 'Lake Superior' sailed from Larnaca, Island of Cyprus, Monday with about 1,000 Doukhobors, and is due at Quebec about May 7. She will sail on her return voyage for Liverpool direct.

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Hood's Pills cure liver ills; the non-irritating and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.



Fame is a glorious thing to achieve, but a small salary is more negotiable.

Know thyself, and keep information to thyself. This is good advice.

'That beats me,' the drum said, confidentially, referring to the rosewood stick.

He—"Do cigarettes make you ill?" She—"No; but the people who smoke them do."

'I'm not in it' said the traveller, as he stood on the station platform and watched the last train disappear in the distance.

It is poor consolation to the girl who has been stung by a bee to know that bees are partial to sweet things.

Never be at your place of business when a person wants to borrow money of you, because if you are in you will be out, but if you are out you will be in.

Dyspepsia and disappointment in love seem to produce the same outward effect. The difference between them is the dyspepsia is very hard to cure.

A newly-started paper delicately announces that its charge for marriage notices is 'just what the ecstasy of the bridegroom may prompt.'

'Mauma, I saw a dog to-day that had only three legs.'

'Weren't you awfully sorry for him?'

'No'm he had one more leg than I had.'

Dolly: 'The man I marry must be handsome, brave and clever.'

FitzBones: 'Dear me! How fortunate we have met!'

If you want to see austere simplicity and child-like innocence depicted upon the human countenance, try to get a look at a man when he is taking up £10 worth of change for a £5 note.

Jules: 'Suppose you heard Waveley's insolvent?'

Venus: 'No. What swamped him?'

Jules: 'Milliners' bills. He married the two-headed girl.'

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Gentleman (looking over apartments) — "This is rather a large cupboard, isn't it? Do nicely for clothes and things."

Landlady (with great indignation) — "Sir, this is not a cupboard; this is a sitting-room."

He: 'That fellow over there cheated me out of a cool million.'

She: 'How could that be?'

He: 'Wouldn't let me marry his daughter.'

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Ladies' " " " "  
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Men's and Boy's Hats and Caps.

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