

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

Old Series]

Narancorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES

New Series, Vol. VI.]

MIRAMICHI, SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1850.

[NUMBER 36.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1850.

OUR ELECTION.

Wednesday last being the day set apart by the High Sheriff of the County, for the nomination of Candidates to Represent this County in the General Assembly of the Province, after the preliminary arrangements had been got through, the following Gentlemen were proposed in the order in which they appear.

Hon. ALEX. RANKIN.—Proposed by John Nesmith, Esq., and seconded by Roderick McLeod Esq.

JOHN A. STREET, Esq.—Proposed by Alex. McLaggan, Esq., and seconded by Mr George Whitney.

Hon. JOSEPH CUNARD.—Proposed by Mr John Bagnal, seconded by John Porter, Esq.

WILLIAM CARMAN, Esq.—Proposed by Mr John Macdougall, and seconded by Thomas W. Underhill, Esq.

MARTIN CRANNEY, Esq.—Proposed by Alex. Davidson, Jun., Esq., and seconded by Mr Patrick Lawler.

JOHN M. JOHNSON, Jun., Esq.—Proposed by Mr Michael Seale, and seconded by Mr Simon Hamilton.

Mr RICHARD SUTTON.—Proposed by Mr A. Mitchell, and seconded by Mr John Decartelon.

JOHN T. WILLISTON, Esq.—proposed by Mr Peter Gray, and seconded by Mr Peter Walsh.

ALEX. GOODFELLOW, Esq.—Proposed by Mr Rowland Crocker, and seconded by Mr Peter Gray.

Mr JOHN HEA.—Proposed by Mr Joseph R. Hea, and seconded by Mr William Parker.

JAMES FRASER, Esq.—Proposed by Mr Hiram Fish, seconded by Mr William Masson.

A large assemblage of persons being present—and the Court House not sufficiently capacious to hold them with comfort, it was suggested that the Candidates should address the people in the open air, in front of the building. This was agreed to, and a table being placed on the platform, the respective candidates stood on it while they addressed the audience.

The best of feeling existed—each candidate spoke unchecked by any serious interruption—while all appeared deeply interested in being made acquainted with the political views of the respective Candidates; and when any sentiment was uttered by them, coinciding with popular feeling, it was loudly applauded.

We have witnessed many similar scenes in Northumberland, but we have never seen the constituency so thoroughly awake to their own interest—so conversant with public matters—and so determined to act (as freeholders should always act) fearlessly and independently, untrammelled by those influences which have hitherto guided—we would say controlled—all former elections. There was one new feature—which pleased us much—many questions were asked the candidates in reference to their former acts and deeds; and their intended course of action, should they be returned, on various matters.

It is a source of satisfaction to every individual who takes an interest in our

well-being, that matters were brought to so peaceful a termination; and we trust the same independent bearing, similar order, and propriety of conduct will be observed at the respective polling stations.

We publish this half-sheet to-day, at considerable trouble, to put our readers in possession of the sentiments of their respective Candidates at as early a day as possible, so that they may make a judicious selection.

We have done our duty to the country, by arousing the attention of the people to the alarming state of the Province, and by pointing out the remedies necessary to bring about a more wholesome state of things. We trust, *servently trust*, the Freeholders will perform theirs, by being true to themselves, and vote as their consciences, common sense, and duty dictates.

The only Candidate whose qualification was tested was John T. Williston, Esq.

Hon. ALEX. RANKIN was the first who addressed the Freeholders, which he did briefly, as follows:—

Gentlemen Freeholders of the County of Northumberland.—After having represented you in the General Assembly of the Province for the period of twenty three years, and having, after such a protracted period of service, wished to retire from public life, increasing years, and latterly ill health, being inducements thereto—many old and respected friends, Freeholders of the County, having expressed their wishes that I should again allow myself to be nominated as a candidate for the representation of the County, I am now again, after such nomination, before you.

Gentlemen, you all know me; my conduct as your representative during the period alluded to, is known to you, and I trust has been of such a character as to meet your approval. I trust my past conduct will be a guarantee for the future, and wherever the interests of the County are concerned, I shall always be an undividing advocate.

Hon. JOSEPH CUNARD. This gentleman, occupied the platform for a considerable time—and said—

He hoped the Freeholders would make ample allowance for his present position. He had been put in nomination unexpectedly, by two old, and tried friends, and was therefore not prepared to address them. Considering his present circumstances, he thought it prudent to remain in private life, but would avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded him, to return thanks to those two worthy friends, as well as to hundreds of Freeholders, for the very satisfactory testimonies, the honorable position they placed him in, and for their promises of support in votes and money. If he were now in the same circumstances as he were a few years ago, nothing would gratify him more, than to have an opportunity to grapple with the abuses under which the Province now unfortunately labored. He begged his friends to withdraw him, and reiterated his sense of the honor conferred on him.

Being called upon to give his views on the state of the Province, he said—he did not think the evils which existed were incurable, and thought the Legislature could effect much by prudent and judicious action. Effects should be made to obtain for us Free Trade, particularly with the Americans. We require a union of the Colonies, which would give us strength and importance, and efforts should be made to compel the British nation and government to do us justice. It was impossible for us to conduct a trade, without protection, which compelled us to cross an ocean 3000 miles, for a market. Free Trade with the U. S. would do us much good, and to effect this, Delegates ought to be appointed to shew the Americans the value of our Fisheries, which would give employment to a large number of men. We have the finest ship timbers in the world, and it ought to be shewn to them that a ship could be put in frame, for less money than it would cost them to bring the timbers out of their forests to market.—This would induce them to have their ships built here, and introduce capital in the Province for other branches of trade. The resources of this Province were more valuable than those of the state of Maine, and they could also carry on a successful trade in coal, gypsum, &c. We would have an example be-

fore us of American enterprise, which would be highly beneficial.

Responsible Government, according to its working in this Province, he said, was absurd—there was no soundness or consistency in it. The Government should have the Initiative of the Money Grants, but under the present system, the country had been brought into debt, owing to the scramblings which took place in the Committee rooms for money. The Province he considered to be in a most deplorable state, and if some relief be not speedily obtained, it would be worse. He was favorable to the reduction of official salaries. £500 now was equal to £700 a few years ago. The trade is now taxed beyond endurance. The duties on the necessities of life were entirely too high and ought to be reduced. Our local affairs are also in a most wretched condition—he would have the Magistrates turned out, root and branch. The county was enslaved, and if there were not a speedy alteration, no man of spirit would reside in it.

The Hon. gentleman then detailed at considerable length the actions of some of the Magistrates—the affair between the Sessions and the Board of Health, and several other matters. He closed by saying—He looked on the proceedings of this day as most auspicious for the liberties of the people. He felt convinced they would act independently, and that no undue force or influence brought against them, would induce them to swerve from the path of duty.

RICHARD HUTCHISON, Esq., who had been personally alluded to by Mr Cunard, requested to be heard in reply. An arrangement was entered into, that he should address the Freeholders after the Candidates had closed their speeches.

Mr CARMAN spoke for some time. We give a synopsis of his remarks:—

That as so much time had been occupied by previous speakers, and as there were a number yet to speak, he would be as brief as possible. He regretted that the time would not permit him to explain his views as fully and explicitly as he could wish. He said he had not, like his former colleagues who had preceded him, any claim upon the constituency of the county for long services; and he appeared before them with his portion of the sins of the last House to answer for. He then alluded to his election in 1846—the general satisfaction he had given from that time up to the last session of the Legislature, and called upon the people to state what objections they had to his conduct during that Session. He spoke of the present excitement raised against the old House; admitted that there was extravagance arising out of our system, but did not believe that the corruption spoken of really existed—at all events he was ignorant of it. That while such men as his former colleagues, whose veracity and integrity were well known, and whose pecuniary situation placed them above suspicion, were put upon the contingent committees, it was a sufficient guarantee to him, that speculation and plunder did not exist—that every item of the contingent bill underwent a rigid scrutiny before the Committee—was then reported to the House, and published in detail in the Journals. Mr Carman then alluded to several of his acts during the last four sessions, and asked the constituency to judge him by his conduct during that period, and not by a single vote, or any dereliction of duty on his part during the last Session. He was not aware of having neglected his duty—he could safely say that he had done more work during the last session than any other member in the House, unconnected with the Government. The first session that he had the honor of holding a seat in the House, he had attacked the system that then existed of the monopoly of Timber Licenses, and had brought down on himself the displeasure of both the then rival firms in this county. He led the way, and gave the people an opportunity of following it up, but although the people of Restigouche petitioned the House the following Session, praying that the system might be altered, *not one solitary petition was sent from this county*; and as his views had not been supported by his constituents, he was compelled to let the matter drop, and now, if they had anything to complain of, the fault was not his.

He had opposed the St. John and Shediac Railway, believing that it would absorb a large amount of the revenue of the Province, without yielding any return, and would tend to retard the construction of the main trunk from Halifax to Quebec, which he had always most strenuously advocated, believing that its construction would lead to a union of the Colonies, another measure which he had advocated both in and out of the Legislature. He voted against the system of government contained in Earl Grey's despatch in 1848, believing that it could not be advantageously carried out in this Province—that he had since then seen nothing to induce him to alter

his opinion, but as it has been adopted by the Province, he was willing and desirous of giving it a fair trial. Part of that system was the Initiation of Money Grants (as it was termed) by the government—and that during the last session he had voted for the surrender of them by the House—that the most onerous and difficult part of his duty as a Representative was the division of the Bye Road money, generally considered a patronage in the hands of the members, but a patronage that he for one would be thankful to get rid of.

With regard to Municipal Corporations, he was not opposed to them; but thought they should not be thrust upon the people, but that whenever they thought they could bear the expense, and were in a fit state to receive them, and asked for them, they should be granted. That he had voted for the incorporation of Fredericton, as the people had asked for it, and he was willing that the experiment should be tried on a place that received so much of the public money; but he regretted to say it had not been found thus far to work well—the people complained of additional taxation, and had petitioned the Legislature at the last session to repeal the act.

He had great doubts of the propriety of making the Legislative Council Elective. Our constitution was founded upon that of England, and Responsible Government had been introduced, in order to assimilate it more closely, and now, before we had even given it a trial, we were making a change. He was opposed to these rapid changes; but if a thorough change in our constitution was deemed necessary, he had not the slightest objection, as he considered it at present too ponderous and expensive for this small Province. He thought it more than probable a change would take place, as he had observed that a Bill had been introduced into the Legislature of Canada, to separate the Executive from the Legislative functions; this he was desirous to see done in this Province, as he never wanted to see a member of the Government on the floor of the House; they were generally the most talented and influential men in the House; this, combined with the Executive patronage, generally enabled them to command a majority. It had generally been his misfortune to be opposed to the government, but it had been upon principle—that he would not be chained to the cart wheels of any government, neither would he array himself in hostile opposition; but he would judge the measures, not the men; he would support them when he thought them right, and oppose them when he thought them wrong.

Mr Carman then spoke of economy and retrenchment, and the absolute necessity that existed for practising it in every department. He explained the bargain made by our Delegates with the Home Government in 1837, by which we agreed to pay £14,500 for the Civil List, in consideration of the Crown surrendering the Casual and Territorial Revenue, and a large sum of money then in hands, amounting to £130,000—that a new bargain would now have to be made, and he thought we had a fair claim on the Home Government for a reduction of the amount, as they had by the treaty of Washington, deprived us of a tract of country, from which we derived a large portion of our Revenue, and had injured our trade by the alteration in the timber duties.

As to the salary of the Governor, he thought that should be paid by the Home Government, but as it was now chargeable on the Civil List, it would have to be part of the negotiation, and then we would have to drive the best bargain we could. If the right of choosing a Governor in the Province was conceded, then he thought £1,000 quite sufficient; but if a man was sent from home, the salary should be sufficient to induce a man of talent and integrity to accept the office.

An act had passed in 1849, and had received the Royal assent, reducing the salary of the future Judges. Some persons were of opinion that an immediate reduction should take place, but he was not of that opinion. The Judges of the land he looked upon in a different light from all other public officers. Their independence should be maintained; it had been so viewed by the framers of the American constitution, which provided that the salary of the Judges should not be diminished during their incumbency. If he wished to deceive others, he would say it should be immediately done; but he did not wish to do this—he wished them to enquire, and think, and judge for themselves. He had read a debate in the House of Commons on the salary of the Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, which had taken place after the celebrated speech of Lord John Russell on Colonial Government, which satisfied his mind that the Home Government would not allow us to interfere with the salaries of the present Judges. He looked upon an immediate reduction of the salaries of the Judges as a dangerous precedent; it would have a tendency to make them subservient to the House