

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

We have devoted considerable space to-day to Legislative matters. Among our extracts will be found the speeches of Messrs. Street, Ritchie, Johnson, Williston and Gordon, on the subject of Municipal Corporations. Our readers will therefore be able to form a pretty correct idea whether those pledges they heard so lavishly on the hustings by some of those parties, have been fulfilled. We perceive the Government is succeeding in carrying this bill through, notwithstanding the spirited opposition the liberal members have made against its numerous imperfections.—Should the bill pass in its present shape, it will remain a *dead letter*, for those parties who are desirous of necessary reforms, and claim the privilege of managing their own local affairs, will not accept it.

Next week we shall publish some of the debates on the European and North American, and Saint Andrew's Railroad Facility Bills. We perceive the Council have passed both those bills without a division. There has been a most extraordinary change in the opinions of more than one of our members since they left home, on the utility of those measures. The atmosphere of Fredericton must possess most wonderful influence, for it changes the complexion of men's expressed opinions in a wonderful short space of time.

We publish the Revenue Bill. It appears to have been framed to suit the region of St. John, and consequently will bear heavily on the inhabitants on this side of the Province.

Since the above was put in type, we obtained the following communication from a Correspondent. We are glad to perceive that the opposition has succeeded in their efforts to put the Municipal Corporation Bill into an acceptable shape. It still requires considerable alterations to make it palatable.

FREDERICTON, March 26, 1851.

Dear Sir,—Since I last wrote, the House of Assembly has been busily engaged on many important measures, and much important business has been transacted, although little can be done before 12 o'clock in the day, in consequence of the Scrutiny Committees being engaged up to that hour. The European and North American Railway Facility Bill has passed the House and Legislative Council; the majority in the Assembly was overwhelming, 27 to 5. All your members voted in the majority. The St. Andrews and Quebec Railway Bill has also passed the House, but with a smaller majority. Three of your members voted for it, and Johnson against it.

A Bill to grant a loan by Provincial Debentures to the City of Fredericton, of £12,000, for 10 years, to enable the sufferers by the late fire to rebuild with brick or stone, passed the House, and was read as engrossed to-day. On this Bill also your members voted as in the St. Andrews Railway Bill, 3 to 1.

The Municipal Bill has been twice committed since I last wrote, and to-day considerable progress was made in it. Needham moved that the Bill should go into operation in all the Counties, unless at a County meeting it should be determined not to take it, and on dividing the House he and Johnson alone supported the motion. Johnson moved that the qualification of a Councillor should be one, instead of three hundred pounds, real estate. This was lost, and the amount ultimately fixed at £150. The qualification of electors is fixed on rate payers on property.

On coming to the 7th section, which provides for the election of Councillors, Johnson moved as an amendment to strike out the section, and introduce another, which provided that the election should be by ballot, and prescribed the mode of taking the ballot, &c. There was much discussion upon the amendment, and it was ultimately adopted by a respectable majority, the Attorney General and Rankin voting against, and Williston and Johnson, with the Provincial Secretary, for it. The 10th section was also amended so as to admit all rate payers on property in the Parish to vote. Other alterations of less magnitude were made, such as providing that the rate payers should choose their own chairman, that the Council should only meet twice a year, &c. The 18th section stands next for consideration. This will be altogether changed, and a clause introduced to provide that all parish officers should be elected under the present parish act, and not appointed by the Councillors. I say this will be done, because it was much spoken of in debate to-day, and the Attorney General stated that he was prepared to consent to it. There is, however, no certainty that the Bill will pass; for while the liberal party (called the opposition, and by some called the factious opposition) are anxious to make the Bill what they think the country require, it is nevertheless like tooth drawing to obtain the requisite changes, and unless it can be put in working order, it may be thrown out; and I think this will be better than to disgust the people by sending forth a Bill to give the death-blow to the movement. There is no doubt but Municipal Corporations are absolutely necessary in this country, and just as little doubt that at this or the next Session, they will be established by law. When the Bill was committed on Monday, Ritchie moved in amendment

to the second section, that the Parishes should elect their Officers, and a Council to transact all parochial affairs, and that the rate payers should have the power to tax or assess themselves, by majority, for parochial purposes (such as poor rates, &c.) and that the Councillors so elected should meet at the County Court House twice a year, to manage the County affairs. This would enable each Parish to govern itself locally, without the interference of other parishes or interests, and prevent three or four parishes combining to rule others, in which they have no interest. This amendment was opposed by the Attorney General and Government, and your members voted as usual, three to one.

Yesterday the House went into Committee of Supply, and the School appropriations passed as recommended by the School Committee. Friday is fixed for Supply again.

The School Bill has not yet been committed, and when it is, I have no idea what will be its fate. One thing is certain, that is, if it receives the sanction of the House, it will not satisfy the people, or make any adequate provision for the wants of the country. I admit this is no easy subject to deal with, and that direct taxation, though the true system, cannot with propriety be forced upon the people immediately. Taxation is one of the measures which will be last sanctioned, even by reformers, because it is difficult to persuade mankind that a direct payment of money is at once more equitable in its nature—more effective in carrying out the objects of all taxation, and less expensive to the poor settlers. It is a measure which can only be well carried out when the public mind is fully prepared, and then they will ask for it. Municipal Corporations will at once prepare them for it, and give them the means of discussing its merits, and testing public opinion by the voice of majorities.

A good deal is said in the public prints about the length of the present session; but I do not think sufficient allowance is made for the great political questions and constitutional changes proposed. These are greater in number and importance than introduced at any former session; and though more time is spent in talk than could be wished, yet it is important that every change should be well discussed before its adoption or rejection; and it is generally found that those members who declaim most against long speeches, talk most and say least on almost every question. Some members who are acquainted with the theory of our constitution, and can judge accurately of measures and their practical results, would not be doing their duty by remaining silent; and others, who dread all changes, and are opposed to what they term innovations, deem it necessary to warn reformers of dangers in advance. In short, we have Railroad men, who wish us to advance physically and politically by steam, and the snail-going, *old school* men, who despise any rapid progression in or through the country. One class are continually tugging in the political traces, another as constantly holding back in the breeching, and a third, who being doubtful, are content to remain quietly in the legislative vehicle, and take their chance whether it be dragged forward or pushed back. These latter persons will ere long have to decide, because unless they lend a hand to pull the car ahead, they will assuredly be thrown off to lighten the load.

Thursday Evening, 27th March.—Since writing the above, the Municipal Bill has been again committed, and agreed to with numberless amendments. The Bill is by no means what it should be, but is at least 200 per cent. better than brought in by the Government. It is, in fact, a different creature, bearing no affinity or relationship to the printed Bill introduced. The one confined the election of councillors to land-holders, and house holders, who voted *viva voce*; the Councillors required real estate to the amount of three hundred pounds; the appointment of parish officers was vested in the Councillors; the Councillors had power to assess the different parishes for local purposes; and also to appoint a County Surveyor, who should report all necessary work, and whose interest it would be to create work. The present bill gives the right to vote to all rate payers on property, who elect the councillors and all Parish Officers, by ballot. The qualification of a Councillor is only one hundred and fifty pounds, and they are to remain in office one year; they cannot assess for parish purposes unless with the consent of the parish Councillors. The Attorney General introduced several amendments himself, having ascertained the tone of the house. It really appears that this measure has been forced from the Government. You know what enemy both members of the Government from your quarter have ever manifested to popular reform, and self-government in particular; and I believe they have now given just as little of it as they found necessary to carry the Bill through. They would have manifested more skill had they measured the amount before introducing the Bill, and not proceeded step-by-step, estimating by one day's discussion what would be necessary for the next. They have succeeded with ill grace.

I stated at the beginning of this session that all popular measures obtained from this Government would be the result of fear, and not the gift of a free-will offering at the altar of popularity. I look upon the changes submitted in the fundamental and vital principles of this Bill, as a complete denial of Responsible Government by our present administration. I admit that changes in details might fairly have been submitted to; but I deny that the Government can bring down a measure in the shape of a mere right to elect Councillors, and which took from the people

the right to elect parish officers, and then not only submit not only to that right being retained, but extended to all parish offices; a Bill which confined the franchise to land and house-holders, and then, not only submit to an extension of that franchise, but the introduction of an entirely new principle, viz:—the vote by Ballot. In short, I look upon the security of popular rights and liberal privileges, as depending not upon the strength but the weakness of the present Government.

TELESCOPE.

FREDERICTON, 28th March, 1851.

James A. Pierce,
D'Sir,—I beg to call your attention to a communication in your Gleaner under date of the 17th March Inst. under the signature of Sentinel, all I wish is to deny the account given by the author of the way I Voted on that Question. Your Correspondent's Letters are of a piece, as to the Vote it was on the Government Measure asking for an authority to Call Witnesses before a Commission to Enable the Government to, bring in a Law Reform Measure, the Vote was taken to Report progress, and I rose on the Question, with others, and while the Clerk was taking the Question, I sat down, and was talking with Mr Tilley—but it appeared I had sat down before my name had been taken down, and when the Names was Read over I appeared as a Nay, when I had Voted as a Yea, and the Mistake was corrected, as is usual and of frequent occurrence—the whole of which can be known by reference to Mr Tilley, who remembers what took place. * *

Yours truly,
J. T. WILLISTON.

We publish the above in justice to Mr Williston. The communication alluded to, was written by a gentleman residing in Fredericton, who will no doubt be able to explain the matter. It appears to us somewhat strange, that if the Clerk made any mistake in recording Mr Williston's vote, that gentleman did not take the proper means to rectify the error when the Journals of that day were read on the following morning. We have omitted the latter part of Mr W.'s letter, as it is entirely uncalled for. Mr Williston's votes, as recorded on the Journals, will shew whether our correspondent's letters "teem with falsehoods" with reference to him. They cannot, however, be more at variance with truth than Mr W.'s declarations in his Card and on the hustings, and his speeches and acts in the Legislature. As a proof that we are not alone in this opinion, we copy the following from the proceedings of the House on the 24th instant. The subject under discussion was the Municipal Corporation Bill:—

Mr Williston rated the supporters of the amendment just passed as 'factious', doing every thing with a view to put down the Government. If he was a member of the Government he would stand there like a stone rather than be put down by any such means.

Mr Ritchie would ask the hon. member if he knew what a servile supporter of the Government meant, and if he did not think the position was much less honorable than that of one in the opposition—and the worst kind of servile supporters was one who had pledged himself to the contrary to his constituents and had deceived them. (Much laughter.)

Mr Williston denied having pledged himself to oppose the Government.

On the 22nd Mr Williston succeeded in fulfilling one of his engagements. He brought in his bill, "enacting that all payments for Labor shall be made in money."

COUNTY KENT.—Carleton Agricultural Society.—The following is a correct list of the prizes awarded by this Society at their Show of Grains, &c., on the 24th of January last:—
James Patterson, best White Wheat.
John Atkinson, 2nd do. do.
Wm. Bell, (Mason,) best Red do.
Bozil White, 2nd do. do.
Elier Babinot, best Oats.
Wm. Saunders, 2nd do.
Peter Voteur, best Barley.
Martin Flanagan, best Pease.
John Potter, best Clover Seed.
Bozil White, best Timothy Seed.
Wm. Bell, (mason,) best Butter.
Mrs. Grogan, 2nd do. do.
Peter Voteur, best all Wool twilled Homespun.
Peter Voteur, best Cotton and Wool plain Homespun.
Simon Johnstone, best Cotton and Wool twilled Homespun.
John Potter, best White Flannel.
Peter Voteur, best Straw Bonnets.
Joseph Myres, best Straw Hats.
WM. S. CALE, Secretary.

CANADA.—Our exchanges report that the new Postage Law was to go into operation on the 5th April. The Head Quarters of the Department is to be transferred to Toronto. Mr Stayner, formerly Postmaster General, has issued the following circular to the Postmasters throughout the Province:—

"In taking leave of an Establishment over which he has presided for nearly a quarter of a century, the Deputy Post Master General owes it as well to his own feelings as to the merits of those from whom he is about to be

separated, to express his heartfelt acknowledgments for the zealous and efficient support received from his associates throughout an official connection—extending in the case of some of them (though indeed but a few) over the whole of the lengthened period alluded to. It is a satisfaction to the Deputy Post Master General to know, that in relinquishing his charge to a new Administration, he presents it in an effective and a thriving state. The Post Office improvements in Canada, it is believed, have fully kept pace with the growth of the country during the years adverted to. In that period the increase in number of offices, amount of revenue, and number of miles annually travelled by the mails, is more than six hundred per cent! a measure of progress not exceeded by any Public Institution within the Province.

THE RAILROAD.—The following gratifying piece of news was received by us in a Postscript to our Fredericton Correspondent's Letter:

"Telegraphic Despatch to-night—the British Government have consented to guarantee the whole amount for the Halifax and Quebec Railroad at 3½ per cent.—This is certain."

By the mail to-day we shall learn the particulars.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.—John McKenna to be a Coroner for the County of Gloucester, in the room of Dr. Gordon, resigned.

Henry Livingston to be a Coroner for the County of Westmorland.—*Royal Gazette.*

Marriages.

At Saint John's Church, Chatham, on the 26th instant, by the Rev. John McCurdy, Mr. JAMES M. WOLHAUPTER, merchant, Bathurst, to Miss ALEXANDRINA R. THOMSON, youngest daughter of the late Rev. James Thomson of this place.

The above notice was accompanied by a tremendous *junk*—a regular whopper—of beautifully-ornamented Cake, for which "Bob" and the *devil* return their thanks, and "hope for many returns of the season."
"Shakespeare."

At New Bandon, on Friday the 7th inst., by the Rev. George Macdonnell, Mr MATTHEW PARROTT, to Miss FRANCES JANE, youngest daughter of Mr Robert P. Hickson.

DEATHS.

At Caraquet, on the 19th March, Mr JOHN GLOUET, aged eighty years and seventy two days; well known and much respected by those for whom he transacted business as a commission merchant, and by the public in general.

AMATEUR PERFORMANCE

AGAIN!

MORTON'S CELEBRATED COMEDY

OF

"The Road to Ruin,"

Will be performed in the large Temperance Building now in course of erection, near the residence of John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., Chatham, on the evening of

WEDNESDAY, the 2nd APRIL,

At half past 7 o'clock. The PLAY will be followed by COLMAN'S amusing Farce of

"Polly Honeycomb."

Tickets to be had at the stores of Messrs. Johnson & Mackie, Alex. Loudoun, and C. L. Hawbolt, in Chatham; of Mr Alex. Morrison, Douglstown; and of Messrs. P. Mitchell, Jun., and Jonathan Crane, Newcastle.

Price—front seats 2s, back seats 1s. Children admitted at half price.

Chatham, March 29, 1851.

FOR SALE.

A small compact FARM, of about thirty five acres, with a suitable House, Barn, &c., and a large and well-stocked Garden. The Farm is all Fenced in, for the most part cleared and well watered, being bounded on one side by Oxford's Brook, and desirably situated within one mile and a half of Newcastle, on the Chaplin Island Road, known as "Benson's Lot," and lately in the possession of Bryen O'Donnell.

The Farm will be sold on very reasonable terms, either for Cash or by Instalments.

Apply to Mr. SIEVEWRIGHT, Grammar School, Newcastle, or the Proprietor at the Farm.

Buoys and Beacons.

TENDERS will be received at the Store of Mr LEONARD HAWBOLT, until TUESDAY, the 15th day of April next, until the hour of 12 o'clock, noon, for laying down the Buoys and Beacons in their proper places in the Bay and Harbor of Miramichi.

L. HAWBOLT, Commissioner.
Miramichi, March 31, 1851.

Pails! Pails!

The Subscriber having been appointed Agent for the Sale of Pails manufactured at the Provincial Penitentiary, in St. John, will be prepared early in spring to supply PAILS, superior to any similar imported article, as low, if not lower, than can be imported.

WM. J. FRASER.
Chatham, 17th March, 1851.