

POLITICAL NOTES.

A Glance at the Leading Measures Carried in the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, from the Year 1854.

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No. 20.

Session of 1858—The Dismissal of the Sergeant-at-Arms—Quite a Commotion—New School Bill—Contention about the Bible in Schools—Removal of the Seat of Government to St. John—Warm Discussion Thereon.

SESSION OF 1858.

On the 10th of February the Legislature was convened and a lengthy speech delivered by the Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Garden, who had been Sergeant-at-Arms of the House for many years, was superseded in his office by the Government, and the position given to Mr. Coburn. Strong feelings were expressed by the opposition, led by Mr. J. C. Allen and Mr. John H. Gray, and denounced an unprecedented act by any Parliament in the world. The Government, however, was strong in number and voted the opposition resolution down,—14 to 21—whereas had it been carried it would have been tantamount to a want of confidence vote. As there had been several removals from office since the Liberals came into power within a year, the motion just made was brought as a test question. If carried, restoration in all the other cases would have been insisted upon by the opposition.

Early in March the Attorney General (Fisher) introduced a Government measure, entitled "A Bill relating to Parish Schools," which led to a discussion lasting many days, at intervals of time. A recital of the condition of the Schools in 1858, is all that is necessary to enable the educationalists of 1894 to contrast the relative positions. In 1857, £27,889 11s. 6d. was appropriated to education, including all kinds of educational establishments. This was in a population at that time very little exceeding 200,000 persons, and £20,000 was for Parish Schools alone. This expenditure required a corresponding oversight, supervision and control in order properly to benefit the country. In proportion to the population from 32,000 to 33,000 children ought to be attending school, which was the most that could be expected to attend. In 1857, according to returns made, over 29,000 children attended the public schools, which were 773 in number. No system it is remarked, could be perfected at any one time. None ever had been. Take Nova Scotia or Canada for instance. There was probably no better system of Education in the world in 1858 than that of Canada West. That system under the care of a very able man had been growing for 12 or 14 years. In 1846 it was in a very chaotic condition, even with a perfect system of Municipal Government, which taught the people the virtue of self reliance. In this Province up to 1844 there was little or no change in our educational system. There was no classification and no arrangement. There was but one salary for teachers (£26). The only control over the schools was by Trustees. In 1845 and 1846 certain leading men considered the question of education had grown to greater importance, and in 1846 a Report of a Committee of the House of the Assembly was embodied into a Bill, which was considered by the House and lost. This, however, broke the ground for the new system. In 1847 there was another Report and a law was enacted providing very many of the parts of the law then existing.

It is not necessary to notice more particularly the amendments suggested in the old law by the Government to render applicable the scope and genius of the present Bill to the requirements of the day. It is enough to remark that the passage of this measure in 1858, with its improved machinery, paved the way for the School Law as it exists in 1894—for with few exceptions, such as general taxation for educational purposes, Superintendent, his duties, &c.—the Acts are very similar. Every amendment proposed by the Opposition was voted down. "Religion" and "Morality" formed two of the staples in the discussion, and caused much asperity and bitterness, in which strong sectarian feeling was exhibited throughout. No matter what the faith of politicians—whether they were religious or not religious, they all had something to say about the Bible, and that that book must be maintained at all hazards, as the bulwark of all sound education. But there were those who did not want the Bible at all in schools, unless upon certain conditions. Others that its use should be made optional with the Teachers. It did not, however, signify with members generally how the Bible should be treated. Their sincerity rested upon their political faith altogether. As an example, Mr. Gray would make it compulsory that in all schools alike the Bible should be read; while in opposition to this view, a Roman Catholic gentleman said that if this were done it would be an insult to his co-religionists. Another Roman Catholic gentleman on the same political side with Mr. Gray, would also make it compulsory that the Bible should be read in schools. To test the question, Mr. Gray moved an

amendment to the following section:—"No pupil is required to read or study in or from any religious book, or join in any act of devotion objected to by his parents or guardians." Mr. Gray's amendment to this section is as follows:—"That a portion of the Scriptures should be read by every Teacher to the pupils in the Parish Schools every morning on the assembling of the School. The longest debate upon any section of the Bill turned upon this Bible issue; but the amendment was finally voted down. On the 25th March, Mr. McLeod (King's) moved a resolution for the removal of the Seat of Government to St. John. As this question came up again in 1880 on the burning of the old Parliament buildings, it may be of some interest to the Politician of the present day to read what was said upon the subject a quarter of a century ago.

Mr. McLeod on speaking to his resolution said in substance he had no interest in this question himself, more than for the public good, and he moved this resolution to set a vexed question at rest. The House was no longer commodious or convenient. Its narrow capacity and fetid atmosphere were most uncomfortable and unhealthy. The sums annually expended here for repairs and other purposes would be more than necessary to pay for a better place elsewhere. The majority of the people coming either to the Legislature or the Public Offices, had to pass through St. John, and it would be cheaper and more convenient to them to stop there. At least £800 a year could be saved in printing; £800 a year in repairs; and the Treasurer and Railway Commissioners being in St. John, they could be more conveniently consulted there.

Mr. End hoped the question would be now settled once and forever. He had made up his mind in regard to the general interests of the country, and not on mere local considerations. Every stranger praised the present site of the Seat of Government, and commended the selection of our ancestors. This House gave better accommodation than given by many of the New England States; and as to the atmosphere, it could not be compared with that of St. John—the foggy atmosphere of St. John. As to its size, the House was large enough for its members. The sum of £14,000 had been borrowed for certain purposes in Fredericton. It destroyed the value of property here could they ask the return of this sum? (Cries of no, no.) They would sacrifice Fredericton without benefiting St. John, and certainly this was not desirable. There was no pressure on this subject. There was not a petition on the table respecting it. We had an enormous debt, with an interest of a hundred pounds a day. (Mr. Johnstone—you only double it.) A mere denial of his hon. friend did not satisfy him, for he had made a calculation, if in error, he should be glad to be corrected. Well, we are going now to enter into an expense of £100,000, while we had scarcely a road or bridge in the Province, and we were to do this to get rid of a little fetid air, and to convenience a few members who had to come through to St. John? Fredericton was as central a place as could be found, and the river was a magnificent highway to it. He referred to the Legislatures of the United States, nearly all of which were situated at rural towns, and not at centres of commerce and industry. He had no local or monetary interest in the matter; he looked at it simply as a matter of justice, and he hoped it would be settled as his hon. friend had said "once and forever."

Mr. Kerr felt a difficulty in voting on this subject, because he believed it would cause great expense. No arrangements had been made at St. John, and if this resolution passed, those who had suitable places in St. John would immediately raise the value of them fifty or a hundred per cent. The Halifax Legislative Buildings cost £120,000; and unless he knew what his constituents and the country thought of the matter, he would not support the motion. He thought, too, some notice should be given to the people of Fredericton, so that as little injury as possible should be done to private interests.

The Provincial Secretary was prepared to vote on this subject and in favour of it. A large portion of his constituents were indifferent on this question; as to the people of Fredericton they would not suffer by it as was supposed. The only doubt he ever had on the subject arose from a fear that in a large city there might be external pressure brought to bear on the Legislature. But this was not the case in Boston, or in Richmond, in Virginia. The expense would not be so great in St. John, and a place could be rented for less than the cost of printing and publishing the debates which would then be saved? The office of Receiver General could be abolished, and the present Queen's Printer could, at less cost by £500 than now. He felt that in five years property in Fredericton would be worth more than now. But that was not the question, it was public interest alone. As to the expense of buildings, Charlottetown had a fine stone building for £13,000, and if it were necessary to erect buildings the most that would be required would be £30,000. The de-

partments could be all brought together and consequently be got much cheaper. He thought in every respect the movement to St. John would benefit the country, and on that ground he should vote for it.

[NOTE.—The writer would here interpose a few remarks in reference to the above suggestion, viz: "that the departments could all be brought together, and consequently would be much cheaper." It has always appeared to the writer that a great blunder was committed by a previous Government in not having made provision in the new Parliament Building for all the public offices to be concentrated under the one roof, the failure of which necessitated a heavy but unavoidable expenditure for another large building for the special use of the public offices.]

IT WAS BOUND TO SET.

The Argument Used by a [Darkey Who Wanted to Raise] Some Chickens.

A citizen of Rumford had canvassed the town in vain from end to end in search of a hen to set," when he heard that an old darkey on the Boston Providence and Newport road had a great deal of "setting stock." As this was just what he wanted, he lost no time in hunting him up. He found the old man building a hen coop in the rear of his residence. Approaching, he asked, by way of broaching how many hens he had setting.

"Three hens and a rooster, boss." "And a which?" inquired the poultry man, thinking he had not heard straight. "Seeing the look of distrust on his visitor's face he took him into a low building, and sure enough there sat a large Brahma rooster calmly covering twenty eggs. On one side of him sat two hens and on the other a third hen. The visitor, seeing how stately the rooster set, secretly resolved to get some of the darkey's eggs and hatch out a special lot of roosters. On being asked what he did when the rooster wouldn't sit any longer, the darkey replied that "dat ar rooster done bound to set," pointing underneath the box.

Looking under the box the visitor was surprised to find both of the rooster's legs sticking through holes in the box. The black rascal had actually bored holes through the box and tied the rooster's legs underneath, so, as he said, the rooster was "done bound to set."

Inquiring into the matter the Rumford man found that the darkey had four hens and one rooster. Three of the hens were setting and the other hen was laying. The darkey, finding the eggs of the hen accumulating quite fast, decided to let up feeding the rooster corn, and make him hatch a flock of chickens.

How Plants Breathe.

Plants like animals, breathe the air; plants breathe through their leaves and stems just as animals do by means of their respiratory organs. When a young plant is analyzed it is found to consist chiefly of water, which is all removed from the soil; there is about 75 per cent or more of this fluid present, and the rest is solid material. Of this latter by far the most abundant constituent is carbon, almost every atom of which is removed from the atmosphere by the vital action of minute bodies contained in the green leaves. The carbon is taken into the plant as carbonic acid gas. Plants also absorb oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen from the atmosphere in different quantities through their leaves, and also by means of their roots. These new products stored are in turn used in building up the different organs of the plant. Plants give off used-up moisture through their leaves, just as animals perspire through the pores of their skins. Calculations have been made as to the amount of water thus perspired by plants. The sunflower only 3½ feet high, with 5,016 square inches of surface exposed to the air, gives off as much moisture as a man.

How Railways Wear Out.

If the railway consists of a single line, so that as many trains go north as south, the rails will wear out equally. But if there is a double line of rails, then on the line on which the trains travel from south to north, the eastern rail would theoretically wear out, and on the other side the western rail. For a train starting, say from the south, will have a certain velocity round the earth owing to the earth's revolving round its axis from west to east: The farther north the train gets the slower does this velocity from west to east become. The force applied to retard this velocity is applied to the flanges of the carriage wheels by the eastern rail, the friction on this rail will consequently be the greater, and, theoretically, it ought to wear out first. Similarly, on the other line, the western rail applies the pressure needed to accelerate the speed of the train from west to east. On calculating out the pressure needed to alter this velocity over a hun-



A Bright Lad,

Ten years of age, but who declines to give his name to the public, makes this authorized, confidential statement to us:

"When I was one year old, my mamma died of consumption. The doctor said that I, too, would soon die, and all our neighbors thought that even if I did not die, I would never be able to walk, because I was so weak and puny. A gathering formed and broke under my arm. I hurt my finger and it gathered and threw out pieces of bone. If I hurt myself so as to break the skin, it was sure to become a running sore. I had to take lots of medicine, but nothing has done me so much good as Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It has made me well and strong."—T. D. M., Norcutt, Kans.

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dred yards of rail it is found to be a negative quantity. So that, practically, the rails will wear away at the same rate. The smaller pressure on the western rail also causes it to "creep," or draw southward faster than the eastward one.

Bathing for the Complexion.

In order to keep the complexion nice avoid bathing with hard water, which should be softened with a few drops of ammonia, or a little powdered borax. The face should never be washed when it is very warm, nor should very cold water be used for it. When travelling by rail it is best not to wash the face, but simply to wipe it over with a little eau de cologne, and rose water. The dust of travelling should not be removed with cold water, but on reaching the hotel bathe the face in hot water, with plenty of good soap, and then rinse it thoroughly in soft water with the chill off it.

In cases where the skin is coarse and greasy, friction with a rough towel after drying is of service but those with delicate skins should never use a coarse towel.

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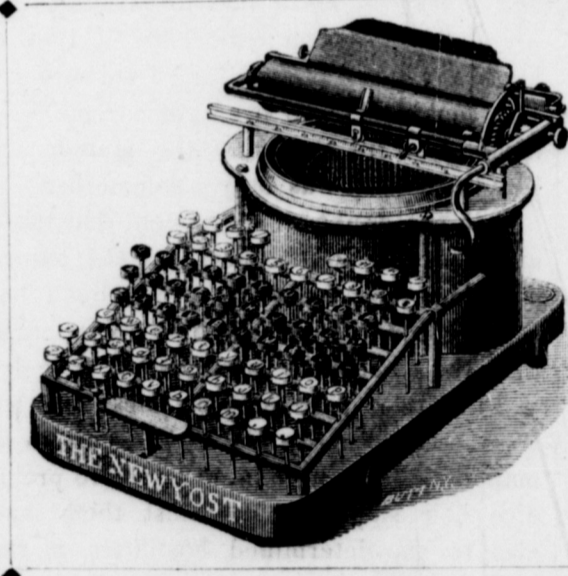
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