

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. 16.

A Most Extraordinary Session—Parties Evenly Balanced—His Excellency a Party Man—Hon. Mr. Fisher's Proposed Amendments to the Speech—The late Mr. Landry and His Son, the Present Judge—Members on the Fence—20 to 20—The Speaker (Simonds) Casts His Vote With the Government, and Castigates Both Parties in Real Cromwellian Style—Members Retaliate—The Speaker Game to the Last.

SESSION OF 1857.

On the 12th February the Legislature was called together for the dispatch of business. It turned out, in more respects than one, to be one of the most remarkable Sessions on record. His Excellency's Speech was not famous for anything in particular. The various topics broached were of the usual stamp—such as the financial state of the Province—the crops of the past season—Emigration—correspondence with the Colonial Office—King's College—Railways, and so forth.

The opposition in and out of the House exulted in the belief that the Government (now that the Liquor Law was out of the way) could not stand a week. The political soothsayers counted twenty-four opponents, sure—to say nothing of four or five "loose fish" as they were called—who would go with the tide when they began to see it at flood, and there was some prospect of personal advantage. The writer, however, has frequently seen such scores run up in the calculations of his political friends—and knew well how galling the disappointment whenever the events did not turn out in the manner contemplated. The present was one of those occasions which presented about an equal amount of encouragement to both sides, but nothing more. As His Excellency was a party deeply concerned in the prospects of his advisers, no doubt his anxiety for their safety was no less trying than their own; for in the event of defeat he would be obliged to send for the leading men of the very party to which he had rendered himself obnoxious, as well as they to him; for the fire that had been raging for the last twelve weeks could not but leave its singeing effects upon the minds and hearts of those who had been instrumental in stirring up the embers.

On the 16th, Mr. Fisher moved an amendment in answer to the Address in reply to the Governor's Speech—the latter part of which contained these words—"duty, however, impels us most respectfully to state to your Excellency that your Constitutional Advisers do not possess the confidence of the House." Mr. Jas. A. Harding seconded the resolution, and thereby excited the ire of many of his supporters in St. John. The mover spoke at great length dealing out heavy blows at the Government for their many short comings, which he pointed out, but which it is unnecessary here to recapitulate or specify more particularly. The principal charge against the Government was that they had expended money upon the Railroad without the sanction of law, inasmuch as they had not appointed Commissioners—where charge was met by the answer that urgent considerations justified the proceedings. On the Government side, a strong defence was made—the Solicitor General (Mr. Allen, now Chief Justice) leading off. The Attorney General and Provincial Secretary, on a subsequent day, rendered signal service to their cause and party. It was doubtful at the commencement of the campaign how the battle would terminate. The Government felt insecure while the opposition without being over-sanguine of success, thought that the chances were with them. However, the Postmaster General (Mr. McPhelim), in the course of his speech, said that "the Government were not going to be defeated this session, or for the next year or two; if the opposition thought so, they never were more mistaken in their lives." There was a self-confidence in this dictum of the honorable gentleman, which went a great way with some folks if it amused others. At the end of the fifth day's debate, the wisest of the Liberals in St. John counted in the house—20 Liberals, certain! to 17 Government supporters. And accordingly some of them commenced to divide the spoils in prospective among their friends. But then there were Messrs Landry, McMonagle and Earle, about whom there was much doubt.—[Mr. Landry was the father of the present Judge Landry, a tall, gentlemanly man, in whom the Frenchmen of Westmorland had the utmost confidence, which he richly deserved. It was always a question with Liberals and Conservatives, when parties in the House were closely balanced "how will the Frenchman go?" His integrity was unimpeachable and he was never to be found among "the loose fish." After his retirement from the House, his friends sought to obtain for him a seat in the Legislative Council, but without avail; he would have filled the position with dignity—but all Governments were alike inconsiderate by passing him over. How different with the

son—by the force of his talents and energy he became a power among his constituents, and in the Dominion Parliament he fought his way to a County Judgeship, and when a vacancy occurred upon the Supreme Court Bench, his friends threatened the Dominion Government with their great displeasure unless they appointed Judge Landry. He was appointed. So much for the father, so much for the son. *Audaces fortuna juvat.*] Those gentlemen not having yet made up their minds how they were going to vote,—or rather it should be said, had not intimated the state of their feelings to their friends. If those three should vote with the Government, there would be a dead lock, 20 to 20, and the Speaker, (Simonds) in that case be absolute, clothed with greater power than any man in any legislative body in the world—for his casting vote on either side would settle all obtrusive party questions; indeed he would hold the Government in the palm of his hand and might dash it into fragments at any moment. The result of the discussion brought about, upon the division, exactly this condition of things.—20 to 20.

On the 23rd the question was taken on Mr. Fisher's amendment, when the House divided as follows:—

Yeas—Fisher, Hatheway, Smith, Gilbert, Gilmour, M'Adam, Ferris, W. E. Perley, C. Perley, Tapley, Connell, Mitchell, Johnston, Sutton, M'Naughton, Lewis, M'Lellan, Harding, Tibbets, Waters—20.

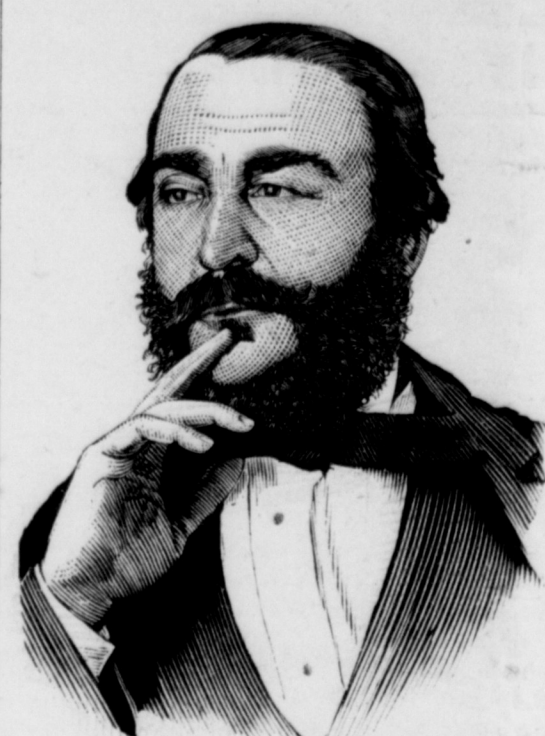
Nays—M'Pherson, Allen, Gray, Wilmot, McPhelim, Montgomery, Godard, Botsford, Landry, McMonagle, Street, Z. Earle, Kerr, Desbrisay, J. Earle, Boyd, Scovil, Lawrence, Barberie, Read—20.

The Speaker gave the casting vote in favour of the Government. This was looked upon by the opposition outside of the House as a virtual defeat of the Ministry. It was argued that in presiding over a popular body, deriving his authority directly from the people, it was Constitutional to claim, even if there was no precedent for it, that the Speaker of the House of Commons should not side with the Crown; in case of a tie his vote it was said belonged to the people, no matter what his sympathies might be. But the most curious thing in the proceedings was a speech delivered by the Speaker just before his vote. He rated both sides of the House in real Cromwellian style, and without choice of words. He completely trampled down all the political principles of his past life—of about forty years standing. The greatest obtrusive that Responsible Government ever had anywhere, could not have been stronger in his denunciations. Departmental and Responsible Government (quoth he) were producing the most abominable evils, and was fast bringing the Province to destruction. He said could he see the people rise in their might and blot those principles out of existence he could "depart in peace." He referred to a remark that had been made by an hon. member—"to the victors belong the spoils," for the purpose of declaring that it was illustrative of the whole system of the Government of the present day. *Not one member on either side, he said, had displayed a spark of patriotism!* He had listened attentively to the whole discussion, and he thought it had taken an extraordinary turn. A great deal of it consisted of members praising up themselves; and so far as it was important or beneficial to the interests of the country, nine-tenths of the time was utterly squandered and lost. He believed that members had convinced themselves that Departmental Government would not do for this country. No good had come out of it in England, where the scheme was of new growth. Here it had been proven to be an abominable system, and the people were not safe under it; indeed he was amazed that the intelligence of the people had so long submitted to such a system. Should the Government be defeated, the Opposition would come in and divide the spoils. Mr. — had a taste of these spoils, and it seemed that it only increased his appetite for them. He hoped the people would rise in their might and blot out this foul system so legislation might again be placed on a proper basis.

Mr. Harding and Mr. Fisher lectured the Speaker for making use of such intemperate language. Mr. F. felt sorry for the Speaker, for the House and for the country, that the "first Commoner" should conduct himself so unbecomingly towards that House. The Speaker, in reply to Mr. Fisher, said that if the opinion he expressed yesterday would have the effect of doing away with departmental government he considered that he would have been doing a good service to the country. After a night's reflection he was sorry to say that the Attorney General (Fisher) had made such a long speech; and after a night's reflection, he (the Speaker) had not anything to retract from what he said yesterday. The Opposition had no right to complain because he made no distinction between parties. What he had said in regard to office-holders and office-seekers, he was ready to justify and he always endeavored to tell the truth.

Mr. Johnson, J. M., from Miramichi, arose and said that the remarks made by the Speaker yesterday cast a reflection upon that House, and he felt that the House would be lowered in the estimation of the country if such observations were allowed to pass unnoticed. He asked if the members of this House were to be told that they were office seekers, when many of them distinctly avowed that they were not seeking for office. Were they to be told that the time of this House was uselessly spent for the last eight days, when they were discussing a question of vital importance to the interests of the country? If these and such statements were to come from the Speaker of a House reflecting as

they did upon honorable members, then it was high time to send them back to the people and let them adjudicate upon the matter. He would put it to the House if both parties were not reflected upon by



MR. JOHNSON (J. M.)

what his honor the Speaker had said yesterday. Mr. Johnson spoke with much warmth.

Mr. Barberie (one of the "old school") eulogized the Speaker and said that in giving the casting vote he had a right to give full expression to his opinions on the subject.

His honor the Speaker, in reply to Mr. Johnson, said he was here to express his opinions honestly and fairly, and the observations he had made yesterday were strictly true. He would now repeat, that if such a system were to be continued the Province would fast hasten on the downward road to destruction.

Mr. Mitchell (now Hon. Peter) said when he left the House last evening he had such feelings as he hoped never to have on any future occasion. He respected the Speaker of the House, but when they were told by him that what they were doing for the last eight days consisted in nothing more than a scramble for office, and that the whole question had been discussed irrespective of feelings of patriotism, then he for one member, felt insulted by such remarks. He was not going to find fault with the Speaker for expressing his views on Departmental Government, but he was going to find fault with the Speaker for lecturing the House as he did last evening and he as an independent representative, would not quietly submit to it.

Mr. Smith (Sir Albert) regretted with other members that such remarks had fallen from the Speaker, yesterday. He felt that while he was elected by the unanimous voice of the House to fill the responsible position, he should, instead of impugning the motives of honorable members, or repudiating their patriotism, act with the calmness and deliberation due to the dignity of his position. He felt that when the remarks had fallen from his honor the Speaker that nineteen twentieths of the whole discussion was irrelevant and that if hon. members were actuated by mercenary motives, he thought that the sooner the country was appealed to the better. If honorable members had deviated from the question under consideration, then his honor the Speaker had also deviated from what was right in his remarks yesterday. After accusing members of being office seekers and making other remarks derogatory to the feelings of that House, then he thought it was time for the Government to advise a dissolution, and let the country be appealed to once more.

His Honor the Speaker replied to Mr. Smith, and observed that his remarks did not apply to office holders. He reiterated what he had stated that members were not accused by much patriotism in the recent debate on the amendment to the address. The discussion then dropped and the remaining sections of the address were allowed to pass without opposition.

The Government after this went by the name of the "Speaker's Government."

Few people really understand how much the action of ball-bearings goes toward reducing friction when applied to wheels or machinery, and their value is displayed to a wondrous degree in the case of a new sort lately invented by a New York engineer. A big, heavy coach, ordinarily drawn by four horses, was fitted with these little steel peas, and so easily did it run that a small dog drew it about a quarter of a mile, unassisted. The same make of bearings was put on the wheels of a tramcar, and the vehicle was drawn along several hundred yards by one man pulling gently at three strands of ordinary thread fastened to the car.



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., Noreatur, Kans.

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INTELLIGENCE OF HORSES.

Some Instances in Which Great Reasoning Power has been Shown.

Every person who races horses knows how thoroughly the noble animals enter into the spirit of the race course, and an English horse named Forrester was a remarkable illustration. He had won many a hardly contested race, but in an evil hour was matched against an extraordinary horse called Elephant. It was a four-mile course, and at the distance post the horses were nose to nose. Between this and the winning post Elephant got a little ahead. Forrester made every possible effort to regain the lost ground until, finding all his efforts ineffectual, he made one desperate plunge, seized his antagonist by the jaw and could scarcely be forced to quit his hold. A similar instance occurred in 1753, when a fine horse belonging to Mr. Quinn was rendered so frantic at finding his antagonist gradually passing him that he seized him by the leg, and both riders were obliged to dismount and combine their efforts to separate the animals.

A horse owned in Belchertown, in this State, was driven a few miles out of town, and on his return in the afternoon was fed with meal and cut feed as usual, but for his supper had nothing but hay, which did not agree with his sense of fair dealing, after traveling twenty miles through snow drifts. Remaining perfectly quiet until his master had retired for the night, he then, by some means, got loose his halter, passed through the cow stable, around the barn floor and the carriage room to the granary, where he found two bags of corn meal. After apparently examining them he selected one weighing about sixty pounds, took it in his teeth and carried it about twenty feet to a clean spot on the floor. Finding it difficult to untear the mouth of the sack, he made a hole in the side, shook out about a peck of its contents and ate what he desired. Noticing the cow, his only companion of long winter nights, looking with wistful eye upon his treasure, the intelligent animal carried the bag some ten feet farther, shook out more meal, and the two were found lovingly feasting together in the morning.

A French cavalry officer relates that a horse of his company, which was quite old but full of mettle, by the wearing away of his teeth suddenly became unable to chew his hay and corn. In this condition he was fed for two months, and would have continued to be fed, by two horses on each side of him that fed out of the same manger. These creatures drew hay from the rack, which they partially masticated, and then placed it before their aged companion, and did the same with the oats, which they ground very fine between their teeth. This was often witnessed by a whole company of cavalry, officers and men.

Most of the fixed stars are supposed to be larger than our sun. If our sun was as far away as the star Alpha Centauri it would shine with only one-third of the light of that star; therefore the star is three times as large as the sun. So throughout the heavens; but of late a theory has been advanced that the larger stars shine more brightly than the sun, so that they are not so much larger than the sun as old figures would seem to prove.

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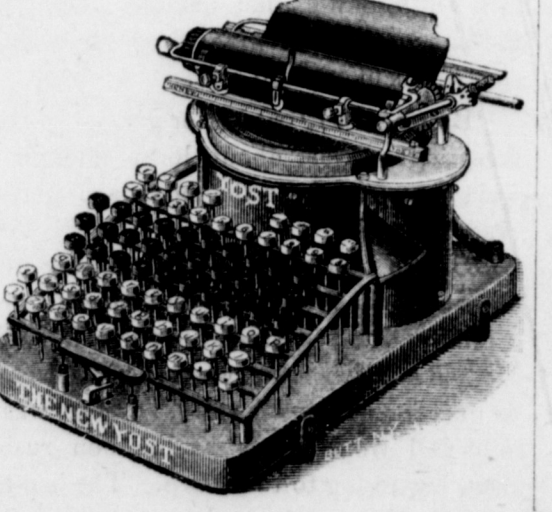
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