

## 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. 17.

The Initiation Question—Its Merits and Demerits—The Government Moves Cautiously—An Election Bill of a Similar Nature—The Opposition Attack Upon the Government—The Government Twitted Because Dependent Upon the Speaker for their Existence—No Surrender—A Mill Bill—Members of the House and Legislative Council at the Same Time—An Odd State of Affairs.

Feb. 26. There was a lengthy discussion upon the "Initiation" question. It will be recollected that the year before the House resolved to transfer the power of initiating all money grants into the hands of the Government—to take effect in the next year. A "banking for the flesh pots" seemed to be continued in the anti-liquor House. Some hon. gentlemen were for repealing the resolution and going back to the old system—others were in favour of giving it a trial, but they knew it would cause them a great deal of trouble—others appeared to be in a state of mystification as to how the principle was to be worked out. In explanation it was stated that all petitions for money, instead of being indiscriminately laid before the House for examination, and tedious expensive discussions, were to be sent in before the meeting of the Legislature to the Government for adjudication; and they were to use their best judgment as to the merits of the respective requests. It considered favourable, they were to be submitted in their financial calculations, and laid before the House in "one budget." No petitions, therefore, would be entertained by the House which the Government had not seen, or which the Government had rejected. This system, therefore, when in proper working order, would be the means of saving tens of thousands of pounds to the country, shorten the time of the Session, and to a better understanding between representatives and their constituents, although the influence of the former would be somewhat curtailed. In short, it would lead the people to look to the acts of the Government more than they had formerly done, and there affix the responsibility for wasteful expenditure.

The discussion led to nothing more than to make members better acquainted with the new financial system by which the House was to be governed in the future.

In holding the scales between parties the Speaker could at any moment withdraw his support and bring about a collapse. It was, therefore, necessary that the Government should move cautiously, and venture nothing likely to be distasteful to the Speaker. Never since the days of the "Roundheads" had mortal man such power over a deliberative Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Gray (late a Judge in British Columbia, deceased about three years ago) introduced a Bill for the election of Members to Parliament, which was the first Government measure of the Session. It was explained that the measure was for a temporary purpose—in case of an election coming off suddenly. The Election law passed at a previous Session, it was contended, disfranchised a large number of voters, and the object of the Government now was to restore to them their former rights; and on a future occasion he would introduce a more formal and thorough measure, in which the principle of universal suffrage would not be altogether overlooked. The heather got fairly into a blaze when this measure came to be more fully explained. The opposition, which was most formidable in numbers and talents, found in this an opportunity to whet their appetites and to sharpen their weapons for an onslaught upon the Government which had but little ammunition to spare in the way of talents, for the defence of a very pregnable position. It was contended that the measure was nothing more than an attempt to revive the old Election Law, which had been swept from the Statute Book long before on account of its antiquated illiberal character, for one more in harmony with the spirit of the age—so that in case of the present measure being carried the chances would be altogether in favour of the Government's majority being increased at the next election. This "dodge" was quite visible under a very transparent veil. One of the opposition remarked that since the disposition of the Government was for working backward, and reviving old foggyism belonging to an exploded past, he would not be a bit surprised to see them next introduce a measure for the abolition of Responsible Government as then known in New Brunswick, and in lieu thereof revive the recantation principle of P. E. Island, whose Legislature had recently taken it into their heads to change their constitution, in a very composite way, taking the heads of departments from outside materials, persons not requiring to be elected, but to hold their offices for life. [This was actually the state of things in 1856.] The following is a sample of the arguments used. Mr. M'Adam said that the Government

had been virtually defeated, and it was folly for them to attempt to carry on the business of the country when they were in a hopeless minority. Mr. Gray said the Government had no idea of yielding, he was very certain that they had the confidence of the House and the country. Mr. Gilbert commented at some length upon the weak position of the Government. Mr. Sutton was prepared to go into the Election Bill at any time. Mr. Smith said if we were not going to have a dissolution, he could not see [the necessity of having this old Election Law revived. Mr. Watters said this move made by the Government was nothing more than their asking the House to sign their own death warrant. He regarded the Government as doomed. The Surveyor General (Mr. Montgomery) seemed to think that Mr. Watters was alarmed, saying he knew what his fate would be in case of a dissolution. Mr. Watters replied. He said if he were in a Government that could only be sustained by the casting vote of the Speaker, he would certainly resign. He was not afraid to meet his constituents, and he believed the young blood of Kestigouche would soon arise and teach the Surveyor General where his proper place was. Mr. Connell advocated an appeal to the country. He believed if the country were once more heard, the Government would be condemned; they had pursued a course that was not in accordance with the interests of the country, and would soon be buried in political oblivion. Mr. Tapley (late Police Magistrate of Portland) had some idea of getting up a third party. The Attorney General intimated that the Government were (he said) substantial men, and men who had been returned here as often as the Opposition. One member was just as good as another, and viewing it in this way, even if they had not the Speaker's vote they would have a majority." The hon. gentleman spoke lengthily about the "competency" of the twenty on his side as compared with the opposition. Mr. Smith replied to Mr. Gray and defended the Opposition from the motives which had been imputed to them by the Attorney General. He asked if it was Parliamentary for the leader of Government to make "invidious comparisons" between the twenty men on his side and the twenty men who composed the Opposition, when there was not a member of the House who displayed more egotism than some folks he could name. He had no doubt the Attorney General was very anxious to hold on, and he (Mr. Smith) defied him to point out where another Government had done so when similarly situated. The Attorney General defended his measure with considerable astuteness, deducing the very opposite conclusions from the one set of premises, so peculiar to the legal fraternity, for as the question turned chiefly upon legal points, the Lawyers had the discussion pretty much among themselves. "No surrender" to the opposition was the motive principle with the Government. Though beaten in argument they felt they had the casting vote of the speaker with them, and so the debate was kept up day after day with wind and tide strongly against them. When the vote was taken on the House stood 19 to 21 giving the Government the majority of two. How is this? It was done through a sort of legerdemain trick, of which unscrupulous political charlatans everywhere have ends to serve as so capable when driven into a corner. The Speaker vacated his seat and appointed one of the opposition to take his place, as Chairman of committee, thus neutralizing one vote of the opposition so that the numbers then stood 19 Liberals and 21 Conservatives, the Speaker voting with the latter as a mere member. There was no "rattling" then to account for the falling off in the ranks of the former. But the end was not yet. Had the Bill become law finally and members gone to the country upon it, the Government no doubt would have been sustained by quite a majority of supporters—but it was not to be so as will be seen hereafter.

March 4. The House resolved itself into Committee of the whole in consideration of a Bill to repeal the existing law relating to Mill Reserves. The bill gave rise to a round of speeches, some of them of considerable length. Most of the members seemed to be of the opinion that these Mill Reserves were a monopoly, and should be broken up. Mr. Perley, of Sunbury, supported the Bill. He urged that these Mill Reserves should be broken up, and showed wherein they had produced serious disadvantages to the people of Sunbury. Mr. Sutton also spoke in support of the Bill. He exhibited some statistics, showing the immense extent of land taken up throughout the Province in this way. For instance, he said in the County of Sunbury, the number of acres of land taken up as Mill Reserves was 58,830; Queens County, 49,000 acres; York, 54,200 do.; St. John, 23,000 do.; Albert, 5,000 do.; Charlotte, 10,000 do.; Victoria, 5,000 do.; Northumberland, 10,000 do.; Kent, 48,000, making in all nearly 265,000 acres. Mr. Tapley believed that serious abuses had arisen from the existence of such Mill Reserves, and he should therefore oppose the Bill. Mr. Smith proposed an amendment that nothing in the Bill should be so construed as to affect parties who had already taken out Licenses under the existing Act. Mr. S. spoke at some length in support of the principle of the Bill. Mr. Hatheway warmly advocated that every protection

should be extended to those who were owners of Mill Reserves on small streams. Mr. Tibbits (father of the present Deputy Provincial Secretary) spoke at some length in opposition to the Bill.

The Bill finally passed with a provision that nothing therein should be so construed so as to affect parties who had already obtained Licenses under the existing Act.

10th. Rather a novel discussion took place in consequence of a question that was put to the Government, as to whether or not any appointment had been made to the Legislative Council since the 1st. February, and from what County. It appeared that Mr. Earle, of Queen's, one of the supporters of the Government, was the gentleman suspected of being the "Peer in prospect." It was therefore a matter of deep concern to the opposition to have this point settled; for the moment the honourable gentleman went up stairs the Government would be thrown down stairs—and then the Speaker's boot would be on the other leg. It was fully believed, indeed all but proven, that the member for Queen's was at that moment a member of both branches, *de facto* and *de jure*. But it would not be politic to let the public into the secret too soon—for the moment the secret was out a catastrophe would ensue. This interesting episode will more fully appear in next article.

#### Anything to Oblige The Tigress.

"Savage beasts, even in their native wilds, sometimes recognize a act of kindness and show their gratitude by the most unmistakable signs," remarked an old sea captain.

"A number of years ago the ship which I then commanded was becalmed off the coast of India, and, taking a boat load of men, I went ashore in search of fresh water. In some way I became separated from the crew, and, in wandering around, was a good deal startled at coming directly upon a full grown tigress. Much to my surprise the beast did not make any hostile demonstrations towards me, but crouching on the ground looked steadily, first at my face and then at a tree a short distance away. For a time I could not understand this conduct, and, not daring to run for fear she would at once overtake me, I stood rooted to the spot.

"Presently the tigress arose and walked to the tree, looking backward as she went. On turning my gaze aloft, I saw among the branches of the tree what had caused the evident solicitation of the tigress. There, perched in one of the limbs, sat a big baboon with two little tiger cubs in its arms. Having an axe with me I started to cut the tree down, the tigress watching me intently all the while. When the tree fell, and the three animals with it, the tigress pounced upon the baboon and with great fury despatched it. After gently carrying her offspring, she turned to me with a look which plainly expressed her thanks for the service I rendered her. She then disappeared in the forest, her two cubs trotting behind her."

#### Cutlets of Live Slave.

A French missionary is responsible for this cannibal story from Africa. Certain tribes living on the banks of the Ubange eke out a monotonous vegetable diet by joints of human flesh, and slaves are specially fattened up for sale in the local market. The usual system followed by dealers is to exhibit the slaves alive, marking off with a piece of chalk the various filets and cutlets ordered by their customers. The slave is not killed until the last pound of him is sold, and then he is cut up and distributed according to orders. The priest, a certain Father Allaire, was foolishly shocked at this economic practice, but he was evidently circumspect in expressing his feelings upon the subject when on the banks of the Ubange. Possibly it occurred to him that the cannibals might have regarded French missionary as an agreeable and wholesome change of diet, and under such circumstances who would not be circumspect?—*Pail Mall Gazette*.

#### Thanks With a Provision.

A wealthy and generous Englishman, while travelling in America, attended a church maintained by a colored congregation, and was so pleased by the minister's simple sermon and the attitude of the worshippers that he dropped five dollars into the basket when it was passed for the usual collection. So large a contribution seemed to fill with amazement the brethren who passed the baskets, and one of them, in a whisper, confided the fact of the unusual contribution to the pastor, who arose and said to the congregation:—

"Beloved friends, be collection has brought forth the munificent sum of sixteen dollars and forty-nine cents, purviewed by five-dollar bill glib by the white gentleman am not counterfeit."

Be content with your lot, especially if it's a lot of money.

#### Only the Scars Remain.

"Among the many testimonials which I see in regard to certain medicines performing cures, cleansing the blood, etc.," writes HENRY HUDSON, of the James Smith Woolen Machinery Co., Philadelphia, Pa., "none impress me more than my own case. Twenty years ago, at the age of 18 years, I had swellings come on my legs, which broke and became running sores. Our family physician could do me no good, and it was feared that the bones would be affected. At last, my good old mother urged me to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I took three bottles, the sores healed, and I have not been troubled since. Only the scars remain, and the memory of the past, to remind me of the good Ayer's Sarsaparilla has done me. I weigh two hundred and twenty pounds, and am in the best of health. I have been on the road for the past twelve years, have noticed Ayer's Sarsaparilla advertised in all parts of the United States, and always take pleasure in telling what good it did for me."

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#### MOVING IN NEW YORK.

No May Day Confusion in the Modern Way of Changing One's Residence.

"We cannot forget," says a man who has just moved from the suburbs, "the vans we moved in nor the men who moved us. The whole household was active early that morning waiting for the vans. The main road by which they would approach ran parallel to the street in which we lived and in plain sight. Soon after seven o'clock we saw them coming, three of them, each drawn by four horses, and all well closed up, a decidedly orderly and business looking procession. They swung around through a cross street and down our street and halted near the house at 7.10. They had told us at the office that the vans would be there at 7 o'clock; inasmuch as they had had twelve miles to come and it had rained the night before, 7.10 didn't seem like a half bad bluff at all."

"A man came down and located the house and then the two head vans came and backed up to the walk in front. At one side of the house there was a driveway which ran back past the rear of the house with a loop there around a little oval grass plat. There was none too much room in this driveway, which was not designed for four-horse teams, but when the rear van came down the driver swung his leaders and came in at it with the large confidence of a man who has a good team and knows how to handle it. He rounded the oval and halted with his team headed toward the street and the rear end of the van on a line with the rear of the house. When the vans were all in position the horses were blanketed and then the men were ready."

"There were six men altogether, and they were all powerful, able-bodied men. The house was a two-and-a-half-story Queen Anne. The men stripped it in two hours, and without any fuss or commotion whatever. At 9.20 the last padlock snapped on the last van door, and the drivers mounted to their seats and hauled out into the road again, once more in line. Then all hands settled down in their seats and everything was ready for the start. The great arks were very heavy now, and it was no light work to move them. The rear van was a little picturesque plunging at the start, but they were good teams, everyone, and they soon had the vans in motion; and after that they walked off with them as though they were shoe boxes on wheels. A few moments later we saw them once more out on the main road, moving now toward the city."

"Four hours later we caught sight of them again. We were then on the train bound for the city and approaching near it. We saw the vans on a road at some little distance from the railroad. They were as well closed up as a wagon train would be under escort in an enemy's country, and moving forward."

"Not very long afterward we stood on the steps in the land of brick and mortar, and saw the procession still well closed up appear around the corner. They came up at a trot. It took a little more time to unload than to load, but not much. Soon we heard the last padlocks snap again, this time on the empty vans. Once more the procession lined up, moved off, and disappeared."

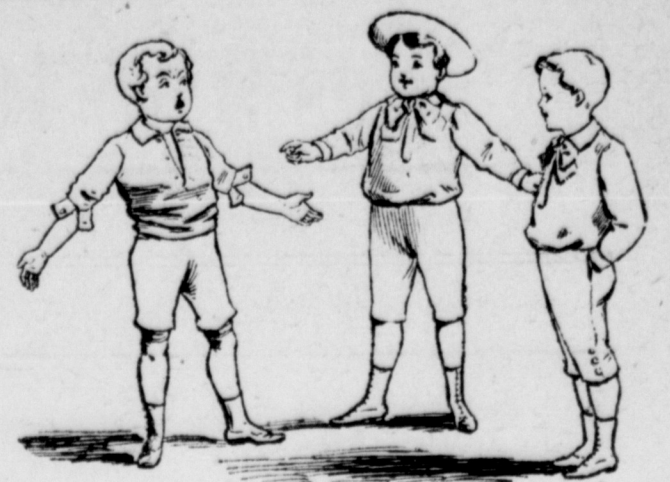
"And left us to settle. It is something of a job to settle, as those who have tried it know; but if anything could make that work seem lighter it would be the exhilaration of moving in the modern way."—[N. Y. Sun.]

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