

POLITICAL NOTES.

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

By G. E. FENEY, Fredericton, N. B.

No. 10.

Hon. Members: Disturbed by the Newspapers.—The Author of "Jenny Morrison"—Mr. Connell and the Initiative Question.—Petitions for Repealing the Liquor Law.—European and North American Railroad—Railway Schemes—Peppery Tariff Discussion—Financial State of the Province.

A remarkable circumstance in connection with this Session, was the sensitiveness which honorable gentlemen evinced whenever subject to the strictures of the newspapers. Scarcely a day passed during the debate on Mr. Gray's amendment, when some gentleman would rise to contradict statements made in hostile papers against them; others, that they were misreported, &c. These references would some time elicit sharp rebukes, re- parates, criminations and recriminations from the friends and adversaries of the respective papers. The gentleman, for instance, who denounced the article against him, was met by a member friendly to that paper—not to defend the article but to place as an offset an attack even more virulent made upon himself from the other side of the Press. It was certainly a new state of things coming up when newspaper articles were considered to be worthy of such special notice upon the floors of the House. A few years before this, when the very same papers were busy sapping and mining the foundation of the old state of things, these Journals were thought to be beneath the dignity of the House. They were doing the work of reformation nevertheless, although considered at the time to be quite harmless institutions. The Solicitor General (Hon. Mr. Johnson) at length proposed a resolution by way of burlesque that no newspaper be permitted to express an opinion conflicting with that entertained by this House.

[An Editor of a Glasgow paper (a bigoted Tory, but most clever writer) wrote day after day in opposition to the wishes of the people. A meeting was called one night in Glasgow, to devise some means to get clear of this troublesome creature. It was urged that he should be kidnapped and put under ground in one of the Coal Mines in the neighborhood, for six months, or until the Editor of the Bill should receive his liberty. A resolution was drawn up to this effect. When it was put to the meeting, a gentleman rose and saved the Editor, by asking— "What, bury the author of Jenny Morrison?" It was enough. The Editor's Poem had taken such a hold of the working classes in Scotland, that when the author's name was mentioned in connection with his being lynched, they resolved not to lay violent hands on him.]

March 1. In consequence of the death of James Taylor, Esq., Mr. John C. Allen (now Sir John) was elected for York, Mr. Needham being the rival candidate, and was introduced to the House this day by the Attorney General and Mr. M'Pherson.



HON. CHARLES CONNELL.

Mr. Connell gave notice of his intention to move the following amendment to Mr. Hatheway's Resolution, respecting the Initiative of Money Grants:—

Whereas it is desirable that the country should be prepared by the management of our local affairs, to aid the Government in the Initiative of Money Grants:—

Resolved, That so soon as the Government shall submit to the House a Bill making imperative the incorporation into Municipalities of the several Counties of the Province, and the same becomes a law of the land, then this House by virtue thereof, surrender into the hands of the Government the right of Initiating Money Grants.

10th. Mr. Harding by leave, presented a Petition from Charles Simonds, Wm. O. Smith, and 24 other Justices of the Peace, together with 7,600 inhabitants of the city of St. John praying that an Act may pass to repeal an Act prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. Mr. Harding observed that there were no names of either women or children on the Petition.

Petitions, day after day were handed in by different members from brewers and other persons, asking for compensation for losses entailed upon their business through the introduction of the Liquor Law.

11th. Attorney General Fisher laid before the House a Report of his Railway Mission to England. Also a bill relating to the European and North American Railway; a Bill to levy an impost for Railway purposes; a Bill to authorize the construction of Railways in this province. a

bill to provide funds for the above purposes. The report is very voluminous, and touches upon a variety of important topics in connection with the resources and affairs of the Province. The interview with Messrs. Baring was highly satisfactory to the supporters of the Government. That firm agreed to take our Provincial Bonds to the amount of £800,000, at 6 per cent., and float them in the English market, in the event of the Province undertaking to build the Railroad in place of Peto & Co. They also agreed to give a credit of £50,000 sterling in any or every year that the work was progressing, payable with interest on the last day of each year. It was ascertained of the contractors (Peto, Brassey & Co.) who had already the work well in hand, what were the difficulties by which they were beset and stood in the way of their fulfilling the contract, and that it was requisite, they urged, that further facilities should be given to enable them to prosecute the undertaking with success. These propositions the delegates were not in position to accept. It was finally agreed to relinquish their contract, transfer to the Province all the work done on the Road, and materials therefor in the Province, with the surveys, plans, &c. They were also to relinquish any shares they had in the Company, and Company's Bonds, the whole for the sum of £300,000 sterling, including the Debentures already given them; payment to be made on the first day of June following, in Debentures redeemable in thirty days. It was also agreed that if this arrangement was not adopted by the Legislature, Messrs. Jackson and Company were to have three months' further time to complete their contract, which in all other respects was to remain in force.

The opponents of the Government, out of the House as well as in it, were indignant that such a sum as £300,000 should be paid to the contractors, especially when the Province had them in their power and could bring an action for damages against them at any time, for failing to carry out their obligations. On the other side it was as stoutly argued that "the plant" and work already done had been fairly estimated—building, iron, sleepers, surveys, locomotives, &c., included—by disinterested parties, and that the price named was favourable to the Province—besides it was further argued it would be better to pay even a little more than be subject to a repetition probably of further delays and similar annoyances. As regards suing the firm, (the Contractors themselves being the principal members of the European and North American Railway Company) it was said you "did" work—perhaps years would be frittered away in the meantime would be already done on the road would go to destruction, and as to recovering damages from a firm that had proved its inability to proceed, it was a prospect so dim that the chances of a prize in a lottery would be more hopeful.

The Railway scheme now submitted to the House in the Bills named, provided:— 1st.—"European and North American," with extension from Shediac to Miramichi. 2nd.—From St. John to Woodstock, via Fredericton—with a view of ultimately connecting with Canada.

3rd.—From St. John to Calais, or Western extension.

The work, it was provided, could progress as follows:—

1857 and '58.—Line from St. John to Bend, to be commenced and carried on vigorously, if not completed—the expenditure to be £300,000; and £50,000 each on the extension to Miramichi and Fredericton.

[Note.—This was afterwards amended by the Attorney General, so that the extension should commence at Fredericton and be continued upwards, and not less than £50,000 be expended on it in 1857.]

[Or £400,000 altogether for 1857 and 1858.]

1859.—Line from St. John to Calais to be commenced—and the extension to be continued to Miramichi and Fredericton £200,000 more; and so on until all the lines are completed.

The Railway Board is to consist of five Commissioners.

This scheme was calculated to excite great expectations: for it was very ingeniously concocted. Every important point—here there and everywhere, as will be seen—was embraced. Indeed had it not been so arranged, it is doubtful if anything could have been done in the presence of such strong sectional feelings, especially in regard to existing railroads; although this may not have been the belief of those who prepared the measure. No doubt the Government considered that the money (£800,000 sterling) was ample for all the lines, and that those named were all desirable and deserved by the inhabitants.

In order to meet the interest on the loan, a duty of 2½ per cent. was to be levied on all imports, which was carried—15 to 24.

When the Bill was considered, a certain honorable gentleman (since deceased) who had been in opposition, rose, and with the utmost gravity remarked—"It is no use to legislate any more. It is no more use trying to disguise the fact—I acknowledge I am out of humour; for henceforth the country will be certainly ruined."

15th The Provincial Secretary submitted his financial statement, showing in detail the expenditure and income of the Province for the year. This was the signal for a peppery fusillade between and at the respective friends of the old and new Governments. One side contended that the ex-Government had through their extravagance, or recklessness, left the finances of the country in an embarrassed state,—nay, with an increase of debt, which, considering the resources at command to meet it, it would be most difficult to manage. The leaders of the late Government as strenuously denied the charge—they contended that every expenditure that had been made, was absolutely requisite for the services named; and that it was but a pandering to the public prejudice, and to make them-

selves appear immaculate before the country, that the present Government made such attacks. These furies raged so fiercely at times that on one occasion, 15 March, Hon. R. D. Wilmot (Surveyor General in the previous Government) "gave notice of his intention to move a resolution for the appointment of a Select Committee to investigate the expenses of the old and new Governments and report thereon." There was some proof at all events that the former Government were anxious to have their skirts cleared of the imputations that had been thrown out. Frequently during the remainder of the Session the smouldering flame of party would break out afresh, and blaze away for hours; and perhaps, making due allowances for exaggeration, the tendency was good. The people had in the heat of debate, the evidence not only of party Government maintained upon party principles, but of party zeal which when pushed into action within Parliamentary limits, was sure to bring to light the most trivial acts of the Government. One party was a watch upon the other. The smallest discrepancy was sure to be discovered and laid bare in a loud burst of indignation. Previous to the formation of the present Government, no such check existed, for the country was either controlled by an Oligarchy, or a combination of the most talented men, (called a coalition) the representatives of opposite parties, but in consequence of their official positions, were unable to be of any use to the cause of reform—nay, rather an injury, inasmuch as the rising party in the House, being without a suitable helm, was incompetent to make any steady headway.

The Secretary, however, succeeded in convincing the House of the correctness of his financial calculations. One thing, at all events was yet wanting, viz.: "the initiation of the money votes in the hands of the Government;" but the attainment of this desideratum was now close at hand. The Secretary's statement in gross, may not be uninteresting at this day if copied here, as it shows the old style of services performed, and by whom, and the salaries attached thereto:

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR NEW BRUNSWICK FOR 1856.

Sums provided for by Law.	
Civil List.....	£14,500 0 0
Clerk of the Peace.....	250 0 0
Judge of Peace.....	800 0 0
Clerk of Crown on the Circuit.....	250 0 0
Interest on Debt.....	£3,100 0 0
Education.....	19,000 0 0
Andrew Harbison.....	100 0 0
Provincial Penitentiary.....	300 0 0
Salary to Provincial Treasurer.....	500 0 0
Pensions to old Soldiers, Agricultural Societies.....	2,800 0 0
Post Office Department.....	4,500 0 0
Expenses of Legislature.....	9,000 0 0
Jurors' Fees.....	1,200 0 0
Board of Health.....	1,000 0 0
Fishery Wardens.....	150 0 0
Fishery Societies.....	200 0 0
Expenses of Board of Works.....	1,100 0 0
	£62,800 0 0

Sums to be appropriated by the Legislature.

Education.....	£3,000 0 0
Provincial Penitentiary (maintenance).....	1,500 0 0
Collection and Protection of Revenue, and of Commerce, and of Commerce, and of Commerce.....	6,500 0 0
Great Roads and Bridges.....	9,000 0 0
Chief Commissioner's Estimate.....	16,730 0 0
Bridges under Contract.....	8,000 0 0
Internal Navigation.....	2,250 0 0
Public Buildings.....	750 0 0
Lunatic Asylum.....	4,000 0 0
Indians.....	250 0 0
Gratuities, Return Duties, Miscellaneous.....	6,000 0 0
	50,980 0 0

Balance towards Bye Roads.....	£113,840 0 0
	£113,840 0 0

Estimated Revenue under Existing Law.

Ad-valorem.....	£64,225 0 0
Speche, including Liquors imported in November and December.....	27,660 0 0
Export.....	16,000 0 0
Casual and Territorial.....	10,000 0 0
Supreme Court Fees.....	400 0 0
Auctioneer's Duties and Pedler's Licenses.....	100 0 0
	£118,284 0 0

THINGS OF VALUE.

The green of envy comes when the sunshine of hope is mixed with the blues of disappointment.

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Albert, Co. N. B. GEORGE TINGLEY.

It is estimated that if a man lives to be seventy years old he passes at least twenty-four years in sleep. So you see a man is a pretty good sort of a fellow one-third of the time, bad as he may be the remaining two-thirds. Let us be charitable.

Other Cough Medicines have had their day, but Puttner's Emulsion has come to stay, because its so nice and so good.

Opposites often produce like results. Hunger conquers pride; but the excessive indulgence of appetite likewise destroys it.

Summarizing His Patients' Condition.

At night the weary old doctor sat down and noted, as usual the condition of his patients: The ragman, picking up; the editor, rapidly declining; the dentist, may pull through; the postmaster must go; the deaf mute still complaining; the painter, more bad signs; the miser, barely living; the major, rallying; the cashier, gone; the actor, on the last stage; the butcher less fat on bones; the cobbler, mending; the jail prisoner, will soon be out; the lawyer, speechless; the two grocers, on the verge of dissolution; the musician, toning up; the carpenter, improving; Jones' boy, bad and growing worse; the barber, saved by a close shave; the banker, failing; the boot-maker, will not last long; the pugilist, striking improvement.

Gladstone Still Able to Dance.

Mr. Gladstone is still a dancing man. "His steps are not quite up to date, of course, but he has no aversion to 'trading a measure' when occasion requires and he still performs his little old-fashioned leaps in the air before advancing in a quadrille with the greatest agility and gravity. Many young men lack his ballroom energy, and at home, at Hawarden, he and his little granddaughter, Dorothy Drew, indulge daily in terpsichorean feats, while Mrs. Gladstone plays for them in a fashion hardly less remarkable than her husband's dancing."

REPRODUCED AT A RAPID RATE.

Prodigious Fecundity of an Insect Which Feeds on the Plant Kingdom.

The aphid, which is known by the common name of "plant louse," is an entomological enigma as well as an agricultural pest. The scientists do not pretend to know just exactly how many varieties of aphid browse on the green things of nature, but some authorities estimate them at 1,000, a large proportion of that number having been named and classified. A single insect of any of these species of aphid may become the progenitor of billions of young, even during its own lifetime. Latrielle, who is regarded by the St. Louis Republic as an acknowledged authority on this branch of entomology, makes some curious and interesting calculations: A female will produce young at the rate of twenty-five a day during the summer months, and as each immediately becomes the progenitor of others, one aphid may possibly be the mother, grandmother, great grandmother, etc., et al. of the enormous number of 5,304,200,000 individuals by the end of the season. Yongard and Morren, who are equally as good authorities as Latrielle, extend this number into quintillions as being within the capabilities of a single mother's efforts. The late Professor Huxley once made a calculation which affords some idea of what a quintillion of aphides might mean: Assuming that an aphid will not weigh more than the one-thousandth part of a grain, and that a man must be very heavy in order to weigh more than 2,000,000 grains, the tenth degree of aphides alone, without adding the product of all the intermediate generations (if all the members of this immense family should survive the many dangers to which they are exposed), would contain more ponderable substance than 500,000,000 men. In other words they would outweigh the entire population of China.

Why They Have Tombstones.

Though the Old Bailly and Newgate Prison adjoin one another, they are quite distinct institutions says a London paper. The former is a court-house under the city, and the latter is a prison under the home office. For convenience in taking prisoners awaiting trial from the prison to the court, and convicted prisoners back from the court into the prison, there is a gate leading from one to the other; and this gate, as showing the separateness of the two establishments, cannot be opened from one side. It requires a prison officer on the prison side and a court officer on the other side to open it.

On the way to this gate is a passage covered with flag-stones and open to the air. As prisoners walk along this passage they may see large letters deeply carved in the walls on each side.

The newest one is a capital C, and stands for Cooke, the policeman that murdered the woman at Wornwood Scrubs.

This is to indicate where he is buried, viz., under the flags beneath the letter. This is not for the sake of perpetuating his memory, but to enable those concerned to know the new from the old graves, and so prevent them from digging up the new at the next execution.

Prince Bismarck is usually depicted as a very stern and serious man, though some time ago he showed himself in a new light. There was a children's party at the palace, and the Crown Prince was anxious that the ex-Chancellor should take a partner and join in one of the dances. "No, I'm too old to dance," said Bismarck; "but I'll tell you what I'll do—I don't mind playing the organ." And a few minutes later the Emperor entered the room, to discover a crowd of little folks busily engaged in dancing, while Bismarck was vigorously turning the handle of a barrel organ that had been provided for their amusement.

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