

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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NOTES BY THE WAY.

Opening of the Session of 1855—Speech of the Lieutenant Governor—Reciprocity Treaty—King's College—The Crimean Patriotic Fund—A Vote of \$25,000 Towards It—Government Election Bill—St. John Protestant Orphan Asylum—Bribery at Elections—The Meanness of the Man Who Sells His Vote.

It may not be out of place to state here the positions which prominent members of our legislature, have since occupied under the Dominion Government.

Mr. FISHER—appointed Judge of Supreme Court—died in 1881.

Mr. RITCHIE—late Sir Wm. J. Ritchie, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

JOHN M. JOHNSON—afterwards member of the Dominion Government.

Mr. SMITH—late Sir Albert J. Smith, Minister of Marine in "the McKenzie Government."

Mr. TILLEY—now Sir S. L. Tilley, Minister of Finance in the McDonald Government.

Mr. STEADMAN—now Judge Steadman, County Court.

Mr. GILLMORE—Member of the Dominion Parliament.

Late Mr. CONNELL—Member of the Dominion Parliament.

Mr. BOTSFOORD—late Judge of County Court.

Mr. WILMOT—late Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick and President of the Dominion Senate.

Mr. GRAY—late Chief Justice Gray of British Columbia.

Hon. T. W. ANGLIN—Speaker of the House of Commons.

SESSION OF 1855.

On the 1st February the Hon. J. H. T. Manners-Sutton, for the first time, opened the Legislature of the Province. The "Speech from the Throne" was as remarkable for its length as it was for some of the subjects upon which it touched. The Reciprocity Treaty (and the advantages to be expected under it) was referred to—a new importation of Copper Coin into the Province, amounting to £3,000—the defects in the Election Laws, which led to the impugnation of the Sheriff's returns and tedious costly scrutinies before the Assembly—Education—the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into King's College was promised—notwithstanding the derangement of business by the cholera during the previous summer, the revenue for the past year (1854) had been larger than in any one single year before—promise of a "budget," or "estimate of expenditures" for the current year, was given. His Excellency, however, hinted that until the Government had the initiation of the money votes in their hands, they could not operate with advantage, as they must be in a position to keep expenditure within income. The Crown Lands and Emigration formed distinct subjects in His Excellency's Speech. Altogether the commencement of the new Session, judging from the tone of the Speech, was auspicious of a fruitful and profitable season.

The Address in answer to the Speech was moved by Mr. Ryan (deceased) and seconded by Mr. McPhelim. Mr. Cutler moved an amendment to the 17th Section, which referred to the system of auditing the Accounts; the friends of the Government contended that it would be unfair to try and condemn an administration that had yet no opportunity of doing anything, good or bad. The amendment, therefore, was voted down by a large majority; and the Address was carried by the same majority, nearly three to one.

There was next a spicy discussion upon the subject of Members having the privilege of using the electric wires at the expense of the Province. Honorable Gentlemen alleged that when they called to pay their bills at the Telegraph Office, they were informed that there had been an open account with the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council, and that members had always freely used the wires under this arrangement. It was remarked that the Province had no right to be saddled with this expense; for members might send telegrams as long as letters, when they had nothing to pay. Almost every member expressed himself as obnoxious to the practice. No definite decision was come to, but as members declared that they would vote against any appropriation being made, should the subject come up hereafter, it is very probable that the Telegraph Office "stopped the supplies," unless messages were paid for by individual members, since the chances of payment afterwards might not be assured.

Feb. 8. Hon. members had an excellent opportunity this day for the display of their loyalty and patriotism. The occasion was a resolution submitted by the Attorney General in favor of an amount being granted from the public chest towards the English Patriotic Fund [The Crimean War was going on.] The Hon. gentleman's motion was seconded by Mr. Gray, and both distinguished themselves in neat speeches, every word of which was a diamond that sparkled in the fancy of those who (and there were a number of the old school gentlemen still in the House who thought this way) would never hear the name and fame of England mentioned without going into ecstasies, and feeling that they had a personal as well as historical interest in the history and traditions of the mother land—regarding

her as the Mistress of Nations, without a single blemish upon her escutcheon.

The amount moved was £5,000, which Mr. Cutler wished to reduce to £2,500. The original sum was carried unanimously; and the Legislative Council was asked to concur also in an Address to accompany it.

Feb. 14. Mr. Partelow moved a resolution that the members of the House of Assembly do go into suitable mourning for the space of thirty days, as a mark of respect and esteem for the memory of the Hon. Mr. Gilbert, late of the Legislative Council, who died the day before, at his residence in Gagetown, County of Queen's. Carried unanimously.

Feb. 21. For the first time in our Provincial History, a Revenue Bill was submitted by the Provincial Secretary, now a Member of the Government. His explanation showed that every item specified for certain duties had been carefully considered, and the calculations closely adapted. His Financial Statements were also well received—the income and assets of the Province clearly explained. He remarked that it was the intention of the Government to proceed with the specific duties at once, but he was willing to give time for full consideration. Afterwards he moved the following resolution:—"Resolved, that all duties not exceeding a certain amount, as well specific as ad valorem, be imposed according to the scale of schedule." Mr. Cutler complimented the Secretary for the very able exposure of the Revenue Bill; it was, he said, exceedingly gratifying to him, and he most cheerfully accorded to the Hon. Secretary his meed of praise; and expressed his belief that the Bill would pass the House by a large majority. The Speaker in remarking on the Bill, said when Farmers go to the City of St. John with their produce, they should have the privilege of buying their boots and shoes at as cheap a rate as possible, and not be obliged to purchase those articles at the rate of 20 or 30 per cent too high. He closed by expressing his readiness to agree with the general principles of the Bill. The Surveyor General in remarking, alluded to a former Revenue Bill, and termed it a hodge-podge Bill. Mr. Wilmot attacked the Surveyor General's expression in a decided manner—he said he would defend the old house! In defence of late Revenue Act he observed that thirteen steam engines were in operation in Union Street, St. John. The effect of the abolition of the Navigation Laws would have ruined the country were it not for the gold fields in California. Mr. Hatheway replied—as a farmer himself he said he wanted no more protection than the liberty of working his farm. Mr. Brown remarked that the Revenue Bill was framed under five heads, viz: one of specific, three of ad valorem, and one of special duty. Mr. Steadman said he understood the Revenue Bill, it was intended to raise such a revenue as would meet the expenses of the current year; as such, he would readily support it. Mr. McPhelim spoke in favor of the Bill. The debate continued till a late hour.

The responsibility in a matter of such vast importance being thus boldly assumed by the Government, had the effect of closing all the avenues to an unnecessary discussion of the peculiar crotchets of free traders and protectionists; for the house at once saw that the Government were in earnest and would not only be theoretically responsible in their actions, but persistently and practically so—would carry their measures or resign their seats. This, then, was one great point gained by the reform movement and a changed Government, as it would lead to an immense saving to the country. Heretofore the debates upon the revenue occupied days and weeks; every item (as has been frequently shown) formed a topic of criticism—alteration, expunction, or reduction. Mr. Tilley was now the first Minister to essay a new departure in connection with colleagues equally zealous for improving the working machinery in all the public departments, and bringing order out of medieval and irregular practices. The Revenue Bill was carried at a subsequent day by a large majority, with but a single trifling amendment; and thus the promise of a more healthy management of the finances was made manifest.

Lengthy discussions from day to day occurred on a Bill (in itself of very small importance) for incorporating the St. John Protestant Orphan Asylum, introduced by Hon. Mr. Tilley. The title was the gravamen which set the whole House by the ears. It was like a Temperance measure, an Orange measure, or any other that assumed, or was imagined to assume, a party hue, and it was sure to give rise to a round of electioneering baranganes, both by Liberals and Conservatives. These different organizations were duly reminded by the friends of each—for these organizations were all represented in the House—that it encouragement were given to this particular measure, the party or parties who assisted, need expect no support when any Bill of theirs should be presented at any time. Had the word Protestant (the institution was to be under purely Protestant government—but there was to be no Roman Catholic exclusion) been omitted, the Bill would have gone through the House with scarcely a word of debate; this prefix stamped it as a sectarian measure, not only so, but led to a misconception of its real character—even, that it was meant to show that the intention was to establish an anti Catholic institution in our midst. Moreover, the title of the Bill was the means of creating an opportunity for the exhaustion of a vast deal of valuable breath, and a pandering to denominational prejudice, all of which perhaps might have been avoided. The Bill was carried—but at an expense to the Province of several hundred pounds, taking into consideration the time occupied in the needless discussion.

23rd. The Attorney General introduced a Government Election Bill, and delivered a long introductory speech in support of its provisions. The principal features of the Bill were—that qualified voters should

consist of male British subjects, worth £25 in real estate; or, personal property, £100; or annual income of £100. The qualification of a candidate for the House of Assembly £300 over all incumbences. The voting to be conducted by ballot; and a Registry of persons to be qualified to be prepared by Revisors appointed—three for each Parish—the Registry to be revised every year. Guards are provided against bribery and corruption at elections; but all the guards in the world are inadequate to check such practices—"the ballot," therefore in this respect is not much if any improvement upon the old system—it is a man is determined to steal, bars and locks will not make him honest—the great advantage is the ballot receives the independent action of the voter—it he wishes to act independently; if not, therefore, altogether perfect in all respects, it could be made so by the application of the right machinery.

[Note.—It was a lamentable state of things that in a country where men call themselves free, they are at election time the greatest slaves possible to themselves. The right to vote—a man's freedom it may be called—is bartered for gold. However distasteful a candidate may be, and unfit for the position to which he aspires, the corrupt constituent will vote for him when manipulated by the sharpest bidder; and it is not uncommon for some men to take bribes from both sides, and after all vote for whomever they think best or worst. A man who is base enough to sell his vote is not to be trusted out of sight, and it is impossible to follow him up in a Dominion election, for the reason that the ballots are prepared on one kind of paper, and the voter repairs to a room set apart for the purpose, to place his mark upon the paper previously handed to him by the presiding officer. Even under the ballot system it is seldom that a man can be elected to Parliament, or to the local Legislature unless at enormous cost to himself and his friends, amounting sometimes to thousands of dollars—which fact is an acknowledgment that all alike are obliged to enter the field with all this corruption before them. The simple expenses of an election may be covered by a hundred or two hundred dollars—all beyond this may be counted as *serv* money—used for the purpose of debauching the elector—who for a price will sell his manhood at any time for a few dollars. Many persons in all communities, otherwise accounted respectable, are always at the front at election seasons to sell themselves, or their votes, which is the same thing. That men of this stamp should have such privileges is a misnomer in the genius of our Constitution. They are no better than the creatures of the Egyptian task-masters or the once Southern slave driver, willing to do any kind of dirty work for a consideration! The law is strict and explicit in regard to the elector, but lamentably wanting in the case of the elector. The former, for direct bribery, is not only unseated, but declared unqualified for re-election. In the latter case there is no suitable provision for punishment. The man who sells his vote should be disfranchised for a dozen years at least—for a corrupt man is dangerous anywhere, and is not to be trusted, because he would, if he could, sell the whole town into slavery if he were paid for so doing. These no doubt are strong expressions, but they are the outcome of a deeply rooted conviction.]

Macabre Men May Strike.
The macabre men, or fishers of dead bodies of Paris, who ply their doleful trade on the Seine, between the Auteuil Viaduct and the Billancourt Bridge, threaten to go on strike owing to the slowness with which their money premiums are paid.

Pere Joseph, the senior member of the profession, has been fishing for macabres, or dead bodies, during the past twenty-five years, but he and his companions are now idle, as he has not been paid for the last batch of corpses sent to the morgue. Joseph sent forty-two macabres to the city dead-house last year, and was paid twelve shillings for them.

This year the trade seemed to be improving; the morgue literally overflowed with bodies taken out of the river, and in one day he made £2 10s. That money, however, he has not yet received, although it has been due for a fortnight, and hence he has laid down his ropes and grappling irons until the city officials, whose duty it is to remunerate him and his companions for their services, shall be more expeditious in their paying.

Why It Served Him.
"Yes," said a venerable and benevolent-looking old man, "I've always really enjoyed living in an unhealthy climate."
"That's queer," said a bystander.
"What's the reason?"
"I rather think," responded the venerable and benevolent-looking old gentleman, "that it's because I'm a physician."

Saved Her Life.

Mrs. C. J. WOOLDRIDGE, of Wortham, Texas, saved the life of her child by the use of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

"One of my children had Croup. The case was attended by our physician, and was supposed to be well under control. One night I was startled by the child's hard breathing, and on going to it found it struggling. It had nearly ceased to breathe. Realizing that the child's alarming condition had become possible in spite of the medicines given, I reasoned that such remedies would be of no avail. Having part of a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral in the house, I gave the child three doses, at short intervals, and anxiously waited results. From the moment the Pectoral was given, the child's breathing grew easier, and in a short time, she was sleeping quietly and breathing naturally. The child is alive and well to-day, and I do not hesitate to say that Ayer's Cherry Pectoral saved her life."

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HOW TO LIVE A CENTURY.

As Easy as Rolling Off a Log if You Make It Your Business.

First, live as much as possible out of doors, never letting a day pass without spending at least three or four hours in the open air.

Second, keep all the powers of mind and body occupied in congenial work. The muscles should be developed and the mind kept active.

Third, avoid excesses of all kinds, whether of food, drink, or of whatever nature they may be. Be moderate in all things.

Fourth, never despair. Be cheerful at all times. Never give way to anger. Never let the trials of one day pass over to the next.

The period from 50 to 75 should not be passed in idleness or abandonment of all work. Here is where a great many men fall. They resign all care of interest in worldly affairs, and rest of body and mind begins. They throw up their business and retire to private life, which in too many cases proves to be a suicidal policy.

During the next period—the period from 75 to 100 years, while the powers of life are at their lowest ebb—one cannot be too careful about catching cold. Bronchitis is a most prolific cause of death in the aged. During this last period rest should be in abundance.

Anybody who can follow these directions ought to live to be 100 years old at least. There is always this comfort, however: if we cannot live up to our ideas always, we can, at least, try our best to do so, and the steady effort will be bringing us constantly nearer them—Medical Age.

The Dead Man Passed.

The following almost incredible story of a wonderful coincidence was a favourite one with the late Charles Reade.

Walking one moonlight night in New York, along the banks of a river with a friend, Reade told a terrible story of a man who had married a servant of his. They had a little son of four or five years old, and, as the husband turned out a worthless brute, the wife left the boy with her mother. One day, in a drunken frenzy, the man took the child away, and some weeks after, in a cellar in St. Giles's, it was found strangled. The poor mother left Reade's service and died. Suspicion, of course, attached to the father, who promptly disappeared.

At this stage of the story, they approached a bridge over the river, and suddenly saw a strange object floating gently down the stream.

In the moonbeams that fell upon it Charles Reade, we are told, recognized the dead face of the very man he had been talking about.

Where They Would be Safe.
Grandma—"Bobby, what are you doing in the pantry?"
Bobby—"Oh, I'm just putting a few things away, gran'ma."

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