

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. 4.

SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF 1852.

The Reciprocity Treaty—The Opposition Strong and Determined to Upset the Government—Denunciation of the Previous Governor's (Sir E. Head) Conduct—His Intermeddling with the Constitutional Rights of the People—Mr. C. Fisher the Leader of the Opposition—His Speech—The Defence of the Government.

On the 20th of October a special Session of the Legislature was called, for the purpose of taking action upon, and ratifying, the Reciprocity Treaty made between England and the United States. The war of party commenced immediately on members proceeding to their chamber. Mr. Hanington was elected Speaker. The House had scarcely heard the Address read by the mover when it began to exhibit signs of insubordination. They would not hear the Address read from the Chair. Mr. Fisher brought in a bill; Mr. Cutler another; Mr. Harding a third; and Mr. Tilley a fourth. The Government members spoke of the Session as a Special Session, called to deliberate upon the acceptance of the Treaty, &c. Mr. Ritchie and Mr. End reminded the Government that being convened, they had the right to do whatever they thought it their duty to do, as this was to all intents and purposes a General Assembly, and Mr. Fisher declared that as it was the first Session of the new House, there were many things that must now be settled—amongst others the Government of the country for the next four years.

Mr. Fisher moved an amendment to the Address, and spoke for four hours. He was very severe upon the arbitrary conduct of Sir Edmund Head. He went into a long explanation of his own conduct at the time he retired from the government, and shewed by correspondence never before made public, that he at once objected to the Governor appointing the Judges, and declared that he would not put up with it. Sir Edmund, he declared, sent the notice to the Royal Gazette, in his own hand writing without showing it to, or consulting the Council. He then went on to attack the present Attorney General (Street) for joining the Government he had just declared "politically dishonest," and in this part of his speech he was politically severe. He was also severe in his comments upon the School and Municipal Laws, and upon the Election Bill brought into the House by the hon. Atty. General and afterwards withdrawn. Mr. Brown followed on the same side. This gentlemen had consented to move the Address, but afterwards finding that the proposition was an endeavor on the part of the Government to entrap him, he declined the honor, and supported the amendment. As this amendment is important, involving the stability of the Government, and their final defeat, it is here copied:

It is with feelings of loyalty and attachment to Her Majesty's Person and Government, that we recognize in that provision of the Treaty which requires the concurrence of this Legislature, a distinct avowal of the Imperial Government of their determination to preserve inviolate the principles of Self-Government, and to regard the Constitution of the province as sacred as that of the parent state. We regret that the conduct of the local Administration during the last four years has not been in accordance with these principles, and we feel constrained thus early most respectfully to state to your excellency, that your constitutional advisers have not conducted the Government of the Province in the true spirit of our Colonial Constitution.

Messrs. Street, Wilnot, Gray, were the leading speakers on the Government side; Messrs. Ritchie, Tilley, Johnson, Smith, Harding, in opposition. Heavy blows were exchanged; and it was evident that the fate of the Government was sealed; day after day as the debate progressed new converts were made to the opposition ranks. Those "doubtful" gentlemen who kept their hands under their desks unwilling to show them to either party or to commit themselves by word or look until they could satisfy themselves beyond peradventure which side would preponderate, now gradually, one by one, emerged from their shells, and at the last moment threw themselves into the arms of the Opposition, and became great Liberals! On the night of the 27th, the eve before the final division was to take place, the exact position of every member was fixed and understood. The whole Province appeared to be in a state of excitement. The wires connecting with St. John were in continual operation, flashing along the probabilities of the result. Never were the people more political on any occasion—the Liberals at the prospect of finally conquering their old opponents—the Conservatives that all their power and prestige were about to be wrested from their grasp for the first time and forever since the Province was partitioned off from Nova Scotia. The grounds of attack and defence may be thus summarized. It was charged against the Government, by Mr. Fisher the leader of the Opposition, who had been one of the government, but recently retired, that his "conferrers" submitted to an undue exercise of authority on the part of Sir Edmund Head. In this wise—Chief Justice Chipman had retired from the bench; and it was

the wish of the Government to reduce the number of Judges to three, and the Master of the Rolls to act as one of the Judges, making four; this vacation of the Chief Justiceship furnished the opportunity, they thought, and at the same time would cause a saving to the country. The Hon. L. A. Wilnot was Attorney General, (1848) and in the order of political succession according to Responsible Government, should have been made Chief Justice; but inasmuch as he had allied himself with the Conservatives a few years before this, (justified by his friends at the time,) ere the Constitution we now have was reduced to proper working order, he had no old Constitutional friends to rely upon and back him up should he make a stand for his rights. The Government advised that the Chief Justiceship should be entailed in seniority. His Excellency after asking for advice and getting it, proceeded on his own ideas of what were right and proper. He accordingly recommended to the Colonial Secretary the names of Judge Carter for the office of Chief Justice, and the Attorney General (L. A. Wilnot) for that of Puisne Judge. Moreover the Judges themselves drew up a Memorial in opposition to the views of the Council, which His Excellency forwarded to the Colonial Office in company with his own—and the Council were not permitted to see it. The appointing power was thus virtually set aside, or taken out of the hands of the Government of this Province, and as of old ere Self-Government was conceded, handed over, as it were, through the Lieut. Governor, to Downing Street. The inner view of this movement may be thus rendered. Mr. L. A. Wilnot had for years been the most determined opponent of "the old compact



HON. CHARLES CONNELL.

party" as it was called; and now having him on their side as their Attorney General, the endeavor was to hold him as their expounder and defender upon the floors of the House. To do this, it was necessary to close the doors of the office of one of the Judges—since Judge Chipman had resigned—which office was Mr. Wilnot's by right of political succession. Instead, therefore, of being actuated by a patriotic and economical desire it was that of selfishness—to hold office as long as possible. And there is still another explanation to be given, perhaps for the first time, to the public. It was not Sir Edmund's attention to appoint Mr. Wilnot to the office, whoever else he may have had in view,—but Mr. W. insisted upon his rights and produced a document, signed by Lord Glenelg, Secretary for the Colonies at the time when Mr. W. was a delegate in England,—in which His Lordship informed him that at any time he could render him a service not to hesitate about writing to him. The reading of this document brought Sir Edmund to a clearer comprehension of the situation; for he at once saw that with such powerful influences as might be invoked in England by Mr. Wilnot's friends, it would probably in the end tend to his own (Sir Edmund's) discomfiture, and therefore it would not be well to arouse the slumbering lion, by turning his back upon Mr. Wilnot's claims. Suffice it to add, that this gentleman was appointed with Judge Carter as Chief Justice,—and hence all the difficulty with the Government and the turmoil that followed. It was not, however, that the House and the country considered that Mr. Wilnot was not entitled to the office. The difficulty arose on the ground that the Council having as part of their policy advised His Excellency not to fill the vacancy, and then allowing him to act contrary to their advice without protest and surrendering their offices.

The following extract from Mr. Fisher's speech will furnish some of the points made in the course of the lengthened debate that extended over four days:—"Had the Council resigned, (said Mr. F.) His Excellency would have been compelled to abandon the appointment or get another Council to sustain him. In the case of Mr. Reade, the Council resigned on that ground, and though the principle was in a very crude state he called a new Council, against whom the House passed a vote of non-confidence, and Mr. Reade's appointment was finally cancelled. He would shew that the Governor erred knowing the truth. In his Minute he says—'If those recommendations are at variance with the advice of the Executive Council it is open to the Members of that body to take their own course.' He (Mr. F.) did not complain of the political doctrine concealed in this sentence, it was correct; he quoted it to prove that Sir Edmund knew what the true principle was. In plain English it the Council were not satisfied with his recommendations they could resign. If he appointed adversely to their advice, they could retire; if they did not, they were responsible for they must defend the appointment. The dilemma the Governor was in was, with the full knowledge of the constitutional principle he had made a recommendation adverse to their advice, and never showed them or apprised them of it; how, in his own language, could they take their own course? they were in ignorance of his course, how could they take theirs? In this the whole difficulty consisted. He

(Mr. F.) had no doubt, when Lord Grey authorized the appointment, he did it under the impression that the recommendation of the Governor had been shewn to the Council as it ought to have been, and as they had neither remonstrated or resigned, that they had deterred to it. Depend upon it, Lord Grey never would have authorized the appointment in any other way; he never would have interfered with the local patronage to gratify any Governor. After the Governor saw that the Council would tamely submit to such a proceeding, he knew that he had them at his feet. From that day they were prostrate, and to it may be attributed all the subsequent acts of the Government. His whole administration after that had been a government by Despatch, and effort after effort to curtail the principle of self-government, and magnify the Colonial Office."

Before he left the Despatch, there was a remark of the Governor's worthy of note. He says, 'I confess myself to be in great perplexity.' That was a state of mind. A Governor with constitutional advisors, ought never to be in; why need he perplex himself whether there were three or six Judges, or who should hold one office or the other? His whole difficulty arose from his desire to have his own way, and do as he pleased; and had he been met with that independence and firmness that the rights of the people required, he would have been in much greater perplexity. It must not be supposed that he wished to deprive the Governor of what was his constitutional prerogative. He (Mr. F.) considered the maintenance of the prerogative of the Crown as essential to the liberty of the subject, as the protection of the rights of the people."

This was not the only charge against the Government, but it was the main one and perhaps the most damaging. The Opposition claimed also that this Government was but a continuation of the old one, extending over a period of very many years—indeed since the appointment of Mr. Wilnot to the Bench, and the withdrawal of the Hon. Mr. Fisher, it had resolved itself into its original elements—the old family compact." From time to time changes had been made—when one member went out, another took his place; it was therefore what might be called an involuntary Government—the old leaven was in the lump, and no new patch put upon it could, in the eyes of the Opposition, alter its complexion. It was a change of men without change of principles. And so it was said that the faults committed (it might have been thirty years before) were visited upon the heads of the present incumbents as if they were equally the guilty parties, because when they took office, these faults had not been expiated; and therefore the responsibility in a direct line descended to "the third and fourth generations" of Executive Councillors. But then the defence had something to say in extenuation if not in justification of their conduct, and give their views of the Constitution. And here it may be remarked that the old British axiom,—"The Queen can do no wrong,"—seems to have lost its meaning on this occasion; for although her representative is supposed to be enshrined under the same peculiar fiction, "the divinity that doth hedge a King," His Excellency's name and conduct were dealt with upon the floors of the House day after day, as if he alone were guilty of the chief wrong committed, and for which his Council were now put upon their trial.

A PETERBORO MIRACLE.

BROUGHT BACK FROM THE BRINK OF THE GRAVE.

A Young Girl's Wonderful Experience—Sickly From Four Months of Age—Her Parents Did Not Think She Would Live a Month—Now a Picture of Health—A Marvellous Case.

(From the Peterboro Examiner.)

To be dragged to the edge of the grave in the grasp of dread disease is an experience that comes once to all, but to contemplate entering the grave and mingling with its dust, to have, even in hope, bidden goodbye to life and all its sweetness, and then to be snatched from the brink of the grave and to be restored to health, strength and happiness, is an experience that few enjoy. We hear and read of such cases so well attested, that doubt finds small space for its exercise, but heretofore no case has, until now, come under our notice in Peterborough with such directness as to "make assurance doubly sure." Such a case however exists.

Many persons have heard of the illness of Miss Annie Ranger, who lives with her parents at 19 Parnell street. She was brought down to the very gates of death and was restored to perfect health when all human aid seemed to be unavailing. Her miraculous cure excited so much comment that a representative of the Examiner was detailed to obtain the particulars, and the result of the investigation is to verify the reports that have been current. On calling at Mr. Ranger's house the reporter was met at the door by a bright-eyed, healthy looking young girl, who readily consented to give the particulars of her illness and cure. She remarked that her mother was absent in Montreal on a visit, and added with no little pride that she was keeping the house and doing all the work, a thing that would have been impossible a year or so ago, as she was then so ill that instead of taking care of the house she needed constant attention herself.

"I have been sickly from the time I was four months old," she said, and as I grew up, the weakness and ill-health became more pronounced. My blood was said to have turned watery. I was weak, pale and dull and could do nothing but suffer. Nothing the doctors did for me was of any use and I grew worse and worse. Father spent a farm on me, but it was of no avail, and father and mother gave me up and felt that I was going to die. I expected to die myself. I had no blood, I was as pale as a corpse and so weak I could hardly walk. My heart also gave me very much trouble and it I lifted my hands, my heart would jump until I thought I would die. About two years ago we heard of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and got a box, but as they did not seem to do me much good I didn't take any more at the time, but as I got worse and the doctor could do nothing for me, I determined to try the Pink Pills once more; this time I made up my mind that I would give them a fair trial. I got eight boxes and before the third box was done I felt better and my appetite was better. I kept on taking the pills until I had taken the eight boxes, and all the time kept growing stronger and stronger. My color returned,

my heart trouble left me and my appetite was better than it ever had been before. Now I can do any work about the house, and feel strong and well all the time. It is a great change since last July when I could scarcely walk across the floor without falling. I believe Dr. Williams' Pink Pills saved me from going to the grave, and I am thankful I took them."

There was no doubting the honesty of her conviction that Pink Pills saved her life. A younger sister corroborated what was said, remarking "when Amelia was so bad last spring she was so pale she was almost green, and mother did not think she would live a month."

In evidence of the dangerously ill condition of Miss Ranger, a couple of neighbors were seen. Mrs. Tromblay said the girl was very ill, and her friends did not expect her to recover, and she had been cured by the use of Pink Pills. Another lady present also bore testimony to the hopelessly ill condition of Miss Ranger, a few months ago.

The remarkable and gratifying results following the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, in the case of Miss Ranger, show that they are unequalled as a blood builder and nerve tonic. In the case of young girls who are pale or sallow, listless, troubled with a fluttering or palpitation of the heart, weak and easily tired, no time should be lost in taking a course of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which will speedily enrich the blood, and bring a rosy glow of health to the cheeks. These pills are a positive cure for all troubles arising from a vitiated condition of the blood and a shattered nervous system, such as locomotor ataxia, partial paralysis, St. Vitus' dance, sciatica, neuralgia, rheumatism, nervous headache, the after effects of la grippe, that tired feeling resulting from nervous prostration, all diseases depending upon humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc. They are also a specific for troubles peculiar to females, such as suppressions, irregularities and all forms of weakness. In the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork, or excesses of whatever nature.

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