

THE HERALD
EVERY SATURDAY.
CORNER QUEEN AND RIGBY STREETS,
BY
THE HERALD PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.

THE HERALD.
FREDERICTON, JANUARY 30, 1892.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Either the county council at its late meeting had little, if any, business to transact, or one of our local papers reporting its proceedings did the gentleman of the council great injustice. We suspect the publisher of the report has not been any more scrupulous in putting words into the councillors' mouths than he has been in putting his hand into peoples' pockets; but making due allowance in this direction our first remark still holds true. No one, unless it may be the people who sent the councillors here to do their business, will very much complain because some of the members occupied themselves and amused others in feebly storming at the government; and we are glad that the friends of the government at the board paid no attention to their fierce and warlike colleagues. Among those, it is only just to say, that councillors Pinder and Scott are the most conspicuous. The former as representing an important parish might be thought a person of some responsibility, but it would be a mistake to suppose so. Business men in this community who have acted upon the supposition have never failed to discover their error. This gentleman has a good deal to say about the local government stealing the public money. Now it must not be imagined from this circumstance that councillor Pinder looks with any disfavor upon stealing in the abstract; on the contrary, it is only the stealing in which he does not participate to which he has a strong objection. Mr. Pinder has good reason from his standpoint to sigh for a change of government. Time was when he controlled all the special appropriations in the parish of Southampton and what he did with the money which came into his hands from time to time to be expended, no one will ever be able to find out. The public reports contain opposite his name the significant words: "No account rendered."

Then we have councillor Scott, a very respectable gentleman. True, Mr. Scott is apt to lose his balance over trifles and is quite successful business men are like proud and a little consequential, and estimates his opinion as much more valuable than that of the councillor is more of a gentleman and much more level headed at times, than strangers who hear him talk on his favorite theme of the local government, give him credit for being. And the councillor has a serious grievance against the government, we believe connected with the importation and the discrimination in the charge for the services of the government stallions in favor of members of agricultural societies and against non-members. The councillor protested against this unjust discrimination but his views were not treated with the respect due to a person of his standing and influence. As a natural consequence with councillor Scott, since the horse incident disturbed the pleasant relations then existing between him and the government, the latter have become, in his opinion, a set of thieves and rascals. Let it not be understood, however, that the councillor is not a very good fellow; he is so beyond question in many ways. His old friends nearly all remember him when he was quite rational and had considerable influence and there are many who seem to be sanguine still that some day or other he will be all right again.

Councillor Pinder presented to the provincial secretary's department an order from a bye road commissioner the other day to draw some bye road money, about thirty dollars, and because the department would not give it to him, he hastened to the county council and asked for it. The fact that the provincial treasury was worse than empty. Not quite so fast, Mr. Pinder. The fact was that the government did not care to trust you with the funds.

Secretary treasurer Black is reported as informing the councillors that the government retained nearly \$300 of jurors fees to pay the \$5 charge for highway acts. We are informed on authority that the warrant for jury fees withheld only amounted to \$35.40.

THE RECONSTRUCTION.

When Mr. Abbott was put into the premiership it was understood the arrangement was only temporary and that after the session a reconstruction of the cabinet would take place. This assurance was given on the highest authority and the conservative press and speakers from the leader down were loud in their declarations of the great and improving changes which were to take place in the cabinet so soon as the premier could pull himself together and get to work. The new life and talent which were going to be infused into the ministry would be sure to command universal applause and confidence. After numerous postponements and delays we are now in possession of the new cabinet as reconstructed and the country will be invited to acknowledge with becoming thankfulness how much has been done for us by the operation. It will doubtless be said that we must be difficult to please if we are not grateful, for has not the minister of militia been made post master general, and the minister of customs minister of militia, and the secretary of state minister of customs, and what greater infusion of new life and intellect could we ask for. Perhaps we are captious and faultfinding, but we do not just see where the immense benefits of this double shuffle are going to come in. If we are to submit to be governed for a while longer by Messrs. Chapleau, Caron, Bowell and company we would rather prefer that they should remain in charge of the departments which they have learned to administer than to be put in control of others of which they know absolutely nothing. Why the country should be expected to entrust our Mr. Bowell being put in charge of all matter pertaining to the militia of the country when we presume he has yet to learn the first principles of the militia organization, we cannot divine. John Haggart may have carefully concealed the qualities which eminently fit him for the department of railways, but no one has suspected him of possessing them. Sir A. P. Caron may be a much brighter and more shining light as head of the postal department than as minister of war, but we doubt it. Mr. Chapleau will be a typical illustration of the utter futility of trying to put a round man into a square hole. It was not the merits of the cabinet which enabled the government to get into office as a master of administration, but the

the customs department needs. Of all the politicians in Canada Mr. Chapleau is the last man who would be chosen one would think for such an office. The reconstruction has come and we have it, and if we were to express an opinion on the business we would say it is the weakest of all the weak efforts yet made by the government in its struggle for existence.

There is now a proposal before the St. John common council from the C. P. R. to pay half the cost of building a free railway and carriage bridge over the head of the harbor. The estimated cost is \$500,000, and it is pointed out to the city that if they would pay the cost of the other half it would entail an annual charge of only \$10,000 per year for the interest at 4 per cent on \$200,000. The object of the C. P. R. is a legitimate one, it is to escape the bridge charges now levied by the cantilever company, and which it is alleged are unreasonable. This is another instance of the waste of public money for political purposes. A half million of dollars has been invested by the dominion in the cantilever bridge, and the bridge belongs to a private company. And a quarter of million of indebtedness has now to be incurred by somebody to help construct another competing bridge. This sort of thing has been going on, no doubt, all over the dominion.

Sir John Thompson has been overpowered. His surroundings are too much for him. No doubt he meant what he said during the session that the Connollys would not get another dollar on their Kingston contract until the whole matter was cleared up and restitution made; but when the election of the government candidate depended upon the payment to the Connollys the \$22,000 handed over and, no doubt, part of it, at least, did good work for the cause.

We have been greatly pleased to read a letter from the Hon. Mr. P. P. D. Moore of Stanley. He has chosen "Heresies" for his theme, and we would think handles it with a great deal of literary skill. The Dr. bids fair to develop into a powerful writer, his style is incisive, his language forcible and elegant, and his thought always chaste and pure. We shall be surprised if the Dr. does not make a name for himself in a literary line.

The defeat of alderman Richey, in Kings ward, is a misfortune to the city. He was one of the men who were always active, zealous, and watchful in the city's interest. If experience and long and faithful service could for anything they should have insured him a return without effort on his own part. If his defeat had not anticipated, many who did not think it worth while to vote, would have gone to the poll.

THE CABINET.

The further reconstruction of the cabinet, which has for some time been in contemplation was carried out on Monday.

Prime Minister and President of the Queen's Privy Council—John Joseph Caldwell Abbott.

Minister of Militia and Defence—MacKenzie Bowell.

Postmaster-General—Sir Adolphe Caron.

Minister of Agriculture—John Carling.

Minister of Inland Revenue—John Costigan.

Minister without portfolio—Frank Smith.

Minister of Customs—Joseph Adolphe Chapleau.

Minister of Justice—Sir John Sparrow David Thompson.

Minister of Finance—George Edgar Foster.

Minister of Marine and Fisheries—Charles Hibbert Tupper.

Minister of Railways and Canals—John Graham Hogg.

Minister of the Interior—Edgar Dewdney.

Minister of Public Works—Joseph Aldrich Oimist.

Secretary of State—James Colebrooke Patterson.

BYE ELECTIONS.

Following are the dates of the coming bye-elections so far announced, their political complexion and the majorities as shown in March last:—

Cumberland, - - - C - 840 - Jan. 30
Laval, - - - C - 354 - Feb. 1
Soulanges, - - - L - 38 - Feb. 3
Lennox, - - - L - 57 - Feb. 4
Prince Edward, - - C - 21 - Feb. 4
Peel, - - - L - 54 - Feb. 4
Quebec, - - - L - 101 - Feb. 9
St. John, - - - L - 207 - Feb. 11
E. Bruce, - - - L - 114 - Feb. 11
Halifax, - - - C - 927 - Feb. 11
E. Middlesex, - - - C - 155 - Feb. 11
Kings, N. S., - - - L - 161 - Feb. 13
Digby, - - - L - 73 - Feb. 13
N. Victoria, - - - L - 292 - Feb. 13
S. Victoria, - - - C - 25 - Feb. 21
These make a total of 15 of which 9 went Liberal and 6 Tory in March last. The first named comes off to-day.

At the political meeting at St. Clare, Quebec, on the 29th Mr. Mercier produced a series of affidavits showing that Mr. P. Pelletier had sold his influence in a series of instances for sums ranging from \$100 to \$2,000. Mercier defied DeBoucherville to retain Pelletier in the cabinet after this exposure.

In the Queen's county election petition, court considers.

BLOOMFIELD RIDGE.

Bloomfield Ridge Jan. 25.—The lumbermen wear a more cheerful look since the storm of the 19th. There was about fourteen inches of a snow fall in this section.

Willford Norrad who was hurt while working in the woods at Cane's river is able to be out again.

Miss Alice Scott is home for a short visit.

Much sympathy is felt for Alex. Moir and family in the loss of a kind and loving mother, who quietly passed away this evening.

The Scientific American published by Munn & Co., New York, during forty-five years, is beyond all question, the leading paper relating to science, mechanics and inventions published on this continent. Each weekly issue presents the latest scientific topics in an interesting and reliable manner, accompanied with engravings prepared expressly to demonstrate the subjects. The Scientific American is invaluable to every person desiring to keep pace with the inventions and discoveries of the day.

U N B CONVERSATION.—The alumni and students of the university will have a conversation on Thursday evening, Feb. 11th.

MR. WILSON'S LETTER.

How Mr. Black Made His Astonishing Surplus of \$2,995.20 Balance.

To EDITOR OF THE HERALD:

Sir,—In the issues of a certain disreputable local paper during and since the meeting of the county council of the municipality of York, are to be found what purports to be a report of the proceedings at the January session, in which so many unfair and untruthful references are made to me in several respects, that in justice to myself and in regard to the transaction of the county business at the meeting of the county council, I will take the liberty of making a few remarks. In one issue it is stated that the condition of the finances of the county was so flourishing under the management of the present secretary treasurer, that it justified my removal. The friends of Mr. Black have been seeking for some time to find some justification for my displacement, and they have found it at last in his ability as a financier.

Well, let us for a moment cast our casual eyes upon this brilliant and incomparable financial presentation and see if the present secretary treasurer deserves all this praise. According to the report of the committee on the sec. treas. accounts, submitted during the recent January session, there was to the credit of the county in the bank the sum of \$2,995.20, while I could only scrape together some \$2,018.38, then the council met in 1891. This on the face of it, without any examination, shows in favor of Mr. Black. But how does he make up his \$2,995.20? An examination of pages 120 and 121 of the auditor's report of 1891 and of the city treasurer's books, will give us the information. By reference to page 120 we find that \$383.00 was received by Mr. Black during the last fiscal year for the sale of debentures. By reference to page 121 we find only \$8,000 of that sum paid out, which left \$375.00 of debenture money in his hands, the balance of the \$383.00 being his surplus. It also appears that the administration of justice committee of the county with a view, no doubt, to help Mr. Black out, met the committee from the city council before their January session and adjusted the amounts which the city and county would respectively have to pay, and the sum, \$387.54 (the city's proportion for 1891) was paid to Mr. Black on the 9th of January, 1892; I never was paid until after the January session in any year. He had this amount to swell his surplus as well as the amount of \$342.07 for city portion for 1890. In other words in the making up of his accounts from the 20th January, 1891, to the 10th of January, 1892, he had the advantage of two payments amounting to \$1,629.61 from the city and \$387.54 from the county, whereas from January, 1890, to January, 1891, I only had the advantage of one payment of \$897.39. There is another sum of \$287.70 by road money which the government withheld from me in June, 1890, on account of advances to councillors, but after the January session, 1891, to me and transferred to Mr. Black and which was not paid out by him. The bye road money which I received from the government was always paid out and more. In 1890 I received \$2,742.20, and paid out \$2,930. In 1891 Mr. Black placed in his receipts this \$2,957.50, and paid out nothing.

Now, adding these three amounts, \$800 debenture money, \$387.54 administration of justice money and the \$257.70 bye road money together, we have the sum of \$1,745.24 of credit as well as the present secretary treasurer had at his command to assist in making up his \$2,995.20. Deducting this amount of \$1,745.24 from the great surplus of \$2,995.20, we have it reduced to the magnificent sum of \$1,249.96.

It is stated that this amount of interest paid during the year to the bank over drawn account is less under Mr. Black's management than what was paid under mine. We find, according to the auditor's report, there was paid for the year ending 30th November, 1891, the sum of \$1,838.00 to the bank for overdrafts and Merchants' bank on overdrafts amount at a much lower rate of interest to the latter than was charged during my last year. For the year ending 30th December, 1890, under my control, there was paid to the Peoples bank for overdrafts the sum of \$1,819.00, and the rate of five per cent for the first half of the year and six per cent for the last half, which shows that the amounts of the over drawn account for the year ending at the session of the council, 1892, must have been greater than it was for the year at the same time in 1891. So much for the surplus and interest. Charges were made against me by the present secretary treasurer, not only in his star spangled and brilliantly worded foot notes, which adorned every page of his last immortal production in the form of an auditor's report, but to every councillor with whom he came in contact. My opponents at the council made the same charge. But now, we find sums of over \$1,000, which had not been paid out since 1891, but which had been paid out by the present secretary treasurer, not only in his star spangled and brilliantly worded foot notes, which adorned every page of his last immortal production in the form of an auditor's report, but to every councillor with whom he came in contact. My opponents at the council made the same charge. 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