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THE HERALD.

FREDERICTON, APRIL 1, 1893.

THE SCHOOL DISCUSSION.

The Bathurst school question has been so far decided that it has been accorded by the whole house that hon. Mr. Blair and his government have been exonerated from all blame. The friends of the premier had that full faith in his integrity and love of fair play to know that he would truckle to no party or denomination and felt certain that the base and insidious charges made by "Pitts and his gang," were false in every particular, but it required the statements of honorable opposition members on the floors of the house to convince those whose passions have been more or less aroused by the slanderous circulars and statements made in the interests of the present representatives of York. Such statements will be found in the reports of the speeches in another column. Dr. Stockton, the leader of the opposition, said in his speech of Wednesday "The Bathurst trouble rested with the trustees." Mr. Powell said: "These regulations should not be interfered with."

Compare these statements with those of Pitts who endeavored but miserably failed to show that the government and board of education had so changed the regulations or adopted new ones that the Bathurst school trouble was the direct outcome and that Mr. Blair was openly supporting the Catholics at Bathurst for the sake of political capital.

The speech made by the hon. Mr. Blair will convince the fair minded reader that so far as the government and himself are concerned, everything possible has been done to carry on the schools according to the law and in a way best conserving the interests of all classes. Pitts then has been elected by the people of York on false issues. He appealed to the worst passions of the electors; he made those who had not good opportunities of studying the question for themselves believe that Catholics were teaching in the public schools without license, that they taught protestant children the Roman Catholic catechism and endeavored to make them subserve to Catholic rites and doctrine. He may not have told his hearers so in so many words but these were the impressions that followed his campaign speeches. He assailed the Catholics for no possible reason except that he was opposed to them. One of his "greatest" efforts was to have the Catholic marriage law rescinded. He did not explain, however, how that was connected with provincial politics. The following paragraph from his paper, speaking of the Roman Catholics, gives a good idea of his bigotry: "In every state and community where it is at all possible, this church has interfered with the public schools, yet there are people who imagine that concessions to them would be just. But they care nothing for justice and fairness. They want everything, they insist on having everything. The rights of other people are nothing to them." Is this not a respectible position for a representative of York to take? This is from a man who speaks of equal rights to all. Is it not that of a man who out of boundless ignorance and intolerance seeks to procure favors from one class by the destruction of another.

Not only did he go through York with his vile circulars, well named "Anarchist Bombs," but he had the audacity, he and his minions, to follow the premier to Queens. Here his scandalous methods failed as they would have in York if the people had had the matter placed honestly and clearly before them. He is now a butt of ridicule and is receiving the contempt and scorn of all of those who have watched him and his methods during and since the election.

There is one thing, however, that may be said in his favor, he is only a tool in the hands of others, who far from endeavoring to promote the best interests of the province are inspired by malice and petty spite. His speech as it appears in the Reporter is evidence of that fact. Though carefully prepared and placed in his hands some time since that he might become familiar with it yet his exhaustless ignorance caused him to pretend the speech was his own, and instead of reading it as the writer intended he interspersed it with the most egregious blunders. It must have been a sorry spectacle for residents of York that which Pitts exhibited on Monday last.

He will no doubt claim that it was a result of his speech that the question came up in the house, but it is not necessary to deny it. The reason that the question was discussed was two-fold, on account of the petitions signed by voters in each county and that the evidence gleaned by the commission which visited Bathurst might be laid before the members. This would have been discussed at this session if Pitts had never been heard of.

It will show the mental calibre of Pitts when it is considered that he voted against his own motion. He moved on Monday — we give one clause of the motion: "With power to examine persons under oath, etc." On Wednesday he voted that witnesses should not be examined under oath, etc.

This is a fact, he voted against not only his own motion but one of the principal clauses of the petitions sent in.

The whole house, both government and opposition, have taken up the matter and it will be settled to the satisfaction of all. Pitts, however, is out of it entirely. The opposition will have none of him, his colleagues are disgusted with him and he may take the unction to his soul that he is, without doubt, one of the least respected men in the house and assuredly in this city.

There is no disposition to find fault with the Orange body of which Pitts is a member. That organization believed the statements which were laid before them and as a result many of them assisted in electing Pitts. Now that they have heard or read the judgment of the whole house they will very likely give Pitts the full measure of his deserts.

RESPECTING a Dominion liberal convention the Toronto Globe says: "The event will probably be fixed for the first of June. The improvement in the prospects of the party during the past year has been a matter of general comment. For a long time the liberal leaders have been prostesting against the exactions of the tariff, and have been working for the emancipation of trade through the medium of tariff reduction and reciprocity arrangements; but the public mind seemed slow to move, and until recently the forces of restriction, backed by such devices as the gerrymander, the franchise act and the unscrupulous use of the control over public expenditure, were too powerful to be overcome. So far as policy is concerned, it is likely that the main subject for consideration at the convention will be the best means of lightening the taxation of the country and of removing burdens from trade, agriculture and manufacturing industry. With an attractive leadership, a sound and popular policy and a strong organization, the liberals may look forward to the next campaign with the brightest hopes.

BATHURST QUESTION.

Continued from first page.

this country if he was qualified to teach and taught in conformity with the law. That was all that the board of education need trouble themselves about; all that their duty required them to enquire into. In case of infractions of the law there had been on the part of the former government as well as this government every disposition to repair the wrong. He (Blair) had never countenanced a violation of the law and he challenged the gentleman opposite to show that the board of education had failed in this way in the slightest degree.

Complaints were constantly being received of misconduct of various kinds on the part of teachers and were examined into, but no complaints of religious instructions had ever been received. If the parents of the children during all these years had had no reason to complain in this regard, surely it must be that the law had been well and faithfully carried out. He could not see that the fact that a school was taught by a Presbyterian minister or Catholic sister established the fact that the school was sectarian. What constituted a sectarian school? Neither was a school sectarian because it was taught in a building which had been in whole or in part occupied by any religious denomination. Here in Fredericton when the law came into operation the trustees had secured the Baptist seminary. Would anybody be so childish as to claim that that made the school sectarian?

Mr. Powell—Such complaints appear to me as trifling. Are there any complaints about sectarian teaching?

Hon. Mr. Blair—Never since I have been a member of the board of education has there been a solitary complaint that anything like sectarian or denominational teaching had been carried on in any of the schools. The whole basis of the present complaint was that the sisters were allowed to teach in St. John, Fredericton, and Bathurst, and to teach in buildings rented by the trustees that were formerly convent schools. Could any cry be more contemptible than that with which to set this county inflame. He would have a thought that any member of this house would be ashamed to voice such a charge.

Mr. Powell—Is that the actual charge?

Hon. Mr. Blair said the hon. member had not been present when the member for York formulated his indictment or he would not have asked that question. That was the whole platform upon which these gentleman were elected, and they did right to give utterance to the views they were sent to express. He was glad to know that there was at least one gentleman in the opposition (Mr. Powell) who had no sympathy with this platform. The hon. member for York had clearly based his grievance on the fact that conventual buildings were used and paid for out of the public money, and therefore that these schools were sectarian. He did not think there was any school house in any country district in the province that was not used for Sunday school when there was no church in the neighborhood. What would be thought of our Catholic brethern if they should raise the cry of sectarian schools as to that matter. By reference to regulation 10 it would be seen that the matter of school buildings was entirely within the authority of the trustees and the board of education had no right to dictate to them either as to the building or the teacher chosen. They could only supervise these matters so as to see that no violation of the law was permitted. If the board went beyond that they would be open to the grave charge of interfering with the privileges of the people. The law wisely recognizes that the trustees familiar as they were with the need of the locality were best fitted to determine these questions.

Bathurst Schools.

Hon. Mr. Blair said he proposed to deal with the Bathurst question as a separate matter. The mover of the resolution had only referred to it incidentally. What he (Pitts) had said was that sisters of charity were allowed to teach and the trustees allowed to rent the convent building, which facts taken together he (Pitts) claimed proved that there were sectarian schools in operation in this province. He thought that he had now dealt pretty thoroughly with every aspect of this question, with the exception of the particular difficulty at Bathurst. It had been said that a memorial was presented by the people of Bathurst but that the board of education paid no attention to these appeals, except what had been called the one-sided examination held in Bathurst last winter. The matter of the complaint of the Bathurst petitioners had given the board the utmost concern. They felt that it was of the greatest importance that the disturbance that had arisen should be allayed and any grievances removed. It was not true that they paid no heed to the complaint of the petitioners. It was true they did not immediately deal with the matter, but at the very first meeting of the board, when the memorial was brought to their notice, they appointed a committee with instructions to proceed to Bathurst and get the fullest information in regard to the whole question and report to the board. He believed the memorial was handed in about the middle of December, 1890, but it was not laid before the board until May, 1891. Quite a length of time before the month of May elapsed, when there was no meeting of the board before which the memorial could be laid. The committee appointed at the meeting consisted of the provincial secretary, the surveyor general, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Ryan and himself. As soon as possible the committee went to Bathurst and on arrival they sent notices to Mr. Thomson to say

That They Would Meet Him

and his friends who might desire to meet with them at the village school room at an hour named. When the hour arrived Mr. Thomson appeared upon the scene. At first he had refused to attend, but after the committee sent him another pressing invitation, he consented to meet with them. Mr. Thomson was supported by a number of his friends, and inspector Mersereau was also present. All the statements which each party had to make were heard and taken down by a stenographer, so that they could be preserved, and that report was being copied as rapidly as possible for submission to the house. All parties were urged to make the fullest possible statement before this committee, so that the whole grievance would be known, and if possible that a remedy might be suggested. Mr. Thomson made several long statements. Mr. Branch made a statement and Mr. McManus spoke on behalf of the trustees and Mr. Mersereau the inspector.

Mr. Stockton — Did these parties have reasonable notice?

Hon. Mr. Blair — They had.

Mr. Stockton — Did Mr. Thomson have reasonable notice? Who notified him?

Hon. Mr. Blair — He received a written invitation from myself at least.

Mr. Stockton — At what time?

Hon. Mr. Blair — I do not remember. It was that morning. We sent him an invitation at what hour we could meet him and he appeared. He refused to come in answer to our first invitation, and I wrote him a letter saying we would meet him at 2 o'clock, and we did then meet him. He made no complaint that he had not had all the opportunity he desired to be heard, and he did not intimate to us that there was any further information he wished to place before the committee. It is said here we took no action upon the memorial, but we did take action. We came to a conclusion, and I will now read to the house what that conclusion was. (Reads report of examination at Bathurst.)

Mr. Stockton — What was the date?

Hon. Mr. Blair — We met as appears here, the latter part of February a year ago.

Mr. Powell calls attention to the fact that he cannot understand how Mr. Blair takes the ground that the board had no right to interfere when the regulation had been passed that public school buildings must be occupied to their full extent before additional buildings shall be leased.

Hon. Mr. Blair — That regulation was made since that and in consequence of our investigation.

Thompson Withdraws.

Hon. Mr. Blair—We were led to believe that a regulation of that kind might contribute towards a solution of the trouble, but at that time there was no such regulation in existence. We have addressed ourselves as faithfully, honestly and thoroughly to the consideration of the Bathurst school question and to the adoption of remedial measures as I think it would be possible for the board to do, and on the very same occasion when we met the gentlemen whose names I have mentioned here representing the district for and aganist the existing arrangement, after we concluded our interview with them we went over to the town of Bathurst and there notified the gentlemen who had signed the memorial and had taken an active part in the agitation that we would be glad to meet them in the evening. They declined to meet us. I sent a note to rev. Mr. Allen, who was a leading spirit, but he declined to come or submit any suggestions to the commitee. We were, therefore, only able to hear from the people of the village of Bathurst. But as I said, we adressed ourselves to this question as carefully as possible. We were not, and are not, open to the charge of being indifferent to the matter, or of having held a one sided or ex parte investigation. We recognized, as stated in our report, the serious nature of the difficulty, and I think we have struck accurately at the causes of the difficulty in the village of Bathurst. The chief superintendent, since the report and suggestions made to him from time to time, has visited the village and town of Bathurst and studied the question on the ground, as I think that you will find that in the papers that are brought here, including the correspondence which passed between him and the board of school trustees in both town and village, in reference to the matter. The late superintendent went over to Bathurst and you will see in the returns that he went there almost immediately after the first growing up of this difficulty to meet the trustees and the complainants and he left feeling he had solved the trouble. An arrangement was proposed to the people and rev. Mr. Thompson and others acting with him agreed to a certain settlement of the trouble, but not long after his return the late chief superintendent received a communication from Mr. Thompson saying that the arrangement he himself had suggested and the other parties agreed to he would withdraw.

Mr. Powell — Are the letters here?

Hon. Mr. Blair — The letters are all here. I am not going to weary the house or myself by reading them now.

Mr. Stockton — Was it not the trustees who raised the difficulty?

Hon. Mr. Blair — I am prepared to say it was not they but Mr. Thompson who withdrew from the arrangement. I have been led to the conclusion that Mr. Thomson wanted a grievance more than anything else. The board of education and the government have been treated by that gentleman in the most unfair way. He has put forth statements which are not accurate. He has taken every means in his power to inflame the public mind, and has acted in every other way than a gentleman connected with the church and filling his position ought to have done. I do not exonerate the board of trustees of Bathurst from all criticism. I think they have been both to blame. I think there has been a want of conciliatory disposition on both sides. It arose in the first place, and is yet in substance and fact simply a question of taxation. Probably the district is called upon to pay $120 to $150 more than it should be called upon to pay. I do not accept Mr. Sellar's statement in preference to my own knowledge. We went over to ascertain the facts and I think the committee as capable as Mr. Sellar of ascertaining the facts. Clergymen are about the last people in the community, the majority of them at all events, to deal with a question that requires calm reflective business like treatment. They are not trained in business.

Taxation.

There are many who are not open to that criticism, but many are. Rev. Mr. Sellar has been referred to. He has entered into this contest, no doubt from the most conscientious motive. No doubt he feels that a very grave outrage is perpetrated upon the protestant people of Bathurst, but hon. members can easily perceive that a gentleman situated as one of these gentlemen may come to a conclusion of this kind without any basis. The question which was simply one of excessive taxation, and the opposition excited, which is simply one of excessive school rates, has developed in the hands of gentlemen whom I am free to say have had in their minds other ends than the removal of the difficulties at Bathurst, into a larger question, and has now found itself before the legislature in its present shape. I am satisfied that if anyone present will go over to Bathurst and get at the facts for himself, he will conclude it is largely a question of taxation. There has been involved this additional consideration: that by reason of the small number of protestants and large number of Catholic children, a superior school has to be maintained to satisfy the protestants and the teacher in that superior school has to take more grades than he ought; but that condition seems to be irremediable. You cannot wipe out the conditions that exist there. The best any government can do is to adopt what methods of reconciliation are available for the purpose of restoring amicable feeling and getting the people to abate some of their extreme contentions on either side. The chief superintendent has taken all the means at his command to endeavor to get these matters settled. I think if the Bathurst people are left to themselves with the assistance of the chief superintendent they will be able to have these difficulties removed. It is our intention to ask the house not to refer this question to a special committee for the purpose of summoning witnesses from Bathurst and bring half the community here to tell us what we already know. We think it well to meet all the requirements of the case to have the whole matter openly discussed before the whole house, and have not only the petition but the returns which have been made here of the regulations of the board of education and all other papers in possession of the house, as well as the school manual and all letters of complaint. After we have fully discussed all the regulations and matters of which we are put in full possession, if it should transpire that any light is required upon a special branch of the subject, then it is quite competent for the house to express its desire that information of that character should be obtained, and under the law it is competent for the government to appoint some one to go there during recess and take the evidence of everybody on oath and bring that evidence before the house at another session. But we submit that there is before the house ample material to enable it to decide whether there are any regulations of the board which ought to be canceled; whether there are any changes in any orders passed relating to the public schools which suggest themselves to this house, and it will afford the government great pleasure to have the members on both sides avail themselves of the information afforded, and state their views frankly and fairly wherever they think there is ground for complaint or criticism. We are not aware that any action we have taken does not commend itself to public favor or of having in any way infringed upon the non sectarian character of the school law. But if these gentlemen have the courage of their convictions and have any views they desire to promulgate let them come before the house and submit their views and let the country hear their arguments! It is not a question of this government, or that whether this board or another shall administer educational affairs. The question is, what is in the best interests of the province and what do the majority of its people require? I am ready to submit myself to the opinion of the country. The board of education has no reason to fear the fullest investigation.

If by the verdict of the people's representatives here or by that of the people when we again have to refer to them, it should be determined that we have been conferring privileges upon one class and withholding them from another; if we have been violating in any way that section of the school law which provides that schools shall be non-sectarian we must pay the penalty. As far as I am capable of forming an opinion on this question I think the men that have set this agitation afloat will fail to produce one title of evidence upon which to found their charge. We have done our duty fairly to the protestant people of the country and to the Catholic people as well, and if the time should come when this question shall be submitted to the people of this country in its nakedness, truthfully, fairly, and frankly, and as a result of that this government should fall, I would not ask, as a representative of the people or as a member of the government to go down in a juster fight or engage in what I conceive to be a worthier struggle than in endeavoring to do what is just, fair and right by all classes of our people, conferring special favors upon none, but assuring equal rights to all.

A Telegram.

The debate on the school question was resumed by a short speech from Dr. Stockton during which he said he wanted it distinctly understood that he was taking sides with neither party in this agitation.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said the leader of the opposition had made one of the most insincere speeches he had ever heard. The petitioners had left their grievance in sorry hands when they relied upon the hon. gentleman. The petitioners asked that the agreement of 1875 should be rescinded, but the hon. gentleman had dodged the question. He had denied the charge of seeking to stir up religious strife, but what about the unholy partnership he had entered into with the firebrand from York (Pitts) and his fanatical followers in the Queens campaign? The government had been harrassed by a guerilla warfare; now they would force their enemies to surrender or else take the field. The leader of the opposition was crying "Peace, peace," but his organs throughout the province were fanning the flame all the time. What did the house think of the following telegram which the attorney general had received:

"BATHURST, March 28.—On verge of riot this morning; door of private school barricaded; number Roman Catholics in vicinity when Protestants arrived; call upon government for protection.

"(Signed) J. SELLAR,
"(Signed) F. THOMSON."

(Loud laughter.)

What did the house think of clergymen who could descend from their high positions and seek to inflame the populace by telegrams like that? When clergymen enter the arena of politics they had a right to be criticised. Rev. A. F. Thomson had been guilty of the most flagrant misrepresentations in this matter.

Mr. Tweedie then reviewed the history of the school question and pointed out the harmonious relations that had existed until this dispute at Bathurst arose. Every sister of charity who taught in Chatham was a duly licensed teacher of the provincial Normal school, and that was the reason the examining station had been changed from Chatham to Bathurst. Did the leader of the opposition think the action of the King government should be condemned or that the agreement then solemnly entered into should now be rescinded? The Protestants and Catholics of this province expected him to speak one way or the other.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie, resuming, said that if the leader of the opposition was in favor of the prayer of the petition it was his duty to move a resolution declaring that the agreement of 1874 should be rescinded and thus bring the issue up squarely. The hon. member (Stockton) had repeatedly in his speech quoted the leader of the government as saying that there was no difficulty in Bathurst at all, whereas the leader of the government had made no such statement, but had admitted that the difficulty was a most serious one. The board of education had made the most strenuous efforts to settle it, the chief superintendent demanding that regulations should be observed or the grant would be withdrawn. Regulation 10 had been passed expressly to deal with the difficulty.

When the hon. member (Stockton) attacked the board of education and imputed motives to them he was imputing motives to the Hon. Sir Leonard Tilley, the chairman, to the chief superintendent of education and to the chancellor of the university. All the testimony showed that at every step the board of education had endeavored to grapple with the difficulty. The hon. member (Stockton) stated that he took neither one side nor the other; could it be possible that he was so ignorant of the facts of the case as to have no opinion at all? Had he not been consulted professionally by Mr. Thompson and others with reference to this difficulty? The hon. members on the other side had not even had the courage to ask that the orders and correspondence of the board of education be brought down. It had been done on this side of the house. The leader of the opposition had not ventured to condemn a solitary act of the government. He had said that he was not here to say who was right and who was wrong. He (Tweedie) thought that the house was here to say who was right and who was wrong. The government had been charged with playing into the hands of the Roman Catholics and they now asked the house to hear that charge.

(Continued next issue.)

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Men's Pers'n Lamb Caps,	$3 75	Boys Shoe Packs, -	60
" Seal Caps, -	2 50	Youths " " -	30
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" Rubber Coats, -	2 25	Childrens " "	50
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Coughs, Colds, Croup, Hoarseness, Whooping Cough, Tickling in the Throat, Shortness of Breath, And Diseases of the Throat & Lungs.
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Open to Colts owned in the Maritime Provinces on or before January 1st, 1893.

Stake No. 1, for Trotting Foals of 1892.
Stake No. 2, " " " " 1891.
Stake No. 3, " " " " 1890.
Stake No. 4, " " " " 1889.

CONDITIONS.

The fees in each Stake will be twelve dollars, payable as follows: $3.00 on 1st March, when nominations close; $4.00 on 1st June, when animals nominated must be named, breeding, sex, color and ownership given, and final payment of $5.00 one week before the race.

An owner can nominate any number of eligible colts or fillies in either Stake, but can only start one animal in each class.

Fifty Dollars ($50) Will Be Added

to each of above stakes, and the purses will be divided as follows: When four or more start in premiums of 50 per cent, to first, 25 per cent. to second, 15 per cent. to third, and 10 per cent. to fourth. When three start, premiums of 60, 30 and 10 per cent., where two start, 80 and 20 per cent.

Any animal distancing the field in either stake will be entitled to first money only. In such an event, the remaining colts to trot off on same terms as above, the balance of purse to be divided same percentage as above, according to number of starters. Should there however, be any premiums for which any distanced horses stand equal, the horses shall trot one heat for the same under the original conditions of racing with the exception that distance is to be waived. In all cases the heat is to be trotted, and no arrangements to divide money will be permitted.

Distance in the yearling race; will be two hundred yards, in the two year-old race, one hundred and fifty yards; in the three year-old and four year-old race, one hundred yards.

Stake No. 1, will be half mile heats, best 2 in 3; Stake No. 2, mile heats, best 2 in 3; stake No. 3, mile heats, best 2 in 3, and stake No. 4, best 3 in 5. On all other matters National Rules to govern.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A 2.27 CLASS, for a purse of $200. The entrance fee of this race will be 10 per cent. of purse, payable 5 per cent. with nomination, which closes ten days before the race, and 5 per cent., evening before the race.

All correspondence to be addressed to

GEORGE McSWEENEY, Manager.

Hotel Brunswick, Moncton, N. B., January 3, 1892.

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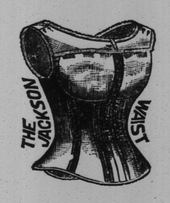

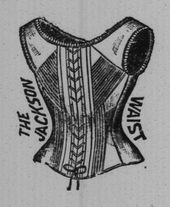

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ASK FOR OAK HALL PANTS.

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Improved Rotary Saw Mills, Mill Machinery, Enclosed Mowers, Ithaca Horse rakes, Stoves and Furnaces, Railway Castings.

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Grey and White Shirtings,
Table Linens and Napkins,
Towels and Towellings,
Pillow Cottons and Cotton Sheetings,
Ginghams and Prints, etc.

JOHN HASLIN.

DEVER BROTHERS.

1893-Dress Department-1893

In this department we have given special attention this spring in the selection of both our Colored and Black Dress Goods, and anybody desiring anything in this line will have a nice assortment to select from, as will be seen by the following lines: - - -

Crepons in Plain and Fancy Weave.
Bradford Cords in 3 Browns, Fawns and Beiges.
Shot Serges in Beautiful Effects.
Cheviots in Zigzag and Swivel Designs.
Stanley Cloths in All Mixtures.
Costume Lengths, only One Dress of a Color or Design.

Plaids and Vicuna Diagonals.
Shot Bengaline Cords in all the Newest Shades; and our Black and Blue *Invincible Dye Serges*, guaranteed Fast Dye; will not Spot or Shrink. Also, *New Novelty Braids* from 1 inch to 6 inches wide for Trimming Serges.

As these Goods are imported direct from the manufacturers, it will be to your advantage to Give us a Call and Get Our Prices before buying elsewhere.

DEVER BROTHERS.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

First Session, no Upper House. Opened March 9.

Lemont & Sons,

Will give the public leave to offer bills (bank bills) to their firm, for value received, on more favorable terms than bills offered on the floors of the House, many of them being thrown out We never throw out good bills, as the Legislature does. Bills will cover all kinds of Furniture, Carpets, Bedding, Woodenware, Crockery and China, Tinware, Silverware, Fancy Goods, Furniture Coverings, Lamps and all kinds of Marriage Goods.

Chamber Suites in Oak.