

The danger at present lies in the members of the house trying to make political capital out of the present discussion. It was easy for the opposition to accuse the government of shirking responsibility and placing too much importance on the decision of the courts. But when we consider that if the action of the Manitoba government were disallowed, the judicial committee of the privy council might over rule such action, it behoves us to be charitable in criticism. In our opinion the bill should have been disallowed. This might have led to further litigation in the judicial branch of the privy council, but it would have done two things: it would have equalized the rights of all the provinces, and it would have settled the boundaries of provincial and federal jurisdiction; and although the decision were against disallowance, the government would then have done all in its power, and the blame, if blame there was, would be elsewhere.

As the matter stands, the resolution relating to the school question has been voted down. The resolution was not couched in words that would bring the school question fair and square before the House. As a vote of censure on the government the movers of the resolution could hardly hope for its passage. The real question whether the free school law shall be sustained or separate schools restored is yet far from settlement. We trust that those to whom lot it will fall to settle it will be guided by nothing but the purest and best of motives. For Canada to be prosperous in the future there must exist between the two sections of her people the most cordial harmony and good understanding.

It is perhaps too late to undo consideration and for every province to run its affairs independently. Canada, having put her hand to the plough, may not look back. She must look to the future and choose which path she will tread, the path to success through mutual tolerance and co-operation, or the path to failure through internal strife and discord.

In the column and a half of deliberate falsehoods, published editorially in last evening's Gleaner, is one to the effect that Mr. Mullin of Stanney had been escorted to a seat on the floor of the house by Captain Howe, and immediately thereafter ordered out by the sergeant-at-arms at the instance of Mr. Blair. It is doubtless needless to say that the statement does not contain even a suggestion of truth. Mr. Mullin was not escorted to a seat on the floor of the house by Capt. Howe, and the sergeant-at-arms was not ordered by Mr. Blair or anyone else to remove him. As a matter of fact the reverend gentleman, who was observing the opening ceremonies, in common with many others, from the door of the members' smoking room, helped himself to a vacant chair, which was near the door, and carrying it inside the house, placed it between two of the rows of members' desks, and quietly seated himself therein. A few moments afterwards the sergeant-at-arms observed him in this unusual situation and very properly ordered him outside. It would be a delightful state of affairs, surely, if every one who saw fit, could carry a chair into the house and fill up the walks between members' desks.

This Gleaner pretends to be greatly excited because the rev. Dr. McLeod was not re-appointed to the position of chaplain to the legislative assembly, and says he was "dismissed" by the government because he was a temperance man. Without dwelling upon the absurdity of the Gleaner's statement in the face of the fact that quite as good, although perhaps, not so extreme a temperance man as Dr. McLeod succeeded him, and without placing undue importance to the fact that it is impossible to dismiss a man whose term of office has expired, we would call attention to the fact that the provincial secretary gave a very excellent and satisfactory reason for the government not re-appointing Dr. McLeod, viz.: the fact that the rev. Dr. is at present, and is quite likely to be for some time to come, in the employ of the dominion government; and that the discharge of his duties there would be liable to interfere with his work at any time.

Under the draft treaty now before the Dominion House, Canada agrees to lessen the duties on French wines, dried fruits, etc., in return for similar favors in other lines. The beauty of this is that the wine-makers of western Ontario have outgrown the infantile period. They are now able to stand for themselves. It may be remarked that this is the first instance of the realization of the infant industry argument, so often used by protectionists. Another point of beauty in this is, that it comes from a party whose boast and cry is loyalty to England, but who have the peculiar way of showing that loyalty in this offering reduction of tariff to France, and at the same time maintaining duties of sixty and seventy per cent. on English cottons, woollens and hardware. Oh consistency thou art a jewel!

The question of the governorship seems to be postponed until after the return of the premier from Europe. It looks as if our present honored governor, in addition to opening the local house, will also close it. One thing is certain that no one could be found to fill the office who is more loved or respected than the present governor.

Thirty-two gamblers were safely landed in jail at Cohoes, Monday morning as the result of a police raid on a notorious den kept by Edward Mearca. The room was full and a game was in progress when a dozen policemen entered. Consternation prevailed and a break was made for the windows and rear doors. Several prominent men managed to escape but a show of revolvers kept the majority in line.

A terrible cyclone has crested havoc in the northern part of Georgia. Whole settlements were wiped out. The greatest excitement prevails, and the superstitions of the negro population, it is feared, may have ugly results. Many buildings in the principal towns were wrecked. It is reported that from 15 to 20 people have lost their lives.

The 1,900 pound work horse of John H. Eveleth, of Greenville, Maine, which was a 24-inch collar is said to be the largest horse in Piscataquis county and does the work of two ordinary animals, hauling hard wood on the landing. When he was purchased in Canada forty barrels of flour was given for him, or about \$400.

A very poor man named Meneveau died the other day at Welford, leaving 18 children. He had 23 by his last wife, besides others by previous partners of his joys and sorrows. The family is so large that there is no room in the house for the cow, and as there is no barn to keep it in, it is installed in the porch.

Without a dissenting vote the general managers of railroads entering Chicago determined today to refuse any demands of the Switchmen's Mutual Aid Association. An answer was sent the switchmen by the general managers stating that thirty-two roads declined to grant any increase over the present rates.

It is a question whether the council was a benefit to the province or not. States were held by many in whom the people had lost confidence; by those who could not be elected; and in many cases by men who by their acts in the assembly had become obnoxious to their constituents. They received the seats as a reward for party service, and were independent for life so far as any appeal to the people was concerned.

At three o'clock on Thursday afternoon the square was filled with an anxious crowd waiting the arrival of his honor. Within the hour at that time most of the members had taken their seats.

The sergeant-at-arms commanded order, and his honor and his aide were escorted to the speaker's seat. The clerk of the house then gave notice that his honor could not confer with the legislature except through a regularly appointed speaker. His honor then retired.

His honor then re-entered the chamber, and he proceeded to deliver the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly, It affords me sincere pleasure to meet you for the first time since the recent reference to the electorate, on your assembling for the despatch of public business.

I am happy to be able to acknowledge the many blessings of the people of the province have enjoyed in the past, and which, thanks to the mercies of a kind providence, are still being continued to us. I am sure that the occasion upon which we now assemble will occur to you as one of especial interest. Since you were last convened the constitutional change involved in the extinction of the legislative council has been brought into effect. You are now invested with all those powers which, since the province was organized, you have shared with another legislative branch. This change has greatly added to your responsibilities; but I look to you with confidence to preserve unimpaired the traditions of the provincial legislature, and justify the reform which has so long been the subject of public expectation.

In taking leave of you at the close of the last session, I expressed the hope that the substantial grant which you had placed at the disposal of my government, in aid of our agricultural interests, would have the effect of stimulating and encouraging our farming population. I am gratified at now being able to inform you that my expectations in this regard have been more than realized. The past year has witnessed a constantly increasing interest among the agriculturists of the province in their noble calling; greater attention than ever has been given to dairying; many cheese factories and creameries have been established, and several dairy associations have been formed throughout the province. We have every reason to believe that the good work so auspiciously begun will have a marked effect in greatly increasing the prosperity of our people. Encouraged by the results of their efforts during the past year my government will, with your approval, continue to give still further encouragement in this direction.

It is a subject of much satisfaction to me to be able to apprise you of the successful termination of the litigation with the Maritime bank, so long pending, and of the recovery by my government of the entire amount involved in the litigation. The result is especially gratifying, as it has established beyond all future controversy the status of the executive of the province of Canada, and has recognized that a direct relationship exists between the provincial executive and the sovereign of the empire.

The commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the subject of civic and municipal taxation has made considerable progress in its work, and has submitted to me an interim report, which I will cause to be laid before you. The labors of the commission have not been concluded, but it has been deemed advisable to submit to you, and disseminate throughout the province at an early day, the suggestions which the commission have thus far made, in order that they may become the subject of public consideration and discussion.

Among other subjects of importance which will engage your attention during the present session, will be the question of the leasing of the timber lands of the crown. The arrangements under which these lands have been held by operators during the past ten years, in a few months, come to a termination, and it will be your duty to consider and determine upon the conditions under which these lands shall after that period be operated. My government will lay certain proposals on this subject before you, to which I invite your thoughtful attention.

You will have observed with increasing satisfaction the growth of interest now

THIRTIETH SESSION.

J. P. Burchill, of Northumberland, Elected Speaker.

His Honor's Speech and the Address in Reply.

SHARP SHOOTING ON THE PART OF THE LEADERS.

The opening of the legislature took place on Thursday, the 9th inst, there being a large number of visitors present from all parts of the province. This opening may be classed as historical as it is the beginning of a different form of local government in the province—a government of one chamber, instead of two—a government directly and wholly responsible to the people. The legislative council has passed away, and all that it implied. The present form, while giving the people as much safety, is far

Less Expensive and more convenient, besides being better adapted to the needs of the province. It has also the sanction of the whole body of electors.

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displayed in the mining capabilities of the province. Some changes in the law regulating this industry have been suggested by the experience of the past two years, and will be submitted for your approval, and you will be invited to consider whether it might not be a reformatory prison or industrial school for boys. Such institutions have been in useful and successful operation in the other provinces of Canada, and the time appears to have arrived when action on the part of the legislature on this subject can not only be taken with advantage, but when it can no longer, without the gravest consequences be deferred. The necessity of supplying this want seems to have been devolved upon provincial authorities under our constitutional arrangements, and bills therefore will be laid before you, dealing with this interesting and important subject.

I have directed the accounts of the income and expenditure, as well as a statement of the receipts and payments of the present year, up to the opening of the present session, to be laid before you. Estimates of the probable income and expenditure for the current year will also be submitted, and I think you will find that the estimates of expenditure have been prepared with due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service. Bills—To consolidate and amend the laws;—To regulate practice and procedure in the supreme court;—To consolidate and amend the act relating to stenographic reporting in the supreme court; relating to bills of sale;—To make provision for the appointment of women upon the school boards in cities and incorporated towns;—and other measures of importance will be laid before you.

I rely with confidence upon your zeal and devotion to the public welfare. The address in reply to his honor's speech was moved by Mr. Mott, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, of Charlotte.

Address in Reply. Mr. Mott's address was as follows: "In proceeding to move the address in reply to the speech of his honor the speaker, I am first to acknowledge the compliment paid through the medium of my humble self to my native constituency, in having its junior representative chosen to discharge this honorable duty, though inexperience in your legislative usages moves me to express the regret that this duty was not confided to other hands than mine. The occasion of opening this parliament for the first time without the legislative council, is in itself a matter to call for serious reflection on the part of the people of the province, and the responsibility of abolishing that honorable body, because that has been endorsed by the country and is now an accomplished fact; but rather upon the greater responsibility of legislation that now devolves upon us by reason of being called to construct, amend and enact their laws. 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