

THE JURY.

AN INDEPENDENT MONTHLY JOURNAL.

Which will devote its cartoons and caricatures on Provincial matters to the best interests of the community in the Maritime Provinces.

OUR MOTTO: CHASTE FRIENDS.

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Wm. N. BITCHIE, *Proprietor*.

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CARTOON COMMENTS BY THE FOREMAN.

The Repeal Movement in Nova Scotia.



THE Government of Nova Scotia appealed to the country a few days ago making "repeal" their war cry. The fight was short, in some regions it was sharp enough, and in a number of instances it has been more than ordinarily decisive. Halifax County, which accords to

Premier Fielding the position of representative, gave to the repeal party a larger support than was anticipated even by its most sanguine friends. Most of the Atlantic seaboard districts followed in its wake, though with varying strength. The electoral districts in other sections, not so much taken with the issue, refused to regard repeal as an infallible remedy for existing ills, and returned men either unfavorable both to repeal and the Administration, or opposed to repeal but favorable to the Administration on other than repeal grounds.

Premier Fielding has gained strength in the contest just waged. His supporters have been increased to thirty, while the Opposition's fighting strength has been reduced to eight, with one doubtful.

The gauge of battle was put squarely enough. That no one can gainsay. But it is claimed in some quarters that some of those professing to be Mr. Fielding's followers did not in the contest always imitate either their leader's undoubted pluck or his almost reckless daring. They were willing enough to enjoy whatever gain might accrue from association with the protesting leader, but they were not always courageous enough to put the issues squarely, nor ready to reason the whole matter out to the ultimate result. Still the men of this stamp who have been elected now rank in the "great majority," and they will jubilate as loudly and clap their hands as briskly as the most sturdy fighting men of Mr. Fielding's company.

The Opposition have no reason to complain that Fielding was equivocal in his manner of placing the issue, however much they may dispute the correctness of his method of sustaining it. But the Opposition have reason to deplore the absence of a sturdy, able leader, with courage enough to carry the war into Africa, and the requisite energy and persistency to press his case upon public attention. The men who did battle for the Opposition did their best, no doubt, but, fighting in an unequal contest, they

needed one who in every sense could be considered a leader to outline their policy and guide their movements.

The contention of the repeal leaders was that Nova Scotia suffered from her connection with the Union, not only as regards the inequality of the expenditures within her borders compared with her contributions to the Dominion exchequer, but in the matter of trade and general development. In fact, it was declared that Nova Scotia, out of the Union, could have made more liberal provision for her public works and enterprises than has been made for her through Dominion channels. The correctness of this declaration has been disputed on the platform and through the press, and with a good deal of vigor and persistency. As to which contention is correct, it is difficult for those not thoroughly versed in the intricacies of Dominion and Provincial finances to determine. Viewed in one light, Mr. Fielding's contention appears to be right; viewed in another, the Opposition figures seem entitled to the greatest weight. But, be the case strong for Mr. Fielding's view or strong for his opponents' contention, thoughtful people will naturally enquire as to the probable outcome of this repeal victory—for such it is, whoever may assert to the contrary. Will Mr. Fielding rest satisfied with his election triumph, or will he press for the severance of the tie which binds Nova Scotia in the confederation compact? The people of the Maritime Provinces will view with deep interest, if not with serious concern, the further movements of the repeal party's doughty little champion. If Mr. Fielding decides to go a step or two farther—and this he must do if he expects to succeed in planting the banner of repeal on the battlements of Nova Scotia's capital—it will be necessary for him to extend his lines a good deal and assume considerable responsibility. His task is unquestionably a difficult one. His friends believe that he will be quite equal to the emergency, but his opponents think otherwise. THE JURY, forming no rash judgment in the matter, is content to await developments.

Maritime Union.

Premier Fielding claims that the election in Nova Scotia was not merely a Liberal triumph but a declaration in favor of a union of the Maritime Provinces separate and apart from Canada, and hopes that New Brunswick will find it to her interest to join hands with Nova Scotia in the movement. The claim made and the hope expressed are more far-reaching than any in which the Premier indulged prior to the election. So far as New Brunswick is concerned there is little likelihood of any immediate movement. A general election has just been held, and repeal formed no issue in the contest anywhere. One thing is clear, however, Maritime union, though not much considered of late years, is a good thing. But whether it would prove more beneficial in connection with Confederation than as a separate arrangement remains to be demonstrated. Any one who has at all considered the matter will see that Maritime Union within the Dominion would cheapen the cost of legislation to the Maritime Provinces, curtail the expense of Provincial executive machinery, and so consolidate the tied interests of the Provinces forming the Union as to make them powerful in the maintenance of their own rights and an important factor in influencing and shaping the policy of whatever set of men may for the time be entrusted with the administration of affairs. Severance from the Confederacy would mean the establishment of a legislative Maritime Union with all or nearly all the machinery that is now in

operation for managing the business of the whole Dominion, and the transaction of purely local or provincial business by county organizations. Both systems have in them something to commend. But under which system would the people enjoy the largest measure of benefit? Which system would furnish the surest guarantees of pure and economical administration and the best facilities for genuine progress? These are weighty questions, and they merit the best thought of our wisest men. In everything said, in everything done by those competent to give direction to public sentiment, there should be the most thorough avoidance of anything like undue haste or immature action. *Festina lente* should be the guiding principle of all.

Our leading cartoon represents Fielding, the Liberal leader in Nova Scotia, standing on the pavement outside of a loan office. In the doorway, demonstrating his argument in the usual Jewish fashion, Sir John A. Macdonald may be seen, backed up by Sir Leonard Tilley. In his extended hand Fielding holds a ticket—a pawn ticket, given 19 years ago on an estate. The amount loaned by the company was at that time \$9,000,000, with interest; amounting to \$28,000,000 in 1886. The laws governing loan companies allow them to sell or keep all articles on which money has been loaned and interest unpaid 12 months after the entry of the article. Fielding comes with the redemption pledge to recover the estate of Nova Scotia, "put up" in the loan office 19 years ago; but is refused, on the ground that the company are now lawful owners of the property, the interest having amounted to far more than the principal. Fielding murmurs against the seeming injustice, and walks away, to return and take by force if not amicably settled in the meantime.

The only method available for robbing the Canadian fisheries with safety is the one pictured in this issue. We hope that the Gloucester fishers, to whom this is dedicated, will send us their sincere thanks.

The recent appointment of Boies DeVeber, Mayor of St. John, to the office of County Treasurer, calls to our mind the poem relating the adventure of "Lochinvar" in stealing the bride, who was about to be married to his rival that same evening. Geo. H. Martin, who is represented as a little boy calling out to DeV. to stop till he hands up his saddle bag, is an addition to the "Lochinvar" elopement, which we hope you will excuse. The irate bridegroom, who brandishes his club, is unheeded by the young gallant, and the "would-be mayors" are much excited. This elopement took place from the City Hall.

THE VERDICT

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