

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

MARCH 24, 1893.

A Two-Thirds Vote.

MR. BELL referred yesterday afternoon to two instances in which the Parliament of Great Britain had attempted to bind the Parliament of Great Britain for all time. Both attempts failed!

But Mr. Bell, has, apparently, searched the records in vain for a statute of any British Legislature in which provision was ever made that it could not be amended or repealed unless by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. He did not, at any rate, instance one. The two-thirds clause in the Bill now before the Legislature, it may, therefore, be concluded, stands alone. In all the centuries, in all the British countries on the face of the earth, there has been nothing like it. It is the peculiar product of the genius of the Peters-Combination of Prince Edward Island.

We shall not now venture an opinion as to the constitutionality of this altogether strange and anomalous provision. In a case in which such eminent lawyers as Mr. Peters and Mr. Bell differ it would perhaps be unwise for mere laymen to attempt an argument. Enough for us to know that the Minister of Justice has promised to scan the bill very narrowly. Enough to know that responsibility for the loss of yet another bill to reduce the Legislature will fall upon Mr. Peters and his Grit confederates if the Minister of Justice shall decide that this provision is not constitutional and cannot be permitted to stand.

For the nonce, we shall assume that our Attorney General is right and that the provision will be binding. How, then, will it be when the "sentiment" pleaded by Mr. Bell, and the "circumstances" pleaded by Mr. Peters, shall change in this Province in respect to the constitution of our Legislature? When "sentiment" and "circumstances" changed in respect to the "Irish Church" and "Scottish Universities," a corresponding change was effected in the provisions in respect thereof—which were to have lasted for all time—by the simple vote of a majority in the British Parliament! But would they or could they have been changed if the vote had depended upon a two-thirds vote? Impossible. The opposing parties would have been too strong—they would not have permitted the changes which changed sentiments and circumstances demanded!

Future generations ought not to be hampered by a Legislature which will not be adapted to their circumstances. One of the best features of the British Constitution is its adaptability to all times and all circumstances. This excellent feature will be taken away from the Constitution of Prince Edward Island in case the two-thirds clause should become law and be binding. We have no desire for the shackles which bind some of the States of the American Republic.

It is freely admitted by Mr. Bell that the rights of property will, under the bill, be sufficiently protected apart from the two-thirds clause. Indeed, so long as nine-tenths of our people continue to be property holders, there seems to be no particular cause for anxiety about the legislative protection of the rights of property. The representatives of a people who are well-nigh all property holders, must of necessity, however elected, and in every set of circumstances,—respect the rights of property. The heaping up of invidious distinctions between electors,—the dual vote against the single vote, the Honorable Councillor against the Assemblyman, the two-thirds clause, and all such provisions, are therefore unnecessary, and merely exasperating and hateful.

Political Notes.

MR. BENTLEY has accepted the office of Leader of the Opposition. We congratulate the honorable gentleman upon his promotion to the high and responsible position, which leads on to the Premiership. His record in the past has been a good one. No man could have discharged his public duty more conscientiously. We trust that his health and vigor may be maintained to the end that his party may be completely successful in the coming battle for the people's rights. Mr. Bentley is not an extreme man. But neither is he the man to back down from a position which his good judgment has prompted him to take. It is significant that the Opposition papers—including the independent Guardian—have refused to publish the official reports of the indignation meetings held in Fort Augustus district. The Patriot, however, permits anonymous, correspondent to misrepresent the meetings. As to Mr. McCourt's presence at the Fort Augustus meeting, we are informed that it was due to the invitation of an influential elector of the District, and not to a desire on Mr. McCourt's part to obtain a constituency.

MR. BELL'S back down in respect to the two-thirds vote clause is the talk of the town this afternoon. A report of the lecture recently delivered by the Rev. Fred. E. J. Lloyd at French River was mislaid until to-day. We regret that it was not published in time. The writer speaks in the highest terms of the lecture, the subject of which was "Portions of the History of Prince Edward Island."

Provincial Legislature.

House of Assembly.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY, March 23.

In the afternoon, the House met at half past three and went into committee on the bill respecting the taking of a vote on the question of prohibition.

Mr. Bentley thought it would be better to have the voting open instead of by ballot as provided by the bill; also, that women owning property should be allowed to vote at said election.

Hon. Mr. Peters explained that the object of the bill was to allow all who had a vote for members of the House of Assembly to vote on this question of prohibition. To change to the question of prohibition, to complications, as if the voting were open many persons would not vote according to the dictates of their consciences. He desired that the expression of opinion should be as frank and free as possible. The vote must be taken at the local election, and much as he desired to assist the temperance cause he could not see how persons not entitled to vote at these elections could then be allowed to do so without interfering with the entire election. Mr. McKay was of a similar opinion.

Mr. Underhay spoke in approval of women voting at this election, provided they were allowed to vote at other elections.

Mr. McLellan thought that ballot voting was the best way to get an honest expression of opinion, and that, under the circumstances, it would not be advisable to allow ladies to vote.

Mr. Richards thought that if ladies were allowed to vote they would not be able to get in all the votes.

Hon. Mr. Peters said he felt sure that when the vote was taken a great majority would pronounce in favor of prohibition; and, in his opinion, allowing ladies to vote would only weaken the cause of prohibition. He thought it would be well to only take the votes of electors at present entitled to vote.

Mr. Rogers thought it would be well to take the vote as it was at present—to let it be an expression of opinion of electors only. He was favorable to the ballot vote.

Mr. Shaw thought it was an injustice to the unmarried ladies owning property that they should not be allowed to vote at this election. If liquor is prohibited, there will likely be taxes levied on property to make up for the loss of revenue, and property owned by unmarried ladies will have to pay taxes as well as property owned by men.

Mr. H. C. McDonald, while agreeing that married and unmarried ladies owning property might be given the right to vote, thought that it would be unfair to allow them to vote on the prohibition question, as it would not be a fair expression of the opinion of the electors.

Mr. Gordon thought women should be excluded from voting on this question, as the result might not be looked upon as a fair expression of opinion. Besides, ladies could not vote on the main question when it came up. He thought the cost of the election would be large and the result neither of very great good or very great evil.

Mr. Peters explained that the vote would be taken at the general election, and the cost would be comparatively small.

Hon. Mr. Sinclair thought the taking of the vote would not cost much, and that it would be well to hold the election in order to get an honest expression of opinion on the prohibition question.

Mr. Bell thought the idea of taking a vote on the prohibition question was a good one, and that the submission of the matter to the people at the polls would have a beneficial effect upon the Dominion Government. He thought the Prohibition Commission was a farce and the expression of opinion elicited thereby was not a fair one.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson said he thought there would be no time lost in the taking of the vote on prohibition during the general election. The cost of taking the vote would be very trifling. The taking of the vote would be a step in the right direction, and he thought the Government would be thanked by the people for providing for it. He also denounced the Prohibition Commission.

Mr. Rogers explained that the Prohibition Commission was asked for by the Dominion Temperance Alliance.

Mr. Gordon said the matter of prohibition was one for the Dominion Government to handle. The Temperance Alliance of Canada had asked for the Prohibition Commission, and that Commission had done a good deal of work in ascertaining public opinion on the liquor question. He could not see why this expression of opinion should not be postponed until the report of the Commission was presented. He was a temperance man and would go as far as any other man in the interests of temperance, but he failed to see the sense of the proposed measure.

Mr. Bentley did not think there was anything in the objection to women voting on the ground that by so doing they would weaken the prohibition cause. He thought they should have a vote on this question, as their property might be taxed to make up the loss of revenue in the event of a prohibitory measure becoming law.

Mr. Warburton did not think the Prohibition Commission was asked for by the Dominion Temperance Alliance, as he had seen no intimation of such a thing in the Montreal Witness, a well known temperance journal. He thought it was clearly within the province of the Local Government to provide for the taking of a vote on this question of prohibition. It was the best way of obtaining the voice of the people on this important matter.

The bill was after some further discussion reported agreed to without any amendment.

The House then went into committee to further consider the bill respecting the Legislature.

On the clause providing a two-third vote in case of a future change in respect to the Legislature, Mr. Bentley (Leader of the Opposition) moved the following in amendment:

"No provisions of this bill shall effect the right of a majority of the members of the new Legislative Assembly to hereafter change the qualification of electors."

Messrs. Bentley, Rogers and Shaw all contended that the provision was worth-

less, and denounced it as un-British and ridiculous to attempt to dictate to a future Legislature.

Mr. Bell admitted that the provision was worthless and un-British; but argued that it might have a deterrent effect upon the Legislatures of the future, until such time as public sentiment had changed.

Mr. Peters pleaded that if it were no good it could do no harm. In his opinion it would have an effect, morally, if not legally, binding upon future Legislatures. At any rate the Legislative Council required it.

The forenoon the House met at 11.30. The Leader of the Government, in reply to Mr. Shaw, said a statement showing the amount of matriculation fees paid in during the past year by students passing the entrance examination to Prince of Wales College, would be made up as soon as possible.

The Commissioner of Public Works, in reply to Mr. Rogers, promised to bring down a statement showing who supplied the ferry steamer with coal, and the tenders for same; also a statement showing the repairs done to the Lunatic Asylum and other buildings belonging to the Government at as early a date as possible.

The Commissioner of Public Works made a similar reply to Mr. Shaw, who asked for statements showing in detail the expenditure of \$62 50 on Cardigan Wharf in 1892, and the amount paid for the road-making machine and the expenses connected therewith.

The Commissioner of Public Works, in reply to Mr. Rogers, said that the construction of a block at Enman's shore was not proceeded with because the people could not agree upon the matter amongst themselves. In reply to the same hon. member the Commissioner promised a statement showing details of the repairs and fitting done to the steamer Southport during the year, and said the road leading from Isaac Linkletter's eastward had been opened up.

The Commissioner of Public Works, in reply to Mr. Bentley, promised to give the information asked for at as early a date as possible in respect to (1) the expenses connected with operating the road-making machine and the wages paid men and horses; (2) the items of expenditure contained in the sum of \$2,157 50 expended last year in the three Counties; (3) the cost of inspection of certain contracts; (4) the sum of \$380 73 for inquiries on new roads.

The Leader of the Government in reply to Mr. Bentley, said the papers and correspondence in regard to claims upon the Dominion Government would be submitted as soon as possible.

The Commissioner of Public Works, in reply to Mr. Sullivan, promised to bring down a statement showing the expenditure and the amount received for ferries on the Morrell River.

The Commissioner of Public Works, in reply to Mr. McKay, promised to bring down a statement showing the amounts paid James Wisener as Captain of the steamer Southport; the Commissioner also promised to furnish the information required by Mr. McKay in regard to certain steams.

The Commissioner of Public Works, in reply to Mr. Underhay, said nothing had been done in regard to the road on Lot 42 about which he asked.

The Commissioner of Public Works, in reply to Mr. Rogers, promised to bring down a statement showing the amount of refund on public lands amounting to \$982 50 for 1892. In reply to Mr. Shaw, the Commissioner promised to give a statement of Land Office accounts and the discounts allowed as soon as it was ready.

The Commissioner of Public Works, in reply to Mr. McLeod, explained the nature of the work done on Tea Hill last year, and promised to table a statement of the work on Acorn's bridge as soon as possible.

The Leader of the Government, in reply to Mr. Arsenault's request for a detailed statement showing the amounts due and the amounts for which the Government were liable and not paid on the 31st December, 1892, contracted for during the last financial year in each department of public service, showing the name of each contract, etc., said the request should have been made to the heads of the different departments instead of to the Leader of the Government.

House then resumed consideration of the Bill respecting the Legislature.

RECESS.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. H. C. McDonald.—That he will ask the Commissioner of Public Works what steps have been taken or are being taken to improve the accommodation on the Hillsborough ferry, if any steps had been taken to ascertain the cost of building a bridge across the Hillsborough, and if so to place on the table all papers, correspondence and records respecting the same; if any steps have been taken to ascertain the cost of placing a new boat on the Southport Ferry, and if so what proceedings had been taken, to place on the table all correspondence and minutes of all proceedings taken in respect to the procuring of a new ferry boat.

By Mr. Peters.—That he will move the House into committee to take into consideration the expediency of introducing a bill providing for the establishment of a separate registry office in Prince George.

Weather Bulletin.

TEB STO, March 24.—10 a. m. Easterly to southerly winds; fair weather; higher temperature.

THE STANLEY arrived at Pictou at twelve o'clock to-day, and will leave on return to-morrow morning.

Fresh halibut, codfish and kippered herring received per Stanley at the Fish Market.

Farm For Sale.

THE FARM of the late Donald Murchison, situate at Vernon River, Lot 50, is offered for sale. This Farm is well situated, and covered with a good growth of soft and hard wood.

Apply to M. Leod, Morson & McQuarrie for particulars, or to DONALD MURCHISON, mel23—ly pat lm Pinette.

LOST—On Richmond Street, last evening, a silver coin carrying, with initials of owner thereon. Finder will please leave same at this office mel24

WANTED—By the first of May, a woman or a man cook for thirty fishermen. Address C. A. F. P. O. Box 84, Charlottetown. mel24—ly wky ll pd

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

SPECIAL DESPATCHES TO THE EXAMINER.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CARON CASE.

Dr. Weldon's Memorial.

OTTAWA, March 24.

After routine yesterday, Hon. Mr. Haggart announced that he would commit the Railway Subsidy resolutions to-day.

In reply to Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. Mr. Foster said he would bring down the final supplementary estimates not later than Saturday, on which day, if acceptable to the Opposition the House might sit from three till six o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Laurier said that he was quite willing, if it was necessary to secure a prorogation by the end of next week, to go on with the business on Saturday.

Mr. Davies resumed the debate on the Caron charges and strongly supported Mr. Edger's resolution condemning the Postmaster-General. He took the ground that while the evidence given before the commission had not sustained the original charges preferred against the minister, there was still sufficient brought out by the inquiry to justify the Opposition's contention that Sir Adolphe Caron should be dismissed from his office. Sir Richard Cartwright followed, charging the whole Conservative party with corruption, and asserting that the present Government, like its immediate predecessor, was owing its existence to the purchasing power of money on the Canadian electorate.

Hon. Mr. Ives replied briefly to Sir Richard Cartwright, and suggested as a substitute for the bill the finance minister had facetiously offered to amend the criminal code, a further bill, providing that under no circumstances should more than fifty per cent of the writ members returned at any general election, be unseated for bribery or corrupt practices. Mr. Edger's resolution re the Caron charges was rejected yeas 69, nays 119. Government majority 50. Calvin, Weldon, McCarthy and O'Brien voted for the resolution.

Sir Adolphe Caron, who was in the House, came in as the vote was announced and was greeted with prolonged applause. The House went into supply, which was continued after recess.

The Senate to-day struck off the Criminal Code Amendment Act the provision compelling a husband or wife to testify against one another.

The House spent the night discussing the items of the estimates, the general desire being to make as much progress as possible with the business this week, and adjourned at one o'clock.

Last night Dr. Weldon forwarded a memorial to the Governor-General signed by about eighty members of Parliament, pointing out the danger of Whitney Coal Act.

A Premier in Difficulties.

STONEY, N. S. W., March 24.

Sir George Richard Dibbs, Premier and Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, is in financial difficulties, and has given up his estate to satisfy the demands of his creditors. He has resigned his seat in Parliament, but still retains the premiership.

Personal.

MONTREAL, March 24.

J. S. Archibald, Q. C., who represented the Government in the recent Royal Commission on the Caron charges is to be appointed a judge.

Obituary.

ST. JOHN, March 24.

Rev. Jas. Spencer, Baptist, died at midnight, after two days' illness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Information Wanted.

Sir,—Hon. A. Laird, in his place in the Legislative Council, speaks as follows, viz: "There is an article sold to destroy potato bugs, and the merchants last year sold it to the farmers for four times its value; and besides that, in many cases the article sold would not frighten a bug, let alone kill him." (See yesterday's Patriot). This statement contains two charges—1st, that merchants last year sold Paris green for four times its value, that is, four times its cost or market value; 2nd, that in many cases the article sold would not frighten a bug, &c. Let us see. The retail price of the best Paris green in this city last year was 25 cents per pound, or five pounds for one dollar. Allowing, as Mr. Laird says, that this price is four times too high, the proper price at retail should have been 5c to 6c per lb. If we allow the merchant a reasonable profit for handling the goods, he should be able to buy at less than 5c per lb. whole sale. Will Mr. Laird inform the farmers and merchants of this Province where Paris green can be bought wholesale for less than 5c per lb., or even three times that figure? As to the second part of Mr. Laird's statement, it may be that some merchants were imposed upon, and without knowing it sold an inferior article of Paris green, or, possibly, as it is a new thing in our agriculture, it may not have been properly applied. Will Mr. Laird say that merchants generally, who sold Paris green last year, knowingly sold an inferior article, or is he sure that all, or even any, of it were inferior? Did he obtain an analysis or take any other means of testing its strength and quality? It is all very well to make statements, but when talking about articles that have a regular market value it is necessary to be careful. Hon. A. Laird said the Government are worthy of praise for guarding well the interests of the farmers of the Province, and their efforts in this respect should be encouraged, but it is not necessary to be unjust to another important class of the community. When merchants generally are charged with defrauding the farmers by selling an inferior article of Paris green for four times its value, it is time to ask the party making such a charge to produce the proofs that his assertions are correct.

FARM ON LOT 60 For Sale or To Let.

70 ACRES OF GOOD FRESHWATER LAND Melville, Lot 60, lately occupied by Allan G. McLeod, held under British Columbia Government Deed, clear of encumbrances. Barns on the premises. Dwelling House burnt last fall. Part of purchase money may remain on mortgage. Apply to F. W. L. MOORE, Solicitor, mel16—4y law (thur) & wky

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT.

NOTICE is hereby given that John Gorman, of Charlottetown, Grocer, has by assignment assigned to the first day of March, instant, to me all his real estate, goods, chattels, personal property and securities for the benefit of his creditors. All parties having claims against the said John Gorman are required to present same at my office, and all persons indebted to said John Gorman are required to make immediate payment of same at my office in Charlottetown. Dated March 22, 1893.

J. J. JOHNSTON, Assignee. mel23—4y wky ll

LOST—A Dwelling House on Bayfield Street containing also rooms, stable and coach house heated with hot water and in good condition. Possession given at once or on the first of May. Also, a fine Fruit Garden situated, if desired, inquire of A. HERRMANS, Queen St. mel24—4y

LOST—A small Gold Brooch, somewhere between King Street and the Upper Prince Street Day School. Inquire at THE EXAMINER office. mel24

New Everyday Wants. Call and reserve one of Paton's Ever-ready Tapestry Squares. Every day we will be receiving everyday Wants by the Steamer Stanley.

Call and see our New Brussels, Wiltons, Velvets, and our large stock of Smyrna Rugs, Exminsters, etc. Reserve one before they are all bought. Paton's Carpets are known all over the Island. Ever-ready Tapestry, Brussels and Velvet Squares are what you want. Tapestries are made this year from Velvet Designs, with Border to match. Squares in Velvets, Brussels and Tapestries to hand.

In our Carpet Department you will find New Designs and Colorings for Spring and Summer, 1893.

They are the latest Designs and Colorings, and are the latest and best goods obtainable. They are Pleasing the Ladies of Charlottetown and Country. In fact Every person with or without a Superfine taste. Wiltons, Velvets and Tapestries in Tastefully arranged colorings, Right from the Mills in England and other European countries. You can always rely upon us being Successful in importing the correct and latest makes.

MR. PATON'S long experience in buying for this department has made it a success. MR. WOOD has charge of this department, and will be pleased to show our New Goods whether you want to purchase or not. Every person welcome.

JAMES PATON & CO.

Charlottetown, March 20, 1893.

Meeting of Presbytery

The Presbytery of P. E. Island met in the Hall of St. James Church on Wednesday, the Rev. D. Sutherland being the Moderator. There was a good attendance of ministers and elders.

After routine business, the following were appointed Commissioners to the General Assembly which meets at Brantford, Ont., in June next: Revs W. Scott, W. M. Thompson, Geo. McMillan, A. McLean Sinclair, J. R. Coffin, T. F. Fullerton, A. A. McKenzie, W. H. Spencer, Ministers, and Hon. J. Laird, Hon. B. Rogers and Messrs F. C. James, R. Mann, R. McDonald, Benj. McEchern, Daniel McLaren, Dr. McLaughlin, elders.

Rev. Thos. Sedgewick, of Tatamagouche, was nominated Moderator of the next General Assembly.

A cordial and unanimous call from Dundas to Rev. J. Gillis, of Ontario, was received by the Presbytery and forwarded to Mr. Gillis.

Applications for grants from the Augmentation fund were made as follows: Tignish, \$150; Georgetown, \$150; Woodville, \$197; Caladonia, \$100; Dundas, \$250.

Rev. I. Corbett resigned the pastoral charge of the congregation of Richmond Bay, west. The resignation was accepted, to take effect on and after March 26th inst.

Mr. Corbett was appointed to preach at Bonshaw and to dispense the Sacrament of the Supper on the 1st Sabbath of April.

Rev. J. R. Coffin presented the Sabbath School report. It was agreed to authorize the Sabbath School committee to divide the Presbytery into districts and arrange the district conventions.

The report on statistics, presented by Mr. T. C. James, showed that about \$50,000 had been contributed to all purposes during the year on the Island. This is nearly twice as much as given ten years ago. In the same time the number of communicants has also nearly doubled, and the amount given to missions is three times as great.

Rev. D. Sutherland presented the report on the state of religion.

The following resolution with reference to evangelistic work was adopted. That a committee be appointed to consider the propriety of engaging an Evangelist to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery, and if deemed advisable to devise ways and means of providing for his support.

Rev. W. P. Archibald presented the report on temperance, and the matter contained therein considered at length.

The following resolution with reference to the Plebiscite vote on the subject of Prohibition was unanimously adopted: That we hail with pleasure the official announcement that a measure is to be introduced into the Legislature of this Province which makes provision for a plebiscite vote on the subject of Prohibition, and that we express the hope that this measure will receive the hearty support of the members of the House.

The moderator and the clerk were appointed to wait on the Premier and make known to him the action of the conference. The next meeting of the Presbytery will be held in the hall of the Presbyterian Church at Summerside on the 10th of May.

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WE WANT YOUR CUSTOM.

Dress Goods, Silks, Mourning Goods, House Furnishings, Cloths, Tweeds, Hats, Caps, etc.

In exchange we will give you the best that money and experience can buy. Come and see us. We will show you the goods and convince you that ours is the place to trade in.

W.A. WEEKS & CO.

Next to Beer & Goff's.

Charlottetown, March 15, 1893.

Lace Curtains, Wall Paper, Carpets, Floor Oil Cloth.

THE SEMI-ANNUAL HOUSE CLEANING PERFORMANCE begins upon the approach of Spring, and nearly every housekeeper will find it necessary to renew

Lace Curtains, Wall Paper, Carpets and Floor Oilcloths.

It is hardly necessary for us to do more than mention that we are now ready with our usual wonderful display of LACE CURTAINS, in White, Cream and Coffee Colored. We have also a nice lot of CHENILLE and SILK CURTAINS. From past experience we know our prices are very much in favor of the purchaser.

Our stock of WALL PAPER, CARPETS and FLOOR OILCLOTHS should command the inspection of anyone requiring these things.

BEER BROS.