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The Examiner.

Ch'town, March 9, 1874.

FIRST ATTEMPTS.

The ineffable modesty of Mr. Louis H. Davies was conspicuously displayed in his first public attempt to lead the Opposition. Even before the House of Assembly was properly in session, he found it utterly impossible to resist the promptings of his retiring nature. The Clerk of the House had barely read the resignation of the Speaker; the Colonial Secretary had hardly moved that the resignation be received, when the youthful leader sprang to his legs and "congratulated the honorable gentlemen opposite on the new light which had recently dawned upon them." The blush of modesty mantled his cheek, the smile of modesty wreathed his lips, as he insinuated, in tones subdued by modesty, that Mr. Malcolm McLeod and Mr. E. J. Hodgson, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, the Colonial Secretary and the Administrator of the Government, had all been wrong, and he, the youthful leader, had alone been right. Had not those who are popularly known as the foremost lawyers and the most experienced politicians in the Province, expressed the opinion that Hon. S. F. Perry Speaker of the House of Assembly, could not legally resign his seat to the representative of the Queen? And had not Mr. Louis H. Davies declared that he could? And did not the motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, which set forth that the House was without a Speaker, prove that the youthful, modest, blushing leader of the Opposition had uttered an opinion, which was now acknowledged to be correct? Here, indeed, was cause for exultation; now, if ever, was a fitting time for his followers to applaud—and they did applaud!

But, the scene soon changed. The motion carried. The members of the Assembly waited upon the Administrator. Their Clerk announced the fact that the House was without a Speaker, and they received command to return to their Chamber and elect one. Then a "new light dawned!" The Colonial Secretary rose and metaphorically drew aside the thick curtain of party prejudice which had so completely obscured the mental vision of the modest youth who leads the Opposition. He showed that the resignation which had been received was addressed, not to His Honor the Administrator of the Government, but to "Archibald McNeill, Esquire, Clerk of the House of Assembly;" that Mr. Perry had resigned—not his seat as a representative of the people, but his office and position as Speaker of the House of Assembly—and that the document was dated, not previous to the first Dominion election, but only previous to the last Dominion election. Hence he drew the conclusion that Mr. Perry had himself tacitly acknowledged his first resignation to be irregular; and that a legal light, brighter than that held up to him by the youthful leader, had at last lit up the crooked path of the late Speaker, and showed him the right way. That the notice of resignation to the Clerk of the House was all right and regular enough, the Colonial Secretary proved by citing precedents—two from British and one from Colonial history. But he pointed out that it could not be received until the House met, and formally released him from the duties of his office, and that Mr. Perry was Speaker of the Assembly until the moment it was declared that the position was vacant. It is needless to say that this explanation did not cause the modest leader to hang his head. The supreme modesty of his nature so overpowers his sense of shame, that he is unable to detect the exact moment at which he renders himself ridiculous!

Besides, he had yet another card to play. He would yet win the game. He was carefully prepared for the *dernier resort*. He had a pretty little speech upon the tip of his tongue; and perhaps the inward contemplation of its well balanced sentences served, in some degree, to blind him to the outwardly expressed chagrin of his followers. Hardly had the Speaker taken his chair; hardly had the Clerk risen for the purpose of formally reading the Administrator's speech when the youthful leader interrupted the regular order of proceeding, by the delivery of an irregular speech. He declared that the independence of parliament was in danger; that the spirit, if not the letter, of the constitution had been violated; that it was a settled principle that no member could sit in the Legislature, and at the same time hold an office of emolument, without the consent of his constituents; that it was necessary to guard jealously the separate interests of the Provincial Legislatures against the centralizing influences of the Dominion Parliament; that no man could consistently act an independent part as a member of both former and the latter; and that as the Hon. T. Heath Haviland is now a Senator of the Dominion, and a member of the House of Assembly, he should resign either the one or the other. No sensible man will deny the truth and force of much contained in the modest Leader's speech. Yet few who heard it, could help admiring the blushing effrontery with which he gave currency to untruthful statements, and the exquisitely sarcastic style in which he denounced two of the most prominent members of his party. It is quite probable that the modest leader did not know that a senator does not receive pay unless he attends to his Senatorial duties at Ottawa. Indeed, it is hardly possible that he would have uttered a statement so palpably false in the presence of such a large number of educated and intelligent gentlemen, had he been aware of its falsity. We conclude, therefore, that he was ignorant of the rule which makes it necessary for a member of the Dominion Parliament to stay at Ottawa during at least thirteen days of the session before he can draw his allowance, or he would not have charged Mr. Haviland with enjoying the emoluments of a senator while he attended to the duties of his office in the Local Government and his position in the Local Legislature. And then, while Senators Haythorne and Montgomery both retain their seats in the Legislative Council — how could even the youthful and ineffably modest leader, declare that Senator Haviland was acting a dishonorable part in retaining, while the law allowed him, his seat in the House of Assembly? Well might the two Opposition Legislative Councillors and Senators ejaculate, "save us from the cutting sarcasm of our youthful Leader!" It is needless to add that his "pretty speech" was answered. Mr. Brecken, in a brilliant address defended the position taken by Mr. Haviland. In the course of his remarks, he stated that the Government "had taken the wind out of the Opposition's sails; and that a measure was being prepared, and would be submitted during the session, which would secure the independence of the Legislature."

Before concluding this article, we cannot forbear expressing a hope that the youthful and modest Leader, for whom we possess a sincere regard, will do better in future.

MERCHANTS' BANK OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

We have received the Annual Statement and Report of the Directors of the above Bank for the past twelve months, as submitted to the meeting of Stockholders, held at the Banking House, on the fifth instant. Many persons, who have no direct business with Banks, take very little interest in anything respecting them; but Banking is the "breath of life" to commerce, the "vital principle" to trade, and the variations of the monetary pulse are as keenly watched, and as surely indicate the health of the commercial body to the financier, as the pulsations at the wrist of his patient indicate the health of the physical man to his medical adviser.

An examination of the Statement of the Merchants' Bank of Prince Edward Island, shows that it is in a really vigorous and healthy condition. All its working capital is actively employed, giving life and activity to trade in the community, and the promise of a handsome profit to its stockholders. But what most concerns us, generally, is the responsibility of the Bank, and its ability to meet its liabilities to the public. These liabilities consist, first of its notes in circulation, amounting to $150,493.00, and its deposits of $258,561.00, both making a total indebtedness to the public of $409,054.

To meet this there is in the vaults in gold, silver, Dominion legal tender notes, and notes of Banks incorporated in this Island, and other Bank notes, an aggregate of $48,252.93 in cash; and in balances due from other Banks and Bills of Exchange, there are $216,656.17, making the total of this portion of the assets amount to $264,909.10, or about 64 per cent. of the liability to the public, which is available from these sources, and could be used at any time. It, therefore, only requires the payment of 60 per cent. from the $247,458 (being the amount of Bills under discount) in order to discharge the entire liability of the Bank to the public. The amount of Exchange which the Bank has to dispose of, and which the community now so much require, would, if the Bank did not continue to discount other paper, soon enable it to withdraw its own notes entirely from circulation and trade on the specie it would receive, or on the notes of other Banks taken in payment of the Bills of Exchange sold.

Turning now to that portion of the account in which the interest of the money-making stockholder is centered we find that the gross profits of the Bank for the past twelve months are $26,248.14, and if we deduct from the gross earnings the rent and expenses of management, $8,762.75, the interest paid depositors and commissions paid other Banks, $2,808.09, and also $5,530 for losses made by the unfortunate failures of 1872, we have remaining a clear net profit for the year of $12,873.98. We also learn that the whole capital was not paid up until about November last, so that the average working capital of the Bank could not have amounted to $80,000, on which the management shows a clear gain of 16 per cent.

From the profits of the Bank two dividends of five per cent. each were paid to the stockholders within the year, and we think the Directors have shown commendable forethought in reserving the balance of $15,586.16 net profits now in hand, thus increasing the funds at the disposal of the Bank, and providing the nucleus of that element of future strength, a permanent rest or reserve fund.

To those unacquainted with the nature of our Bank Charters, the amount of Bills under discount may seem too large for the capital; but our Bank Charters, although fully guarding the public against any possibility of loss, are yet more liberal than any charters which would now be granted to a private Bank under the Dominion law, and enables our Banks to do a larger business on the same capital than could be done by them if chartered under that law.

That the provisions of the Local Banking Law are such as guard the public interest, the state of our Banks fully prove They have been of inestimable benefit to the public, and have also offered sufficient inducement to the capitalist to place his money in them and allow it to be managed by a Board of Directors to his profit and to the public advantage.

When we remember that it is but two years and four months since the Merchants' Bank of Prince Edward Island commenced business, and also bear in mind the failures of 1872, by which such a large amount of money was lost, and trade for a time so completely prostrated that it took the better part of the year to recover, we think the management could not do less than congratulate the stockholders (as they have done in their report) on the prosperous state of the institution, and that the stockholders have been equally well satisfied with the management is evident from the unanimity with which they have elected the same Board of Directors.

AN IMPORTANT MATTER.

An Act of the Dominion Parliament, which comes into operation on the 16th March, inst., provides that no goods or passengers shall be carried by water from one port of Canada to another, except in British ships; and if any goods or passengers be carried contrary to this provision, the master of the ship or vessel so carrying the same shall forfeit the sum of four hundred dollars, any goods so carried shall be forfeited as smuggled, and the vessel may be detained by the Collector of Customs at the port to which the goods or passengers are brought, until the penalty has been paid and the goods have been delivered up to be dealt with as goods forfeited This Act, if enforced, will prevent the steamships *Somerset* and *Alhambra* from "breaking bulk" at any port on their route between Boston and Charlottetown; and will probably have the effect of driving them from the Island trade altogether. We need not say that such a result would be very detrimental to the interests of the Province; and we trust the Dominion Government will make some special provision to meet the case. British steamers will, of course, sooner or later be procured to carry on the thriving trade opened up by the Boston and Gulf Ports Steamship Company; but in the meantime the commerce of the Island will suffer unless on order of the Dominion Government be issued, under which the *Somerset* and *Alhambra* may be allowed, until others are obtained, to "break bulk" between Halifax and Charlottetown. The attention of the authorities at Ottawa is respectfully directed to this important matter.

THE POLICY.

The Colonial Secretary announced in the House of Assembly on Thursday last that the final settlement of the Land Question is THE POLICY of our Local Government. We trust it will be able to carry out this policy in a satisfactory manner. Judging by the *personel* of the Legislature, we think it is not likely to receive opposition. Every member of both Houses will, we feel convinced, vote in favor of a policy which has for its object the total abolition of the leasehold system. There may be—there doubtless will be—opposition offered to details of the measure about to be introduced; but it will only be with the view of making the settlement of the "vexed question" more perfect and satisfactory.

MR. PERRY'S RESIGNATION.

In the House of Assembly on Saturday afternoon, the Leader of the Opposition moved the following resolution :—

Whereas, the Hon. S. F. Perry, lately representing the First District of Prince County in this House, did, during the recess, resign his seat by notice in writing the Lieutenant Governor and the Clerk of the House.

And Whereas, in the absence of express statuary provisions governing the case, differences of opinion have arisen as to the legality of such resignation.

And Whereas, the same S. F. Perry has been elected and returned a member of the Dominion House of Commons, and practically the said first district is represented in the House by one member only—

Therefore Resolved, that the House declare the said seat lately held by the said S. F. Perry vacant, and do desire the Speaker to notify the Administrator of the Government thereof in order that a writ may forthwith issue to fill the vacancy.

A short article on the subject of Mr. Perry's resignation is crowded out.

SANITARY.

We are informed that the civic authorities promptly ordered an investigation of the "nuisance" reported in the *Examiner* of the 2d inst. Two policemen visited and examined the slaughter-house of Mr. Brydges — the only one on Hillsberough street — carefully, but failed to find the source of the "villainous compound." So we conclude the nuisance is not on the premises of Mr. Brydges. It is however, somewhere in the vicinity of his establishment, and we advise the civic authorities to continue the investigation until it is found. A thorough examination of all the slaughter houses in the city, is, we think, expedient. If some of them are nuisances when the thermometer is at zero, what will they be after the thaws of spring. It is much better that a few butchers should suffer temporary inconvenience than that the public health should be in greater danger than it already is Slow fevers have been very prevalent, owing to the use of poisonous water; and who knows but cholera, with all its horrors, may be the result, if poisonous water is supplemented by poisonous air. A writer in the Montreal *Gazette*, who warns the authorities of that city of the probable result of a similar nuisance says. "Next to heaven, the object most deserving of the efforts of man should be the attainment and preservation of good health, which is the fundamental acquisition of earthly happiness." Then let us not court a pestilence.

Since writing the above, we learn that the objectionable smell has disappeared. The nuisance (wherever it was) has been removed.

Leg Broken.—Mr. Michael Foley, of Alberton, had his leg broken on Thursday evening last. While on his way from home to this city Mr. Foley's horse ran away; he was thrown out of the sleigh, and the painful accident was a result.

The Tichborne claimant has been sentenced to 14 years penal servitude.

SCHOOL VISITORS' REPORT.

Reports of the Visitors of our Public Schools have been published. They show that there are on this Island 392 schools, of which 47 are vacant; that the total number of examinations has been 355; that the total number of pupils on the registers kept by teachers is 16,257: of whom 8368 are boys, and 6889 girls, and that the average daily attendance of both sexes throughout the year has been 8351. But they do not show what proportion these figures bear to the total number of children in the Island within the ages of five and sixteen, and we therefore are unable to compute those who are untaught in our public schools.

Mr. McSwain, the School Visitor of King's County, submits the following "summary of statistics":—

Number of Schools in County,	103
" " examined	91
" " closed or vacant,	12
Scholars in Districts the schools in which were examined,	4555
Average number in each of these Districts,	50 5-91
Number of scholars registered,	3907
Average per school,	42 85-91
Number of boys registered,	2059
" girls "	1848
Number present at examinations,	1864
Average number present,	20 44-91
Average daily attendance for the County,	2193
Average daily attendance per school,	23 89-91
Number of scholars reading,	3502
" " Writing,	2310
Number studying Arithmetic,	1930
" " Grammar,	766
" " Geography,	961
" " Dictation,	878
" " Recitation,	1221
" " Book-keeping,	43
" " Composition,	37
" " History,	109
" " French,	36
" " Latin,	8
" " Greek,	1
" " Geometry,	8
" " Trigonometry,	4
" " Algebra,	3

Mr. McSwain also reports that the Grammar School at St. Peter's Bay is now vacant; but the other grammar schools of King's County are, he reports, in 'satisfactory operation.'

Mr. McPhail, submits the following Table of Statistics for Queen's County :—

Number Common Schools,	17
Number Grammar Schools,	8
Number Normal Schools,	1
Total	180
Number schools vacant	16
Number schools change of Teacher,	109
Number Teachers Grammar Class,	10
Number Teachers Second Class	14
Number Teachers First Class,	71
Number Female Teachers,	67
Number French Acadian Teachers,	6
Number Teachers left the profession last 3 years,	113
Number Teachers, Presbyterian,	100
Number Teachers, Roman Catholic,	48
Number Teachers Wesleyan,	8
Number Teachers Baptist	7
Number Teachers, Episcopalian,	5
Number pupils enrolled,	8033
Number Boys,	4153
Number Girls,	3880
Number Present, Examined,	4207
Number Daily Average,	3651
Number Reading Scriptures in 104 Schools,	2532
Number Reading Class Books,	8033
Number Writing,	5161
Number Arithmetic,	4645
Number Grammar,	2271
Number Geography,	3116
Number Dictation,	2674
Number History	543
Number Book-keeping,	15[illegible]
Number Composition,	187
Number Mathematics,	49
Number Latin,	41
Number Greek,	13
Number French,	51
Number French in 6 Acadian Schools,	350

Mr. McPhail notices, with regret, 'the continued increase in the number of schools which have had a change of teacher; and 'the increasing number of our best teachers who are abandoning the profession year after year.' We notice, with pleasure—as a sign that our people are beginning to evince a more decided wish than heretofore for religious education—that the increase of pupils who read the Scriptures in the schools (in Queen's County alone,) has been 842. Mr. McPhail also regrets to notice that while there has been, during 1873, an increase of 515 in the daily attendance, 'there is the enormous decrease of 834 in the daily average.'—a fact which Mr. McPhail says, 'shows that the daily attendance is yearly becoming more and more irregular;' and, hence, Mr. McPhail thinks, 'it is every year becoming more evident that a compulsory law is needed.' Mr. McPhail reports that new schoolhouses are needed in the following Districts, viz:

1. Little York, Lot 34.
2. Rona, Lot 62.
3. York River, Upper, Lot 32.
4. Pisquid West, Lot 37.
5. Mount Stewart, Lot 37.
6. Third Ponds, Lot 20.
7. Irishtown Lot 20.
8. Lower Milton, Lot 32.
9. Milvale, Lot 22.
10. St. Patrick's Lot 22.
11. Bethel (Minor) Lot 48.

In this city, the number of pupils enrolled is 630, of whom 356 are boys, and 274 girls. The decrease of the number enrolled during the past two years, has been 42. Respecting school accommodation, Mr. McPhail says, 'it is no better than it was years ago. The schools in the Temperance Hall and DesBrisay's Lane, should be closed immediately, unless decent outside conveniences be provided at once.' Mr. McPhail remarks that—

"The very low ebb to which the common schools of Charlottetown have fallen, ought to be *cause of alarm* to all who take any interest whatever in the future well-being of this, the Capital of one of the Provinces of the great Dominion of Canada. That alarm must surely be increased to every considerate mind, when it is known that an army of about 800 children, of school age, within the limits of the city, or about one in three, never enter a schoolroom at all. The twelve or thirteen poor schoolrooms now in use, with difficulty accommodate the 630 children enrolled; but if the 800 children, who do not go to school at all, could be induced to make their appearance, about sixteen additional schoolrooms would be required. These facts speak for themselves."

The names of seventy-two students are, we observe enrolled in the register of the Normal School. During the past year, six candidates obtained certificates as taachers of Grammar schools, viz:—Messrs. Dugald McLean, Isaac McLean, John N. Robertson, Roderick McRae, Hector Campbell, Ewen Stewart. Eleven candidates passed as Second Class teachers, viz:—Messrs. Ambrose D. Fraser, Leigh Gregor, John McKinnon, Finley D. Martin, James McKenzie, Donald Currie, Donald McLean, Alexander Robertson, Hector McDonald, Roderick McRae, Miss Charlotte E. Montgomery. Ninety-four obtained certificates as teachers of the First class. Only four of the pupils in the Normal School study the French language; and not one learns either Latin or Greek

Mr. McPhail thinks that 'If our school system is to be maintained, and the educational wants of the youth of our Island are to be duly supplied in the future, immediate provision must be made for the following among other matters, viz.,

I. The raising of the Normal School from its present 'anomalous position of being a high school for children in Charlottetown, a little in advance of the other public schools,' to the status of a real Normal School, the main object of which would be 'to do for the teacher what an apprenticeship does for the mechanic, the artist, the physician, the lawyer—to teach him theoretically and practically how to do the work of his profession.'

II. Raising the standard of teacher's qualifications, and the attending at the Normal School of all future candidates for the office of Teacher, for at least one term the salaries of such teachers to be proportionally increased to correspond with the higher standard of qualification required, and such increase to be graduated through a course of three or five years.

III. The payment of Teachers, as is now done in other countries, '*by results*,' *i.e.*, according to the quality and quantity of the work done.

IV. *The payment of an equitable share of the public funds, (in proportion to average attendance) to all schools open to Government inspection, and subject to the rules and regulations of the Board of Education and the Teachers of which had submitted themselves to the Board of Examiners for license.*

V. The compulsory attendance of pupils at school during at least seven months of the year.

VI. The compulsory attendance of trustees to the duties required of them

VII. Provision for the supply of school libraries, apparatus, aud a uniform series of suitable text books at first cost.

VIII. The appointment of a Superintendent of Education, who should have the general oversight of all educational matters, and who should also be the Inspector of the Grammar and City Schools. In Ontario, besides the Superintendent and Inspector of common schools, there is an Inspector of High Schools.

IX. The division of Queen's County into two Districts for the purposes of school Inspection and the appointment of a Visitor for each District, in view of the fact that the number of schools therein is about double the amount of that in either of the other two Counties.

X. The appointment of one Board of Trustees for the City schools, (instead of having a separate Board for each school) with power to provide school buildings with suitable apartments, and all requisites for the establishment of graded schools.

XI. The grading of Grammar schools into two departments, a higher and a lower, with a qualified teacher in each.

XII. The adoption of a system of rewards to pupils, by means of merit, card, or otherwise, for good conduct, proficiency in studies, and good attendance. This would perhaps materially diminish the necessity for compulsory attendance.

XIII. The providing for the retirement and support of those teachers who have become aged and infirm.

XIV. The payment by the inhabitants of each school district, of a local assessment, either upon property, or so much per head of all male adults, the proceeds of which would be applied to the increase of teachers' salaries.

In Prince County there are 109 schools, of which number 19 are vacant. Mr. Robson, the Visitor, submits the following synopsis—

Number of pupils enrolled	4317
Number Boys,	2156
Number Girls	2161
Whole number present at examinations	2384
Average daily attendance	2507
Number of pupils Reading as taken from the Register	3382
No. pupils Writing	2174
No. of pupils Arithmetic	2150
No. of pupils English Grammar	1078
No. of pupils Geography	1470
No. of pupils Dictation	1102
No. of pupils French	331
No. of pupila Latin	31
No. of pupils Geometry	28
No. of pupils Algebra	25
No. of pupils Greek	4
No. of pupils History	204
No. of pupils Book-keeping	34
No. of pupils examined Reading	1352
No. of pupils examined in Geography	664
No. of pupils examined in Grammar	452
No. of pupils examined in Arithmetic	570
No. of pupils examined in Dictation	1367
No. of specimens of Writing shown	1367

During the past six months new Districts have been erected at Howlan Road; Alma, Lot 19; and Mount Pleasant, Lot 27; while at Piusville, Lot 4, a grant has been given for the establishment of a minor school.

New Schoolhouses have been built in the following sections, viz:—South Shore, Lot 27; New Annan, Lot 19, Linkletter Road, Lot 17; Fifteen Point, Lot 15; and Cape Wolf, Lot 7.

We judge that Mr. Robson is not a man of decided opinions; for, in summing up the result of his examinations, he says 'I have pleasure in recording that, with few exceptions, the general status of the schools in this county is as high as can reasonably be expected.' It is wholly unnecessary to demonstrate the inanity of this high-flown sentence.

MANUFACTURES OF CANADA.

The Manufacturers' meeting of Tuesday was by all odds the largest and most influential demonstration of the kind that has been know in Canada since the agitation of 1858, 1859, when a heavy pressure of public opinion caused the adoption of a tariff having for its avowed object the fostering of our 'infant manufactures.' In years subsequent, the spirit and purpose of that legislation were strongly adhered to such alterations as were made in details being all in the direction originally contemplated. Since the change of 1866 movements for a return to the tariff policy of 1859 have been made, but the back weight of public opinion to drive them home was wanting. To all appearance that want is now supplied, or is about to be; and to change the figure, we are already in a rapidly arising tide of general public enthusiasm in favor of fair play to home interests, mining, manufacturing, agricultural and all other.

The main cause of the present industrial reaction is neither far to seek nor hard to find; it is the very one which has been set forth in these colums time and again during the last few months. The late panic over the border caused to fall at once like the walls of Jericho, certain artificial obstructions to that general decline in prices which should have been gradually going on since the war closed, but which was by unatural means and for speculative purposes long held back and delayed. The artificial obstructions referred to, having been swept away, Canadian manufacturers quickly discovered that a new era had been entered upon, and the large and enthusiastic meeting of the other day is one of the first results of the discovery. With the old high prices on the other side, our tariff might be either fifteen per cent, or fifty, no matter, when the Americans could not sell at our prices But 'the case being altered alters the case,' very much indeed, in this instance; and for the first time in our history we are face to face with the practical question, whether it be possible for us to live and hold our own with fifteen per. cent. on our side and from thirty-five to fifty per cent. on the other side, our competitors being the most enterprising and go-ahead people on the face of the earth, and living along our border for a distance of three thousand miles. The gentlemen assembled in the Rossin House on Tuesday, evidently have their answer to this question; what answer the assembled wisdom of the Dominion will give to it, remains to be seen.—*Toronto Mail.*

History of New Brunswick.—Mr. Duncan Campbell Nova Scotia's latest historian has decided to prepare and publish a history of New Brunswick, and is now in Halifax collecting the requisite material for that purpose He has discovered many valuable papers in the Nova Scotia archives and will occupy the next eighteen months in preparing his work for the press.—*Halifax Citizen.*

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

At three o'clock, on Thursday afternoon last, His Honor the Administrator of the Government came down to the Council Chamber. After taking his seat upon the throne, he desired the attendance of the House of Assembly. The Usher of the Black Rod announced his Honor's pleasure to the House, when the Clerk rose in his place and informed the House that since the last meeting of the Legislature, he had received the following letter :—

'To *Archibald McNeill*, Esq.,
'Clerk of the House of Assembly:

"Sir,—I beg to notify you that I do hereby resign the office and position of Speaker of the House of Assembly.

I have the honor to be, etc.,
"Stanislaus F. Perry."

"25th Jan. 1874."

The resignation was accompanied by the signature of a Notary Public. Hon. Col. Secretary moved that the House do attend upon his Honor, and that the Clerk report that it is without a Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition here made some remarks, after which, the motion was put by the Clerk, and carried. The House then proceeded to the Council Chamber, where they were commanded by his Honor to choose a Speaker, and then return. Having returned,—on motion of the Leader of the Government, seconded by Mr. Richards, Mr. Cornelius Howat was chosen Speaker. The House then attended upon the Administrator, and His Honor was pleased to open the Session with the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

It affords me much satisfaction to meet you in General Assembly for the first time since this Island became a Province of the Dominion of Canada. In accordance with the terms of the Addresses of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, transmitted to the Queen when the Legislature was last in Session, Her Most Gracious Majesty was pleased to issue an order in Council, declaring that from and after the first of July, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three this Island should become a part of the Dominion of Canada. I earnestly hope that the social, material, and political interests of the Province will be advanced by the union.

His Excellency the Governor General visited this Province in the Month of July last, and expressed himself highly gratified with the general appearance of the Island and the fertility of its soil, and with the loyal and warm reception accorded to him by all classes of its inhabitants.

Since the formation of the present Government my constitutional advisers have been anxious that the Tenants on the remaining Proprietory Townships should have an early opportunity of becoming Freeholders, and have, therefore, entered into communication with the proprietors, in order, if possible, to effect a speedy purchase upon just and equitable terms. The correspondence will be laid before you, and I am confident it is unnecessary for me to direct your special attention to a subject of such paramount importance.

"The Tenant's Compensation Act, 1872," and the Act in amendment thereof of last Session, are still under the consideration of the Imperial Government.

A Bill, transferring the Jurisdiction for the trial of controverted Elections from the Legislature to the Judges of the Supreme Court, and providing more effectually for the prevention of corrupt practices at Elections will be submitted for your approval as well as a Bill for further securing the independence of the General Assembly.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have given directions that the Public Accounts for the past year shall be laid before you without delay. The large sums paid as compensation for damages to Real Estate, under the provisions of the Railway Act, have exceeded all reasonable anticipation.

The estimates for the present year will be submitted to you. They have been framed with due regard to economy and the efficiency of the public service.

The present Revenue under Confederation judiciously expended, will, in all probability, be sufficient for many years to come, to meet the charges upon it without resorting to any additional local taxation.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

A despatch which has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, acknowledging the receipt of your joint Address, of last Session, to the Queen on the subject of the refund by the United States of certain duties, collected in the year 1871, on Fish and Fish Oil imported into the United States from this Province, will be laid before you.

The construction of the Railway is rapidly advancing towards completion and it will be open for traffic early in the Autumn, when farmers and purchasers of grain and other products will be enabled to avail themselves of its advantages as a means of transport to the principal harbors of shipment.

I rejoice to be enabled to congratulate you upon the prosperous condition of the Province and the healthy state of its trade.

During the past year a kind Providence has blessed the labors of the husbandman with an abundant harvest, and the products of the soil have met with a ready and remunerative market.

I now leave you to the performance of the duties of the Session, trusting that under the Divine blessing your deliberations may tend to the welfare of the Province, and secure the happiness and contentment of its people.

The House then returned to the Assembly Room. Hon. Colonial Secretary submitted a Bill respecting proof of telegrams, etc. Hon. Leader of the Opposition delivered a speech of which the following resolution (which he moved at its close) is an epitome :—

Whereas a law has already been passed in the Legislature of the Dominion of Canada, abolishing dual representation;

And whereas the spirit of such law, if not the letter, is opposed to any member of the Senate of Canada, sitting or voting in any of the Provincial Assemblies of the several Provinces comprised in the Dominion;

And whereas it is desirable that the members of this House of Assembly should not be hampered or prejudiced with the discharge of the duties they owe to their constituents, and that the independence of the House be as far as possible preserved;

Therefore Resolved that it is inconsistent with the independenc of the House of Assembly of this Island, that any of its members should be permitted to sit or vote as such, while at the same time, holding a seat in the Dominion Senate.

Hon Attorney General moved, seconded by Hon. A. C. McDonald, that Mr. L. H. Davies have leave to withdraw his resolution—and when, after some debate—a discussion was heard, the latter motion was carried—by a vote of 16 to 10—the Colonial Secretary not voting On division for the election of officials, which took place immediately after, the vote was 16 to 11.—Mr. T. Kelly, who voted with the Government in the first division, voting with the Opposition. Mr. S. F. Perry, member for Tignish, and Mr. Campell, member for New London, were absent.

On Friday Mr. Jenkins moved the 'draft address' in answer to the Administrator's speech. On Saturday the House formed itself into a committee of the whole, to consider papers submitted with respect to the late speaker's resignation.

Famine in India. The Governor General of India telegraphs to the British authorities that the Government will be obliged to maintain three million persons for three months. The expenditure on account of the famine, up to the end of February last, is estimated at $7,500,000.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir,—In the Examiner of the 23rd instant you have advocated the abolition of the Second Branch of the Local Parliament, the culling and pruning of the other two, and also the abolition of at least one Government office. May your advocacy on this point have free course and success. We have just entered a new era in our Colonial history, and retrenchment and economy should be our political watchword. Our local revenue may appear to be sufficiently flush at present; but let us *wait a wee*, and we will find that, unless it be carefully guarded and husbanded, it will be scant enough, ere long, for carrying on the public works of the country. You well remarked that our local legislative duties have been greatly diminished by so much of it having fallen to the care of the Dominion Parliament. Indeed, if all those duties of which our Legislature has been relieved by our entrance into the Dominion, were summed up, it will be found that only a few comparatively slight matters have been left for our Local Parliament to legislate upon. The parliamentary machinery, which we support at present, for carrying on the business of this small Province, is ridiculously costly and cumbersome. We are endeavoring to crowd on our diminutive craft of State all the equipments and gear of a huge, full-rigged ship. By all means let us spill out of the Legislature those soncy "Old Ladies" of the Legislative Council, and the country will rejoice at the change. We have no political tea to spare for them. A much more profitable investment can be found for the money which their salaries and outfits cost us. The salaries of the clerks in the Registry Office, and some other departments, urgently require augmentation, and, above all, the salaries of the school teachers. Some of the employees in the Registry Office are paid only $200 per annum,—a salary which any Government should be ashamed to offer an efficient officer. How differently those in the Dominion public service are paid. In the Customs Office, for instance, the salaries range from $2,000 to $700 per annum, the latter being the lowest in the department.

But the pay of the Legislative Councillors is only one item in the cost of that honorable body. The money expended in garnishing the Council Chamber, the salaries of clerks, doorkeepers, messengers, fuel, light, stationery, and other equipments, would be saved for other and better purposes. Your calculations, therefore, of supporting that superfluous branch of the Legislature, Mr. Editor, falls far short of the actual sum total. If such a wide Province as Ontario can successfully and efficiently carry on its legislation with only one House of Parliament, why must little Prince Edward Island have two? Nova Scotia will soon make short work of the second branch of her Legislature, and, no doubt, so will all the other Provinces of the Dominion. The General Government at Ottawa will be amply competent and sufficient to put a veto on all unnecessary and improper measures which may be introduced into the respective Local Legislatures. The second Branch of our Local Parliament is not only an unnecessary bill of expense to us, but will, if continued, be a dead weight on the legislative business of each Session. If the Archives of this Colony be scrutinized, it will be found that the actual work performed by the Legislative Council during the last ten years past is not worth one day's cost of that body. To support fourteen prim, well-paid *wooden members*, as a mere parliamentary parade, with their five well-paid understrappers to wait upon their wooden honors, is rather costly amusement to suit the taxpayers of this little corner of the New Dominion.

Let not the foregoing observations be misinterpreted They are not at all meant to poke fun at our present worthy Legislative Council as private gentlemen and citizens. As such, they may safely be counted as among the very cream of the commonwealth. It is a superfluous or redundant body of legislators their honors are here characterized. Nor is their position their own fault. So long as the law for electing a Legislative Council stands on the Statute Book, so long must such a body be sustained. But the time has fully arrived when this Statute should be erased from the face of the Statute Book of this Island Province. Such adjuncts to the House of Assembly might, perhaps, be tolerated, provided they cost nothing. But as matters now exist, they would be much better employed in some other sphere or calling more profitable to themselves and to the country.

Now for the House of Assembly. That body, also, will bear to be curtailed of some of its members. One-half the number of its present members ought to be sufficient to perform all the legislation which will be required for this *wee* Province of the great New Dominion. Surely five members each for the three Counties of this Island should do all the work. If two members for each County can efficiently represent our interests at Ottawa, besides taking their share in the general legislation that takes in the whole sweep of the Dominion, why in the name of common sense can't five intelligent and energetic representatives for each County of this little corner transact all our little local business, which will require but a mite of the intelligence and skill that will be required to legislate for the whole *spread* of the Dominion?

The truth is, our House of Assembly requires a vigorous application of the political pruning knife. We have no work for Legislative Councillors, nor enough work for thirty doughty members of the House of Assembly. Just look at our three Counties covering altogether about as much area as a locomotive would circumvolve any fine morning ere the sun reached the meridian. Fifteen good, honest men, possessing ordinary vigor and capacity, having the country's good at heart, would be able to transact all the legislative business of so small a territory as this Island.

Let us, for the future, put into Parliament only such representatives as are qualified for parliamentary business—the very best we have to spare—and that number will be quite sufficient to frame all our laws. Hitherto we have been too often squabbling for the ascendancy of party over party, and in an ill-directed enthusiasm have raised into position puppets and putty men, and have sometimes thrown patriots and philanthropists over our shoulders. Anyone who will take a retrospect of the last dozen years may learn how many such putty men we have honored with seats in the Legislature during that time. It would be invidious,—indeed, improper,—to name any of these, but on reflection some of these will revert to the intelligent reader's mind. Let us now throw such dough-headed automatons overboard, and man our little craft of State with a real live crew, who, with clear heads and sturdy hands, will navigate her safely in foul weather as well as fair.

To watch the proceedings and discussions of a deliberative body over a newly-proposed scheme or measure, is very instructive. No study can reveal to an intelligent individual the vast difference in the acumen, adroitness and skill of some persons, on the one hand, and the stupidity and want of discernment in some others, on the other hand. The introducer of a scheme, for instance, presents it in its first stage of development, and states the end for which it is intended. One of the deliberative body gets up and maintains that it is wanting in some essential element, but has not the genius to supply the desideratum. Another gets up and characterizes the whole scheme as unworthy of being entertained, but insists upon some hobby project of his own instead, which would be as likely to answer the end in view, as a collander would for the purpose of carrying water. A third would introduce an element into the scheme, which might prove of some advantage, were it not so incongruous to the whole scheme that it is wholly inadmissable. A fourth rises to comment upon the scheme but only succeeds to convince his audience that he understands nothing at all of the matter under consideration. He only "darkens council with words without knowledge," and "makes confusion but ten times more confused." By-and-by rises one from the midst of the company, of modest mien, but vigorous voice and lucid language, who instantly enchains every ear present. He takes hold of the scheme and presents it in all its aspects, turns it over and over and round and round, and, like a skilful anatomist, dissects it and analizes all its parts, and shows how far it is adapted to itself and the ends for which it is designed. He then re arranges its parts, throws out all those redundant or incongruous, and supplies such new elements as may be wanting. He then holds it up to view, a new and symmetrical creation, agreeing in all its parts, and adapted to its ultimate end. What was at first but chaos and confusion, is now a well-arranged and beautiful system, suited to perform or answer all the questions or functions for which it was originally intended. The feeblest capacity in all the deliberative assembly can now grasp the scheme in all its entirety and bearings, and they cannot but acknowledge and respect the superiority and genius of that master-mind which was able to bring such order and system out of what at first appeared so chaotic a mass.

Thus it is that some clear-headed thinkers, with a ready command of language and a brilliant choice of words, argument and illustration, can clear up a difficult matter and render it both intelligible and comprehensible to all around them One man of this stamp, as the representative or lawgiver of any people, is worth more than a whole shipload of such dough-headed, putty men as sometimes aspire to, and too often attain, legislative honors and emoluments. Let us, therefore, choose the former type of men as our representatives, for we have a few such men amongst us.

Further remarks on this subject must be deferred for another letter.

Victor Vim.

Ch'town, Feb. 28, 1874.

OUR FISHERIES.

At the Dominion Board of Trade, (on the 27th ult.,) says the special corespondent of the Montreal *Gazette*.—

Mr. Howlan called attention to the subject of the Gulf Fisheries. He said that there was about to sit at Halifax a commission for the purpose of determining the respective value of the British American and American Fisheries mutually surrendered by the Treaty of Washington. He knew that the greatest pains were being taken in the United States to get up the necessary evidence on their side; and unless something was done on the Canadian side, our own fisheries would be given away altogether. Another thing that was required for the interest of the Dominion, was to provide a proper system of protection for the fisheries. He feared that a great mistake had been made in giving the fisheries away, they being, in his judgment, the one great element in the problem which might have been used as a lever to procure the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty. However, all the fisheries, including the oyster and lobster fisheries, were to be open to the Americans, and the effect would be, unless precautions were taken, that our fisheries will be exhausted by improvident fishing in the same way as the fisheries of the United States had been exhausted. He desired that measures should be taken to prevent the fisheries from being destroyed. He mentioned some figures to show how large was the enterprise of the American fishermen in Canadian waters and said that it was very desirable not only that our fisheries should be protected, but that they should be worked by Canadian fishermen, and with the outlays of Canadian capital. The people of the Maritime Provinces did not, like his friend the patron of the iron manufacturer, want any artificial advantages to be accorded to them. They were ready for the completion of all the work; but he could assure him that, great as might be the value of our iron ores as a resource for the promotion of national prosperity, they would not equal the enormous wealth at present almost untouched in the gulf, whose appropriation by fishing would, moreover, largely increase the strength of the Dominion, in the way of adding to the seamen at the disposal of the country. He complained that while the Americans had been treated on our side with the greatest possible liberality, they had acted towards us in a very narrow spirit of exclusion, of which he gave several instances, both with respect to duties and to the employment of ships and seamen. He moved a resolution expressing the necessity that existed for the fullest statistical information being placed before the Fishery Commissioners appointed by the Dominion, a commission shortly to set at Halifax, N.S.; also that the Board recommend the appointment of a commission to consider the best mode of protecting our fisheries, and prepare a law equitable to all parts of the Dominion.

Mr. Drummond, of Montreal, called attention to steps recently taken by the Fishery Department of the Dominion Government with a view to the protection of our fisheries. He did not believe the Washington Treaty conferred on Americans anything more than the right to land on our shores and dress fish for the market. It did not confer on them any right to trespass on our shores or on our inland fisheries.

Mr. McGregor, of Windsor, thought the Commission sitting at Washington would be productive of good results.

Sheriff Harding, of St. John, N. B., entertained the fear that the Americans when appearing before the Fishery Commission would submit such a mass of statistics to show the vast extent of the fisheries of the United States as to demonstrate that the balance of trade was in their favor, so that instead of the treaty conferring a boon on Canada we would have to pay a large sum to the Americans. If a Prussian or Feringhees were brought in to act as umpire he might just look at the figures and give his decision thereon, not knowing anything of the subject, and it was with a view to prevent such an occurrence that the mover of the resolution desired the fullest statistics of the Dominion fisheries to be prepared.

The motion was passed.