

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

APRIL 18, 1893.

Legislative Notes.

It is expected that the Legislature will rise to-morrow. But the Government is still withholding the information which is required by the country in respect to the Public Works and other Departments. Something wrong somewhere!

Among the amendments to the City Incorporation Bill proposed yesterday was one providing that both hospitals in Charlottetown be free of civic taxation.

No one will object to this. But the right of the Legislature to attach a penalty to an offence for which there has been no penalty, and to make the set retrospective, is questionable. If murder were committed while the penalty for murder was imprisonment, would it be right to hang the murderer under a law passed subsequently to the commission of the crime? If not, it is not right to punish a City Councillor and legislate him out of office because he dealt with the Water Commissioners at a time at which no penalty for the offence was fixed.

The Legislature in my, even yet, correct the bill to amend the City Incorporation Act, by taking away the retrospective provision in this regard. If not, the fact will only make stronger the prevalent belief that Mr. Premier Peters and his followers are actuated by a vindictive spirit of revenge in respect to his political opponents. If the Councillors who are said to have dealt with the Water Commissioners were supporters of Mr. Peters, the penalty now made applicable to that offence against the law would not be retroactive!

On the other hand, we agree with Mr. Peters that the right of a man to take action against the city, in case of loss of damage due to civic negligence, ought not to be taken away. An accident may at first seem to be trivial, but complications may be developed causing years of suffering or even loss of life. It would be wrong to deprive the victim of such a disaster of his right of action against the corporation simply because he may have failed to give notice that he would do so within fifteen days or even two months of the date of the accident.

In the Legislative Council yesterday, the Amalgamation Bill was passed in committee. A motion of Hon. Mr. Campbell to strike the two-thirds clause was voted down, as was also the resolution of Hon. Mr. McKenzie to have the bill published during the recess.

—Since our correspondent "Justice" has taken exception to Alberton as the designation of Dr. P. C. Murphy, we may say in self justification that we were not at all desirous of robbing Kinkora of any of her honors, but simply gave the name found after Dr. Murphy's name in the annuary of University Medical College, New York. In the list of students entered there in 1892 we read: "P. C. Murphy, Alberton, P. E. I." As this was evidently done at the gentleman's own desire we leave "Justice" to draw his own conclusions. We may further say that, contrary to "Justice's" assertion, the Dr. has spent his holidays each year, since he commenced his studies at Alberton, and now, we are informed, intends taking up the practice of his profession there. Alberton, therefore, has clearly made out a fair claim to the brilliant young doctor, and possibly may have discovered the ability which in Kinkora, like many a flower, "was born to blush unseen." We are glad, to recognize, however, a spirit of hearty emulation in the air. Kinkora may yet outstrip Ugg.

Personal.

The Speaker of the Imperial House of Commons will be decidedly impartial, as he is admittedly powerful. Both sides are abusing him freely for partiality.

Capt. Boulton, R. N., late hydrographical surveyor to the Marine Department and his family have left for England. Mr. Stewart, son of Major John Stewart, contractor for the Toronto drill hall, takes Captain Boulton's place.

Stepniak, the Russian patriot, has written a letter to President Cleveland making a strong protest against the Russian extradition treaty.

Labor Disputes—Arbitration.

LONDON, April 18. The House of Commons yesterday passed the first reading of the bill to provide for the submission of labor disputes to arbitration.

No Intimation.

OTTAWA, April 18. No intimation has been received at Government House that Lord Aberdeen has actually been appointed Governor-General.

WINTER lingers in the lap of spring. A snowstorm set in early this morning, which continued until about noon. This afternoon we are having a high northeasterly wind with sleet.

EARLY SAILING.—One of the first clearances of the season was made from Alberton last week, when Captain Miller's schooner left that port with a load of potatoes and oats shipped by Messrs. Woodman Bros., for Shediac, where she arrived safely on Friday.

LOBSTER PACKING.—We are informed that great activity is manifested along the coast by those engaged in the lobster packing industry. A very large number of persons indeed is interested in this year's pack, and the amount of capital involved is therefore much increased. It was even Prince County especially the increase is noticeable.

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Provincial Legislature

House of Assembly.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

MONDAY, April 17.

House resumed consideration of the bill to amend the act incorporating the City of Charlottetown in committee. The bill was reported agreed to.

The bill to incorporate the St. Eleanor's Hall Company was read a second time, committed and reported agreed to, read a third time and passed.

The bill to amend the act incorporating the Montagu Hall Company was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Clow presented a bill to amend an act entitled an Act to Incorporate the Kings County Exhibition Association. The bill was read a second time, read a third time and passed.

The bill to incorporate the Winaloe Hall Company was read a second time, committed, reported agreed to, read a third time and passed.

House took recess.

After recess the House met at half past eight o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Peters moved that the bill respecting the representation of the people in the Legislature be read a third time and passed.

Mr. Bentley moved in amendment that the bill be read a third time six months hence.

The House divided on the amendment as follows:

Ayes—Bentley, Shaw, Arsenault, A. J. Macdonald, Clow, Underhay, Gordon, James E. Macdonald, McKay, Rogers, A. McLeod, Sullivan, 12.

Noys—Peters, M. Loan, McMillan, Farquharson, Richards, Sinclair, Forbes, H. U. Macdonald, Bell, Warburton, Matheson, Montgomery, McWilliams, Cumiskey, Roberson—15.

The main motion was then put and carried on division, the ayes and noys being reversed.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson then rose for the purpose of moving the resolution on which he had placed on the Order Book some time ago. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, the present Dominion tariff discriminates in favor of certain manufacturers and capitalists, and has a tendency to create monopolies and trade combines to the detriment of the farmers and laboring class, who compose the great majority of the Canadian people; and

Inasmuch, as the tariff in its practical operation tends to make the rich richer, and the poor poorer, and it is most desirable in the interests of the people as a whole that it should be reduced to the lowest possible point consistent with the necessary requirements of the revenue;

Be it Therefore Resolved, That in the opinion of this House the tariff should at the earliest possible moment be reduced to the lowest point necessary to meet the requirements of the public service, and that all trade restrictions should be removed;

Be it Further Resolved, That this House regrets the failure on the part of the Federal Government last year to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with the United States;

Be it Further Resolved, That a committee of three members of this House be appointed to confer with a committee of the Legislative Council in preparing a memorial to the Dominion Government embodying the views hereinafter set forth.

He supported the resolution in a lengthy speech. He said the resolution was just such an one as the House had a perfect right to pass, and he hoped that it would be dealt with in a manner free from political prejudice. The resolution provided that a committee of three members of the House be formed to unite with a committee of the Legislative Council in preparing a memorial to the Dominion Government embodying the views on the trade question. He claimed that the promise made by Sir Charles Tupper on the occasion of his visit to Charlottetown in 1878 had not been fulfilled, and drew a roseate picture of the condition of our people previous to the inauguration of the National Policy. He asserted that the National Policy protected the rich at the expense of the poor, and thought that the sooner a change were made in our trade policy the better for our people. It was quite true that under the National Policy a certain amount of trade had been opened up with the neighboring provinces. But this trade did not amount to very much, as in these provinces they raised the same articles as we did, and in consequence did not want our products to any very great extent. He claimed that as a result of the National Policy the emigration from Canada to the United States had greatly increased. The very best of our young people had gone abroad, and in consequence property has depreciated in value. In Charlottetown property had depreciated one-third of its value, and in some sections of the Province houses that once were well kept and looked trim and neat were now tenantless and fast falling into decay. For this state of affairs the National Policy was to blame. He then quoted some of Mr. Laurier's remarks in opposition to the National Policy, and Dalton McCarthy's resolution suggesting an amendment to our trade policy, introduced at the late session of Parliament. He (Mr. Farquharson) believed that if the Liberals were in power in Canada we would have Reciprocity with the United States in very quick time. The United States was our natural market, and we should do all in our power to improve our trade relations with that great country, and remove the barriers which now stood in the way. He admitted that a reciprocity such as he was in favor of would discriminate against the Mother Country, but claimed that she was not disposed to regard such discrimination unfavorably. The United States, he pointed out, would not consent to a reciprocity in natural products only. They wanted our manufactured goods. The Dominion Government would not agree to this, as they wished to protect the rich manufacturers and monopolists of Canada, and as a result the negotiations fell through. He admitted that under the existing tariff tea, sugar, oil and other articles of common use were very cheap, but were they as cheap as they should be? Was the cheapness of flour the result of the national policy? Was it not rather because of the development and opening up of the great northwest wheat fields? In one breath he spoke of the de-

mand there was for our horses in the United States, and in the next he said that the demand was on the decrease because electric cars were fast superseding the horse cars in that country. In conclusion he expressed the hope that the day was not far distant when the trade barriers which now existed would be removed and such a system of reciprocity between the two countries would be established as would be mutually beneficial.

Mr. Warburton said it gave him pleasure to be in a position to second the resolution. He was glad to see that the tide of public opinion was rising in favor of the principles set forth in the resolution. This is not to be wondered at when the great evils that have resulted to the people of this Province as a result of the National Policy are taken into consideration. Property has greatly depreciated in value, and although our farmers work harder and have more improved facilities than they had years ago the results that attend their efforts are not so successful as they would be had they had a better market for their products. He had them been deprived of the right to trade on an equal footing with the United States. He believed that when the people of the Dominion were given an opportunity of expressing themselves at the polls they would pronounce in favor of Free Trade with the United States. Referring to the failure of the recent trade conference at Washington, to which reference had been made by the previous speaker, he said he did not blame Mr. Blair for refusing to negotiate a treaty with Canada upon the lines laid down by the Canadian Commissioners. The proposition they made was not one that Mr. Blair could reasonably be expected to agree to. He dealt at considerable length with our trade with the United States, and pointed out that the egg trade had greatly decreased under the operation of the McKinley bill. The trade in sheep, horses, etc., had also greatly decreased since the adoption of the National Policy. He thought that it was high time a change were made in our tariff on these and other lines. He claimed that the duty on certain articles in the dry goods and hardware lines which he mentioned, was too high, and bore harshly on the people, for it was the people who paid these duties in the shape of high prices. As a result of the change that was now taking place in public opinion on this matter of our trade relations with the United States, he thought the day was not far distant when a change for the better would be inaugurated.

Mr. Gordon said he thought the resolution was much the same in spirit as those introduced at previous sessions. The resolution is evidently intended to do execution in two directions—to attack the National Policy and the Dominion Government. The members on this side of the House could not support the resolution because it was made up of unsupported assertions. He denied that the existing tariff discriminated against the farmer, and the laboring man. On the contrary it was framed in the interests of these classes. Tea, sugar, coffee, flour and everything that was consumed in the Province was now cheaper than they ever were before. The poor man, it would thus be seen, was not discriminated against as stated by the opponents of the National Policy; the rich were not made richer or the poor poorer, as had been asserted. There were really only one or two rich men in Canada at the present time. Sir Donald Smith and W. C. Macdonald were rich men, and they were making a good use of their money. But they made their money before the national policy was inaugurated. Now look at the great numbers of rich men in the United States, that country which is so highly praised by our friends on the other side of the House. Look also at the great many very poor there are in that country, and read the long stories of poverty and crime that are daily told in the United States newspapers. There were really no poor people in the Dominion as compared with the United States. There are in this Dominion, said he, a number of persons known as pessimists—persons who spend their time decrying the land they live in and doing all in their power against the National Policy. But to attack the National Policy was vain; that policy would live long both in the United States and Canada. Under the National Policy manufacturers have been established and industries built up that were possible before; employment was furnished for our people at home that was not furnished previous to the inauguration of that policy. He then referred to McCarthy's motion, which had been read by the mover of the resolution, and pointed out that McCarthy was what was known as a political "sore-head." He was one of the greatest friends and admirers of the National Policy at the time of its inauguration by Sir John Macdonald, and would be a great foe of that policy at the present time had he been taken into the cabinet. But he was not made a member of the cabinet, and the consequence is his present attitude on the trade question. It is admitted by all travellers, Mr. Gordon went on to remark, that the farmers in this fair Province of ours are as well off and as comfortable as are the farmers in any section of the United States. He contrasted the condition of the laboring man of the present day with the condition of the laborer of former years. In former years, he said, a man thought he was well paid if he were given seventy-five cents for a day's work, and now if he did not get a dollar a day or more he considered himself ill-used. A National Policy was the only policy that would encourage persons to come into Canada and assist in the building up of its manufactures. In order to build up the country we should urge our people to import nothing that can be manufactured in Canada. Everyone knows how the Canadian delegates were received at Washington—how they were practically told that unless they came under the flag of the United States they could not obtain Reciprocity. It takes two parties to make a treaty, and the statesmen at Washington are very clever. Until such time as they see that they must trade with Canada, and not until then, will they make such a treaty as would be fair to our people. The resolution before the House, as he remarked before, was intended to cut in two directions. But it was harmless. Like Gulliver's bladder flappers it made a great noise but hurt nobody. The poet says:—

"The earth has bubbles as the ocean hath, And these are of the them."

He could compare the resolution to nothing else but bubbles intended for gullible people. The people of Canada are intelligent and they can read and find out

the true state of affairs for themselves. They would tell these pessimists—these bubble-blowers—that they were not the oppressed people they said they were. He had been listening to resolutions such as this during the past twelve years, and during that time the trade policy of the Liberal party has gone under various names. One time it was called unrestricted reciprocity, at another time it was called free trade, and at other commercial union, then continental free trade and a host of other names. He wondered what they would call it next. Are the farmers anxious to have Armour's pork and American flour brought into the country in competition with our production? He did not think so. Apart from the United States altogether, we have the West India market, the English market and our own inter-provincial market, and of these we have taken advantage. He thought that the greatest enemies doing most to prevent the inauguration of a fair and equitable reciprocity treaty—were the men who were daily decrying their country, who were telling the United States that we could not get along without a reciprocity treaty. As another member of the House was to speak after him, a man who was well versed in the trade relations of the two countries, he would say nothing further on the subject, but would content himself with moving the following amendment to the resolution:

Resolved, That after the word "whereas" be struck out and the following inserted: "That inasmuch as the Dominion Government in this respect, and entertains the belief that the tariff will be so adjusted as to promote the freest possible traffic between both countries consistent with the requirements of the Dominion revenue and our connection with Great Britain."

Therefore Resolved, That this House supports the contemplated movement on the part of the Dominion Government in this respect, and entertains the belief that the tariff will be so adjusted as to promote the freest possible traffic between both countries consistent with the requirements of the Dominion revenue and our connection with Great Britain.

Mr. Rogers seconded the motion made by the senior member for Georgetown. This trade resolution, he said, was now an old affair. Year after year it came up serenely; but the policy enacted therein was not always the same. Two or three years ago the policy was Unrestricted Reciprocity. Since that time, however, the Liberal party had been badly stranded on the rock of Unrestricted Reciprocity, and in consequence there was no talk of Unrestricted Reciprocity now. It was quite true that there were good times under the old Reciprocity Treaty. But circumstances have changed since then, and the treaty which was suitable then would not be fair or just to-day. The United States was not then developed as now, and Canada was not then the great and growing country she is now. To listen to the speeches of hon. members on the other side of the House one would think that it was Sir John Macdonald who inaugurated the obnoxious McKinley bill. At one moment they groan over the terrible burden of taxation borne by the people because of the National Policy, and at another they ask us to accept the United States' tariff, which is much higher than ours. The absurdity of the argument is apparent. He then took up and considered the different tariffs or treaties which existed between Canada and the United States, and showed that it was not Canada, but the United States that first abrogated them. The Liberal Conservative party, said he, is not opposed to a reasonable reciprocity treaty with the United States; but we are decidedly opposed to making the Dominion a slaughter market for the Republic. The United States was ready at any moment to violate treaties and insult friendly powers whenever it suited their own purpose to do so. Erastus Wiman and Ned Farrer—those two great Liberal leaders—were doing their very best to force us into a union with the United States. He quoted from letters written by Farrer, in which he made certain suggestions relative to the bonding privileges, etc., the adoption of which, he claimed, would result disastrously to Canada, and in which the admission was made that on this matter of a trade policy the Liberal party were wearing a mask.

Mr. Rogers moved the adjournment of the debate at midnight.

The House then adjourned.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

SPECIAL DESPATCHES TO THE EXAMINER.

Careless Mother—Lucky Child.

MONCTON, April 18. Mrs. Crossman, living in a small tenement on Cable Street, yesterday locked up the House leaving a three-year-old child alone. A short time later the building was discovered to be on fire. Fortunately the door was broken in in time to rescue the child who was badly frightened but not seriously injured. The child had evidently been playing with matches and set fire to a quantity of paper in the room.

Crossed the Line.

ST. JOHN, April 18. G. J. Gunter, of Fredericton, who keeps a livery stable and does some horse trading, has suddenly crossed the line. His liabilities are supposed to be ten or twelve thousand dollars.

Disappointing Results.

LONDON, April 18. The report of the Grand Trunk Railway says that though the utmost efforts have been exercised to effect all possible economy in every department, the result of the working of the past year has been disappointing.

Result of Grit Extravagance.

QUEBEC, April 18. This Province wants to borrow ten million dollars, and the Hon. J. S. Hall will leave at once for England to negotiate a loan loan.

The poets bound in cloth for twenty cents at the Diamond Bookstore.

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Charlottetown, April 12, 1893.