

Commissioner of Public Lands, from which they learn that of 22,254 acres of Public Lands purchased by the Government, 38,850 3/4 acres have been sold as follows:—

Table with columns: To amount of Lands sold, Deeds, Interest on balance, Cr.

Table with columns: By cash paid on Lands, Deeds, Due on Lands, Discount, Cr.

The Receipts of the Public Land Office and Expenditure for the year ended 31st January, 1858, are—

Table with columns: To amount of total cash receipts from Public Lands and Fees, From Crown Lands, Cr.

Table with columns: By Interest on Purchase Money, Loss of Land Tax, Commissioner's salary, Surveyor General's do., Woodrangers, Assistants to Surveyors, Alex. Anderson, Surveyor and Assistant, Expenses, 7 journeys, Printing and Advertising, Stationery, Balance, Cr.

Your Committee beg to observe that in the Public Lands Accounts the sale of 933 acres is credited, on which no deposit has yet been paid by the alleged purchasers, and in some other cases a trifling amount of deposit has only been made...

Your Committee would call attention to the discrepancy between the amount of Public Lands Bonds, which, by the Commissioner's return, were last year valued at £1400, which Bonds, by this year's accounts, appear to amount only to the sum of £775 7s. 1d. due, and £60 0s. 5d. paid.

The Committee recommend that in future the Accounts for the purchase and sales of Public Lands be kept separate and distinct from the general Revenue Accounts of the Colony, and that the debentures issued for the purchase of those lands be a charge against them.

Your Committee observe that the sum of two hundred and seventy pounds has been paid to the Clerk of the Executive and Legislative Councils for his services for the past year, as also twenty pounds to an Assistant, while the Act 14th Victoria, cap. 3, expressly declares that the salary to that officer of £120 shall be in lieu of all fees of office, allowances and emoluments.

It appears from the Warrant Book that the sum of £67 7s. 6d. has been paid to John Doirant for "superintending the erection of Oyster-bed Bridge and other services," and a further sum of £115 5s. to the same person for superintending the erection of Prince-street Wharf in Charlottetown.

Your Committee recommend that all the accounts to them referred be printed in the Appendix to the Journals.

ANDREW MACDONALD, Chairman. (To be continued.) R. B. IRVING, Reporter.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., MAY 3, 1858.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

COLONIAL BUILDING AND GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The zeal of the Islander to propagate falsehood and misrepresentation respecting various items in the Public Accounts, seems to be unabated. Its readers must be the most patient, if not the most stupid persons in creation, if they favor—as the presumption is they do—the grossest falsehoods repeated week after week on the same subjects.

The arch-deceiver at New London informs his readers, that since the Liberals took office they have spent about £7,354 on the Colonial Building and Government House. This may be quite true, and it cannot only be shown that the expenditure of so large an amount was absolutely called for, but it is creditable to the Liberals that they could spare so much, in a short period, out of the revenue, in addition to other heavy charges, without offering it as an excuse for the public debt.

Now, whenever the Tories are reminded that the debt, which they left the Liberals to pay, without leaving them anything to pay it with—figured as high as twenty-eight thousand pounds, they will turn round and claim credit for having erected Government House and the Colonial Building. But they seem to forget that an enormous number of Treasury Notes were issued for this purpose, and that £11,500 of them still remain unpaid, and are included in the present debt of the Colony; while there was a very large sum in addition to those notes—being the produce of the Land Assessment—which the Tories never dreamt of giving for free education—spent on the erection of the Colonial Building. If that office, as Government House, had originally been substantially acted, so large a portion of the public money would

not have been required for their repair. But the Government House, when the Liberals came into office, was a miserable shell—better fit for a stable or suite of out-houses than a gentleman's dwelling—and would, in fact, have to be abandoned in a year or two as a heap of ruins, if the Liberal Government did not wisely spend a large sum of public money in its reconstruction. And as for the Colonial Building, it was another palpable job of the Tories—and, with its foundation crumbling into dust, would have cost thousands of pounds more than it did, if it had not been so promptly taken in hand, and a considerable sum devoted to its timely repair. Other public buildings, such as the Old Court House and Jails, had to undergo very expensive alterations and repairs, in addition to a heavy outlay for the erection of new Lighthouses. Notwithstanding these charges on the revenue, the apparent debt of the Colony is a mere trifle beyond what it was when the Tories left office. It was then upwards of £28,000. It is now £20,000. Then there was only about £2,000 spent for education, and about £2,500 for roads, bridges and wharfs. Now we give for education £13,000 a-year, and have spent £46,000 on that object since our party came into office; and the annual grant for roads, bridges and wharfs, averages £10,000—some of the best and most useful bridges in the Colony having been erected by the Liberal Government. Now we have an offset against the debt, £15,000 secured on lands sold, and bearing interest, besides 45,000 acres of lands to sell. But when public opinion drove the Tories from office they had nothing to exhibit on the credit side of their account.

THE PUBLIC STATIONERY.

ANOTHER grave charge brought against the Government on the score of its alleged "extravagance," has reference to the cost of Stationery used in the public offices. The Islander asserts that the Secretary's Office alone cost more for Stationery for seven months, in 1856, than was expended on the same article for all the public offices in 1849. Now this is easily accounted for. In the latter year, there was no regular or separate account of the Stationery kept. Mr. James D. Haszard was Queen's Printer in 1849, and sold Stationery indiscriminately to all the public offices, and mixed up his charges under this head with his printing accounts. There were the regular Stationers' accounts besides. But is it fair to compare 1849 with 1856 as regards the cost of public Stationery? In 1850 the revenue and expenditure of the Colony were double what they were in 1849, and must, in the matter of Stationery at least, have been attended with double the expense. Besides, there was the Customs Department; in 1849 the Stationery for this department was supplied by the British Government; and for the Post Office, likewise, to a very great extent, because the receipts of those departments went into the Imperial revenue. In 1856, however, the Colony had to bear the cost of Stationery for the Custom House and Post Office; and the Land Commissioner's Office, which did not exist in 1849, helped to increase the account for Stationery. Let these facts be taken into account, with the administration of the Free Education Law, which involves of itself a very considerable increase in the use of Stationery, and no one can be surprised at the increased expense under this head.

But let us compare the cost of Stationery for the use of the Secretary's Office in 1854 and with that for any year since. For the five months that Mr. Longworth was Secretary in 1854, he cost the Colony for Stationery £254s. 2d. In 1855, his successor, Mr. Coles, used only £23 1s. 1d.'s worth for the whole twelve months; and in the last year the charge against the same office for the same thing amounted to only £11 12s. 11d. "This excessive expenditure of Stationery," says the Islander, "would seem to include what the Yankees call 'stealings.'" If so, it would seem to justify a grave suspicion regarding Mr. Longworth's incumbency of the Secretary's Office, for he spent for public Stationery at the rate of £60 11s. 2d. per annum, while his successor last year managed to rub on with £11 12s. 11d. worth. The public must draw their own conclusions.

LIEUT. COL. GRAY AND THE PROTECTOR.

We promised to take a brief notice of the Hon. Col. Gray's letter to the Publisher of the Protector, which appeared in that paper of the 21st ult., and in which he deliberately contradicts a statement previously made by himself respecting his connection with the Protector. Let us fulfil the promise.

In the Islander of the 2d March, Col. Gray published a letter addressed "to the Editor of the Examiner," in which the following words occur:—"My support to the Protector consists in paying twelve shillings per annum for one copy of the same." Now, we ask our readers if there could be any doubt upon their minds, that the impression which Col. Gray intended to create was, that he had no more to do with the paper referred to than any one else out of its 500 or 600 subscribers, who take it, read it, pay for it, and do nothing more? This certainly would have been the impression left upon our mind, if we had had no doubt of the Col.'s veracity. But we had such doubt, and our correspondent, "Anti-Humbag," confirmed it. This correspondent states that Col. Gray is, and has been one of the editorial committee of the Protector, and he informs us that he obtained his information from a circumstance which transpired in Mr. Haszard's book-store. There was a slight inaccuracy in the statement of our correspondent. It was not Mr. George T. Haszard who said that Col. Gray was on the editorial committee of the Protector. It was Mr. Geo. Owen, who was lately in partnership with Mr. Haszard, and who knew as much about the concern as Mr. H. himself, who communicated to Mr. D. J. Roberts and a friend the fact of Col. Gray's editorial connection with the Protector. This cannot be denied, and Mr. Haszard's or Col. Gray's equivocation shall not be allowed to conceal the truth.

Now, keeping in mind the statement above quoted, addressed to the Examiner in the Islander of the 2d March, namely, that the writer's (Col. Gray's) support to the Protector consisted in the payment of his annual subscription, see what he says in the Protector of the 21st ult.:—"Mr. Whelan is well aware that I never wrote him any letter in which I stated that I had 'no interest in or connection with' the Protector, further than the payment of my annual subscription." If this does not virtually contradict the former statement, we really do not know what can. Perhaps Col. Gray thinks that editing a paper is giving it no support.

We are well aware that this petty question is not entitled to one half the public consideration it has received; but there seems to be such an intense anxiety in certain quarters to disavow connection with the Sanctified Press, and some of those who are identified with it seeking to cover their disclaimers by misrepresentation, we felt it our duty to say more on the subject than we otherwise would have done.

THE BIBLE QUESTION IN NOVA SCOTIA.

While the Tory party in this Island have been, and are, clamouring for the passage of a law to compel the introduction of the Bible as a class book into our public schools, politicians of the same school in Nova Scotia oppose that measure with regard to its application to their own institutions; and contend that the voluntary system, such as is advocated by the Liberals in this Island, and in use here, is best adapted for that Province, and is likewise practised there. A discussion on this question lately occurred in the House of Assembly in Halifax, called forth by the following resolution from Mr. Howe, who, for reasons best known to himself and them, has been placed at the head of the so-called "Protestant Combination" in Nova Scotia:—

"Whereas, Christianity is the only basis upon which a sound system of education can safely repose.—Resolved, that no School within this Province shall be entitled to aid from the public funds until it shall have been made to appear that the Holy Scriptures, of the Old and New Testament, are daily read therein."

Mr. Howe, as may be supposed, spoke strongly in favor of this resolution, which breathes anything but the spirit of liberalism, while Mr. Attorney General Johnston as warmly opposed it. Mr. Johnston is at the head of the Baptist body in the sister Province, where they constitute a large, and by no means the least intelligent, portion of the population; and for many years he has been distinguished for his zealous efforts in their behalf. After speaking to the question raised by Mr. Howe, the Conservative Attorney General moved the following resolution in amendment, which was carried by 28 votes against 18—Liberal Catholics and Conservative Protestants constituting the majority:—

"Resolved, That this House records its respect and veneration for the Holy Scriptures, and its desire to facilitate and encourage their use in all the schools of the Province. This important object is essentially in the power of the people under the existing Common School system, and the House believes that the use of the Bible in our schools is at present very general, and steadily increasing, and the Rev. Dr. Forrester, the superintendent of Education, in his recent report, has declared, in relation to this subject, that it is 'well and wisely provided for in the present Educational arrangements of the Province,'—and this House is of opinion that to interfere by special and coercive legislation would retard the object which it is the professed design of the resolution before the House to advance."

When will the over-zealous Protestant Tories in this Island follow the wise example of their co-religionists in the adjoining Province, and leave the people to exercise their own discretion with respect to the use of the Bible in the public schools?

The great Liberal meeting at Temperance Hall on Tuesday evening last was truly gratifying to every lover of progress, and appears to have called forth a very satisfactory amount of abuse from the Tory party. The Hall was filled to overflowing, and the meeting was addressed by the Liberal candidates, John Rigg and Stephen Swabey, Esquires, who gave good and true reasons for the faith that is in them. In consequence of the very disingenuous and unjust course adopted by some of his political opponents, with a view to the prevention of his election, or failing that, the diminution of the number of his supporters, Mr. Swabey denounced the conduct pursued by some professing Christians in no measured terms. Those denunciations, uttered with fluent eloquence and in a tone which proved that the speaker was in earnest, have, as a matter of course, been seized upon with avidity by the guilty parties, as evidencing a desire on the part of Mr. S. to make his election a question of religious feeling; and they apply to collective bodies of Christians the charges which were intended to apply only to individuals. To those who know the thoroughly liberal nature of Mr. Swabey's political opinions, the idea that he would wantonly offend any body of Christians in the community, will appear simply absurd. We know, and all Liberals know, that any impression to the effect of bigotry, intolerance, or religious difference being advocated by Stephen Swabey, Esq., can only be the result of wilful perversion of his observations on the occasion of the triumphant meeting of the Liberal party at the Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening last.

PUBLIC MEETING AT MOUNT STEWART BRIDGE.

On Thursday last a public meeting of the electors of the (new) third district of Queen's County was held at Mount Stewart Bridge—Mr. James McDonald in the chair. There was a large concourse of people in attendance from Lots 35, 36 and 37, besides many from Lot 38, in the second district of King's County. The Hon. Col. Secretary addressed the meeting at great length, pursuing pretty nearly the same line of argument as he did at the other public meetings which he has lately attended.—He was followed by Francis McQuaid, Esq., in support of the same views. And Mr. John Mooney appeared and addressed the meeting on behalf of his brother, the Hon. Robert Mooney, who was prevented by illness from being present.—John Archibald McDonald, Esq., of Glenalidale, delivered a short address, in which he announced his intention to offer as a candidate for the representation of the district—said that he had received promises of support from his tenantry—expressed his thankfulness for those promises; but he did not enter into discussion on public questions. No other person appearing on the same side, Mr. Whelan next addressed the meeting on the financial state of the Colony, the purchase of the Worrell Estate, and reviewed the several measures of reform adopted by the Liberal party. The meeting was decidedly a Liberal one. With the exception of Mr. McDonald himself, there appeared to be no person present to favor the views of the Tory party.

We are happy to inform the electors of the St. Eleanor's district that John A. McDonald, Esq., intends to offer himself as a candidate for their suffrages at the ensuing general election. Mr. McDonald's absence from the Island, on private business, has delayed for a few days the appearance of a notice to the above effect, over his own signature; and also prevented him from personal communication with his friends in the district. From the unsolicited offers of support he has received, we have no doubt that his numerous friends will, by returning him as their representative, show that they know the value of putting the right man in the right place.

Mr. EPHRAIM REID, who appears to have been appointed a travelling agent for the Unholy Alliance, delivered what he was pleased to style a Lecture on Political Science, at the Temperance Hall, on Monday evening last. It was a curious affair; and it was our intention to give a somewhat lengthy notice of the style and matter of the lecture, but want of space prevents our doing so this week. As Ephraim, however, intends to address other audiences in various sections of the Island, in a strain similar to that in which he has been discoursed to a Charlottetown one,—and as he will, therefore, continue to be a public character long after our next paper shall appear, it will not be out of time or place to give in our next due consideration to his interesting exploits on behalf of the Unholy

(COMMUNICATED.) POLITICAL MEETING AT TEMPERANCE HALL.

On Tuesday evening last, the 27th ult., a public meeting, under the auspices of the Central Liberal Society, was held at the Temperance Hall, William McGill, Esq., M. P. P., in the chair.

The meeting was a very large and respectable one. It was composed of not less, we think, than a thousand persons. The number of Liberals who were present, no doubt, greatly exceeded that of the Tories who attended; indeed more than quadrupled it, we believe. The Liberals who attended might, independently of all consideration of their recognized leaders who were present, be regarded as a fair specimen of the real bone and sinew of the Liberal party in Charlottetown. Amongst them, there were not, it is true, many who are eminent on account of high social position, great wealth, or even great learning; but there were many of sound heads, stout hearts, and strong arms—men skilled to understand and appreciate the ennobling principles of freedom—men well qualified to discriminate between the real and the pseudo friends of the people—men able, in their industrial and productive capacities, to increase the wealth, and sustain and advance the best social interests of the community; and any party, any set of men, who may have fairly won, who may have justly entitled themselves to the esteem, confidence, and support of men of such caliber and stamina, (as our Liberal leaders in the Government and Legislature have most unquestionably done,) can be in no danger of being overthrown by the weak devices or feeble machinations of the skillless and soulless set who compose the cabinet council of the Political Alliance. Not one of the great men, not one of the Achilleses of "the Alliance," was present, although the favor of their company had been especially and publicly requested. It seemed as if by concert they "shunned the fight;" yet one—Mr. George Beer—who, no doubt, considers himself "a fair sample of their host," honored the meeting with his presence; and by his address, and malaprop remarks, afforded the ever-ready, ever-armed Leader of the Government (the Hon. G. Coles) an opportunity, not only to refute the unfounded charges elsewhere preferred by him and others against the Government, but, besides, provoked him to inflict upon himself an awfully severe, yet certainly most deserved castigation.

John Rigg and Stephen Swabey, Esqrs., being certainly the men, and their speeches the speeches, of the evening, we have, in our report as subjoined, given them due prominence and space, to the withholding, through the want of available time and limits, of much of moment that was said by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary (Mr. Coles) and the Hon. the Queen's Printer (Mr. Whelan); but these two gentlemen, these "warriors tried," of whose worth and skill and prowess, the public have had so many unquestionable proofs, will most willingly, we are sure, on this occasion, consent to be cast rather into the shade, and thrown a little into the back ground; especially as many assertions and statements which they refuted and rectified, they have, over and over again disproved and placed in their true light; for such is the truly astonishing pertinacity of their opponents, in their adherence to misrepresentation and positive falsehoods, that, as in the case of their worthy, Mr. George Beer, so with respect to many others of the Alliance Brigade, individually considered; their cobweb sophistries you destroy in vain; and, scarcely have they been swept away, before the creatures again resume their dirty work. Thistles and noxious weeds of every description are most remarkable for their inherent powers of reproduction; and again and again do they dispossess the skill and labor of the exterminator; so is it with political and moral obstructives; for, confound, overthrow, rout, disperse, or even leave them dead upon the field of battle, they will revive, re-unite, and make head again; so that it is, indeed, no wonder that the Alfreds, the Wallaces, and the Bruces of freedom's cause have in fact "to fight all their battles o'er again," and "thrice to slay the slain." But fight on, Liberals, the day is not distant when you will not only again scotch the great serpent, Toryism, but kill it outright! Our Bannoekburn of freedom is at hand!

Rapidly as we know ourselves to be narrowing our limits, we take leave to indulge our inclination briefly to contrast the very dissimilar styles of oratory of Mr. Rigg and Mr. Swabey. The style of the first resembles that of the gliding rill; that of the other, the impetuosity of the mountain torrent. The first, we think, may justly be characterized by the much admired and often quoted couplet:

"Though deep, yet clear; though gentle, yet not dull; Strong, without rage; without overflowing, full!" and the other to a rock, torn from the brow of a mountain: "Still gathering force, it smokes, and urged amain, Whirls, leaps, and thunders down, impetuous to the plain."

Each, as a speaker, in his own peculiar style, would prove, and we trust, will prove, an acquisition in the Assembly.

Of the style of Mr. A. McNeill, one of the speakers on this occasion, and also a candidate—and most likely besides to prove a successful one—for senatorial honor, we take leave also to remark that we have very seldom heard a speech which, to our thinking, sounded more like truth, than that which he delivered at this meeting. His statements and remarks came "crashing, thundering down," and, if such be his usual style of public speaking, it must certainly be a very effective one.

The meeting having been duly organized, a little before 8 o'clock, by Mr. McGill's having been called to, and having taken the chair, the business thereof was opened by the Chairman's stating, tersely and succinctly, the objects of the meeting, which, he said, were, in the first place, to allow the Liberal candidates for the representation of the City and Royalty, in the next General Assembly, an opportunity to enunciate their political views and sentiments; and, in the next place, to afford such information concerning the constitution of the Central Liberal Society, as might tend to the extension of its operations, through the organization of Local Branch Societies, in the different sections of the Island.

JOHN TRENMAN, Esq., was the first who came forward to address the meeting; and he did so, in a very characteristic manner—in a short, plain, sensible, unpretending, and dispassionate, yet cogent speech; conceived nearly in the following language:—

Fellow citizens,—We are now, as liberal reformers, in circumstances, very different from those in which we stood at the first meeting which we held for a purpose similar to that, with a view to the ultimate accomplishment of which we are now assembled. Our position and our strength, at our first meeting, unimportant and inefficient though they then were, are now pleasantly brought to my mind; and it is with feelings of high satisfaction that I contrast them with the demonstration of strength, as respects both numbers and unity of purpose, which we are this evening prepared to make. Then, when the number in our ranks amounted to only about one hundred and thirty, our little noble band came boldly forward; and, at the risk of experiencing much serious individual inconvenience, demanded fair parliamentary representation and the full establishment of Responsible Government. Few as we then were, and unimportant as, by our opponents, we were supposed to be,—being composed chiefly of labourers, tradesmen, and mechanics, one of our class I am proud to acknowledge myself—we spoke out our sentiments, boldly and freely, and boldly and steadily did we adhere to them, although many of our small band had too much reason to believe that, in consequence of their unyielding honesty and unshrinking perseverance, they would, for a time at least, be able to afford themselves but little butter to their bread. We then modestly asked no more than what we thought even our opponents themselves would acknowledge to be our right. We did not wish to monopolize the representation of the Town and Royalty; we wished to have conceded to us merely our due share of it; but that share, the party who had so long most unjustly and arrogantly monopolized every place of honor, power, and emolument amongst us, having the strength—for they were then strong in the dependent and