

Bill here? If so where was the remedy? The hon. Mr. Palmer would then find that if he brought the iron rod into operation, he would find something to do. They could only be dismissed in accordance with the Royal instructions, which provide that before dismissal took place, the party should be furnished with the charge against him, in writing. They had been told also, that some of those men had no qualifications, even for Members of Parliament, and yet they had been appointed to the Council. Perhaps so, but they had the appointments always been founded upon the property basis? Not so, and the objection came with a bad grace from those who had set the example. But the parties alluded to had qualifications of the highest order—education, talent and information—the greatest requisites to rule a state.

Hon. Col. GRAY felt highly pleased while listening to the very grandiloquent speech of the hon. Mr. McAlay, and was still more pleased to find that the present Government were determined to put an end to the Upper Chamber,—that patchwork and heterogeneous mass of misrepresentation, which was only a mockery, and should not be suffered to exist in any country. If ever a people were deluded, deceived by a name, it was the people of P. E. Island; and he might exclaim, while deploring the simple credulity of the people, and detesting the delusions practised upon them by those who pretended to be their friends: "Oh liberty! what crimes are practised in thy name." &c. The present Government would not be guilty of the additional crime of telling the people that a nominative and elective system of the Council could co-exist in this Island. It could not be so; it was impossible. The former must cease, the latter be established. He had one strong objection to the Bill; that the qualification was too low. It should be much higher; £700 was not enough, £3000 would be more preferable, as it would ensure the return of men having a stake in the country, alive to its prosperity, whose real interests were identified with, and inseparable from those of the people. What had been the working of the nominative system? The dominant party had no respect for the opinions of the minority, they voted according to the teachings of their party, and at the bidding of him who had given them seats in the Council, and thus the interests of the people were sacrificed to the party predilections of a political chief. But they were told that they had representatives of their opinions in the Council. Yes, the majority of this House had one or two in the Council, and was this being represented in the Upper Chamber? When he had a seat in the Council, he knew that it was expected of every man to vote with the men who nominated him. He felt this to be degrading, and finding there was none free, but all slaves, and loving freedom himself, he took up his hat and bade them good bye. The system was a mere sham, a disgrace, a mockery of legislation. Great changes had since occurred, but the wisdom of the Upper Chamber remained stationary; it hated revolution, and was opposed to all improvement, for it was an acknowledged fact that school-boys had often effected more discretion than was evidenced in that Chamber. The cry against office-holders had been long and loud; the old family compact denounced; the plurality of office and emolument censured in the strongest terms; and yet two members of the Council were recipients of a vast variety of official bounty, and honored with a long array of high-sounding and bombastic designations; and surely those marks of public favor, and liberal dividend of the public bounty to a poor man, who could not call the chairs in his house his own, should make him grateful. It might suit the views of some men to support a mixed Council, part nominative and part elective, but it would neither suit him nor the constituents whom he represented, to tolerate a system which had secured a majority in the Council—some notorious for their office-holding propensities—opposed to the wishes of the representatives of the people. Should he consent to this arrangement, he would be acknowledging himself, and those whom he had the honor to represent, the slaves of a power unjust in principle and intolerant in practice. The people had willed, by the majority sent to represent them here, that nomination must end, and election take its place. That will was all powerful, and must be obeyed. The system which had debarred men of intelligence and respectability from entering the Council had existed too long; the mode by which gentlemen of independence, talent and integrity may enter, cannot begin too soon.

Mr. SINCLAIR said, however barren the debate had been of disinterested argument, it had been most pregnant of eloquent speeches, and so many, that it was quite clear they solicited opposition. They were, however, disappointed, as no desire had been manifested on this side of the House to resist the principle of the Bill. He had often heard it remarked, when the late Government were in power, that they had always managed to keep a nest-egg. The present Government appeared also to understand the utility of popular agitation, and they hang up their Elective Legislative Council Bill to dry, as they did not, as stated by themselves, expect it to pass; but, nevertheless, it would serve to distract the country for the next three years. But why not moulded at present to suit the mind of the country? They could not suppose the people should expect it to pass, when they themselves had predicted its failure. The printing and dissemination of the Bill all over the country was intended to create agitation, at present quite unnecessary, at all times more or less prejudicial to the country. He would repeat the opinion which he had already expressed, that if the present Government were sincere and desirous of carrying through the Bill, they could frame it in such a way as would render it generally acceptable, so as to pass at once. Such a course would be more calculated to give more general satisfaction than any species of uncalculated agitation.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN here addressed the House for more than an hour not only against the principle but the whole details of the Bill, although he admitted that that was not the time or place for the discussion of the details. But they had been reviewed by the introducer of the measure, very unnecessarily; and he felt justified, he said, in reviewing the review. He contended that the principle was unsound, un-British, and he felt confident that two elective Chambers—both influenced by popular opinion—could not work in harmony. He had been always opposed to the application of the elective principle to the Upper Chamber. He had seen no reason to abandon or modify his opposition, though he stood nearly alone in the House as the only opponent to the principle of the Bill. He denied that the public mind was agitated or disturbed in reference to the question; and alluding to the manner in which public opinion on other subjects had been misrepresented, he adverted to the means which had been taken to prejudice the late Government and to obtain a majority in that House, which he characterised in very strong terms. Several hon. members in the majority rose simultaneously with cries of order, and Mr. W. slightly modified the obnoxious expressions he had used. He then replied to the arguments in support of the Bill adduced by members on both sides of the House. The speech of the hon. member will probably appear with a more extended report of this debate.

Mr. HOWAT said, the Legislative Council was, in its present form, acknowledged by both sides of the House to be obstructive and unoperative, in carrying out the principles of legislation for the Colony. If the bill passed, they should not hear in future of what was said to have occurred the other day, where a seat was bought, and a member sold, proving the truth of the adage, that it was money made the man, as well as the mare. Looking at the measure, he approved of its principle, but found fault with some of its details; six members for Queen's County was too great a

preponderance, and £700 qualification for candidates was too high; those would need to be altered before he would give it his support. It looked too aristocratic, appeared intended to set aside the pretensions of the farmers in aspiring to a seat in the Council. It should be reduced to £500. He had also a great objection to running the whole county; what chance would farmers have, under such a system, of being returned? Each county should be divided into many districts as it had members. As respected the system of nomination, it was a very great evil, totally subversive of the principle of popular liberty, and opposed to the spirit of free institutions, as it was not reasonable, nor could it be expected, that a person would vote against the men who had given him a seat at the Council board. Mr. Sinclair had stated, that if this House passed the bill in a fair and liberal spirit, it would receive the approval of the Council. Political expediency should never induce this House to pass a bill to meet the views of political opponents. Feeling justified in the integrity of their motives, they should pass the bill, and their consciences would tell them that they had done their duty.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON felt that the bill was called for; he was in favor of a change in the construction of the Council, and would go into Committee on the bill, and speak to its details. The father of the present bill, Hon. Mr. Haviland, and the grandfather, Hon. Mr. McAlay, had given very good reasons, and advanced sound arguments in favor of the bill, and as he claimed to be the great-grandfather of the bill, he wished it every success. As stated before, he was opposed to the wholesale dissolution of the Council, but favorable to the elective principle.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—The Hon. Mr. Whelan stood alone in his opposition to the bill; with that single exception, the House was unanimous that a change was necessary. He never heard that the Hon. Mr. Thornton had claimed any paternity with the bill, but felt thankful for his support—he took a more liberal view than his friends—was at issue with them, and hoped he would expunge them altogether. Was there never to be any change in carrying on the Government of the country? Were they to presume, that both branches, as at present constituted, would exist for ever? Such was impossible; every election changed the members in this House—a public benefit—and such should be the case also, at stated periods, with the Council, which would add still more to the advantages of the people, and the prosperity of the Colony. But the upper chamber, as now constituted, was a mere farce. What did they see there? Dr. Young and Col. Swabey, with seats in the Council since he, and others, grown to be men, were little boys at school. But they were told that these were the appointments of the Tories. But what had the present generation to do with the acts of the old Tories? Were they to be held accountable for the acts of their ancestors? Such was the doctrine advanced in opposition to the English Reform—precedent was pleaded—authority quoted—yet Reform triumphed, and so also would the principles of reform in P. E. Island; and among its first and fairest fruits, would be the popular privilege of an Elective Legislative Council. In addition to the authorities already cited in favor of an elective Council, he would name the celebrated Sir William Molesworth, the acknowledged champion of radicalism, who, in the debate in the British House of Commons on the Legislative Council for Australia, declared himself in favour of the elective principle; and Lord John Russell had also, in stating the principles of Responsible Government, admitted the justice of the elective principle. With such a host of authorities in support of his own convictions, he had felt justified in introducing the bill, knowing that it would be hailed by the country. The charge of making the qualification £700, to exclude the farmers, was totally void of foundation. It was placed there, believing it would be reduced to £500—a sum not too high—which would enable hundreds of farmers to offer as Candidates, if they felt disposed to do so. It was said that the present majority had found their way to this House by fraud and chicanery—that they had not come in here in such large numbers by fair means. The majority may think that gentleman who had concocted the bill, which increased the number of members; yet, while the members were added to, and the districts parcelled out, to suit the convenience of the late Government, they found they had lost the confidence of the country; and some of them, no doubt, wondered at their good fortune in being returned in defiance of the popular sentiment. He had advocated the elective principle—denounced the corrupt system of nomination—stood his election, and was returned triumphantly, despite the efforts of the Hon. Messrs. Coles and Whelan, and he now had very great pleasure in congratulating the House, and the country, on the unanimity which prevailed on all sides, with reference to the bill.

Mr. CONROY would support the bill, but objected to the unequal distribution of members.

After a few explanatory observations by Hon. Messrs. Palmer, Coles, Thornton, Whelan, &c., the bill was read a first time—Hon. Mr. Whelan voting against it—was committed pro forma.—Mr. Yeo in the Chair,—and the House adjourned at 11 o'clock.

ANTHONY BEGLEY, Reporter.

THE PROGRESS OF NEW ZEALAND.

Our last files from New Zealand speak so favourably of the progress of the several Provinces of New Zealand, and the general feeling of the superior class of emigrants is so strongly expressed in favour of this British Colony, that we think it desirable to place before the public some of the statistical details and facts that have reached us. Intimately acquainted as we are with the business progress of the British Colonies at large, we must confess our surprise at the great headway New Zealand is making in all the elements of substantial wealth. If there were no other criterion to judge from, the newspapers of the Colony would of themselves speak in unmistakable language of progress and sound business. In this Colony, dating as it were but a few years, there are published now about twenty journals, most of them conducted in a manner highly creditable, and fully equal to many of our provincial journals. The European population has increased nearly fourfold in the last ten years, and now equals the native. The immigration into New Zealand has averaged from 6000 to 7000 souls for the last four or five years, and the new system of free grants of land in several of these provinces has given an increased impetus to emigration from this country—forty acres of land free in such an excellent climate, and in a Colony offering so many advantages for agricultural and pastoral occupation, more than compensating for the extra distance of emigration. We have the detailed returns of the last year's emigration from this country to New Zealand before us, but we have also the Blue Book of the Colony, which furnishes many valuable details. We find that the number of immigrants who arrived in the province of Canterbury last year exceeded 2000, and the emigration this year to Lyttelton, Auckland, Wellington, &c., has far largely to exceed that aggregate. Besides the old established firms, one or two new firms here, and at Liverpool and Glasgow, have gone into the New Zealand trade, and there are now about a dozen ships laid on to sail for New Zealand during the present and ensuing month. Several of the provinces have appointed special agents in London to promote and conduct emigration, which has greatly benefited the interests of the Colony. Although several hundred immigrants had arrived at each of the principal settlements within the dates comprised in our last advices, the number seems to have gone a very small way in supplying the labour wants of the Colonists. Agricultural labourers and shepherds, mechanics and domestic servants, were still in great demand. Many new public works were in course of construction, new roads were ordered to be made, and several hundred persons were engaged at the Nelson diggings, and still there remains a wide field for the industrious. Shipload after shipload of stock was arriving from Australia to add to the flocks and herds of the Colony. The sheep in New Zealand already number 1,500,000, the cattle 1,500,000, and

the horse kind 11,000, exclusive of those owned by the natives, who now pay considerable attention to agricultural pursuits. Apportioned to the whole of the European Colonists, these would give about twenty-seven sheep and two cattle to every soul of the population, and one horse to every five or six persons. In the last ten years 320,000 acres of land have been enclosed or brought under cultivation. The European population has increased fourfold, while the live stock are progressing so rapidly, that wool, hides, and tallow must form large increasing articles of export, although they already constitute a very respectable share of the Colonial trade. The revenue of the whole Colony now exceeds £250,000, and of this £132,000 is derived from Customs. Last year 48 vessels, registering 28,468 tons, cleared from hence for New Zealand, taking inwards at the several ports of New Zealand in 1857, was 289 vessels, 78,303 tons, and 4864 men; of these, 81 vessels and 29,970 tons were foreigners. The total value of the imports into the Colony in the same year was just upon one million, of which more than half a million was from the Australian Colonies, and the great bulk of the remainder from this country. The value of the colonial exports in 1857 was about £370,000. The value of the imports has more than doubled in the past five years, but that of the exports has not increased in so large a ratio. The wool shipments, which in 1853 were only 1,000,000 lbs., had reached in 1857 nearly 3,000,000 lbs. 5000 to 6000 tons of potatoes are annually exported, and about 2500 tons of Kauri gum. The quantity of timber and spars shipped has been declining. The Colonists own 186 local craft, registering 6602 tons, and manned by 580 men and boys. They have also been adding largely to their steam fleet, and there are now about a dozen steam vessels employed coastwise and intercolonially to the Australian ports. There is laudable rivalry between the seven recognised provinces of New Zealand; and although some few of them have not the same advantages of resources as others, they will, ere long, take a very creditable position. We hail with satisfaction the exertions making by the Provincial Councils to attract settlers by land concessions, because it is not only the parties who settle that become useful Colonists, but they are sure to report favorably to others left behind, and will draw many more after them. It seems remarkable that the lands of New Zealand have been for so many years locked up from the reach of the settler with small means, who, in emigrating, naturally looks to the permanent establishment of himself and family by his industry. With this view alone he is induced to break up old ties and associations, and to seek a new home among strangers. The large measure of success that has attended all who have gone to New Zealand is an earnest of the well-being of those about to leave, and the Colony, which is already a customer for British goods and manufactures to the amount of about half a million sterling, will soon take a far more advanced position, both as a producer and a consumer, and prove a profitable field of investment for the British shipowner.—Mitchell's Maritime Register.

The Examiner.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., JUNE 27, 1859.

CONTEMPORARY OPINIONS ON POLITICS IN P. E. ISLAND.

Ever since the change of Government in April last, the *Islander* has been exceedingly sensitive to every expression of opinion from abroad respecting the alteration in our constitution. We were first told that the Queen herself had signified her entire approval of the destruction of our constitutional privileges by means of a Despatch from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State; but believing, and indeed knowing, that no such despatch was in existence, we challenged the *Islander* to produce the document said to have been received from the Colonial Office. The challenge, however, was not accepted; for if it were, the *Islander* would be convicted of misrepresentation on the clearest evidence, and the progress of humbug and deception, to which the present Government have given their distinguished patronage, would be seriously retarded. Since the story of the despatch failed, the public journals of the other Provinces have been ransacked with the utmost care, and a few common-place paragraphs about our local politics have been found, and duly reshaped, but they are remarkable for nothing except the ignorance of their writers; and that ignorance is sufficiently proved by the fact of their asserting that a law was passed in the late Session of our Legislature, under which the departmental system of Government was abolished, when every one here knows that such a law was not introduced, and would not have been passed if it were, as the Council would have speedily thrown it out. But the Government party have experienced new transports of delight from the publication of an article in the *Montreal Weekly Herald*, and another in the *New Brunswick*, both of late dates, in which the departmental system is denounced as everything bad and corrupt, and the rulers of this Island are eulogised for having abolished it. Now, the opinion of both journals is positively worthless,—and it is nothing but an opinion we have from them, based upon no apparent evidence, and no more applicable to this Island than to the other Colonies,—both have been always opposed to the departmental system, especially the Canadian journal, whose party have never been in office since the establishment of that system, and it is only reasonable to suppose that both would be opposed to it still when their opponents are in office. While the Gray and Wilmot Administration existed in New Brunswick, two or three years ago, the second paper quoted by the *Islander* bore no such testimony as is now adduced against Responsible Government, which was as much in operation then as it is at present; but on the contrary, it appeared to think the system was a very good one; and if the Conservatives were still in power under Responsible Government, we have no doubt it would as readily uphold it as it did in former years.

The *Islander* endorses the vague and unsupported assertion of the *Montreal Herald* as to the departmental system being the parent of "profligacy and extravagance" in this Island. But if such were the character of the late Government, is the present one any improvement on it? The very reverse. Not only have some of the most unpopular men in the Island been appointed to office—men who never could command a constituency—but there has been more shameful and barefaced intriguing practised to get office than ever was tolerated in the Island before; while family compactism, and consequent corruption, flourish in rank luxuriance. As to "extravagance," the party now in office bid fair to outdo their predecessors in that line. The public expenditure will be quite as large this year as it was last year—the debt of the Colony as great, and the taxes levied on the people not reduced to the extent of one farthing. In short, the Tories have done nothing except transferring Government patronage from one class of people to another. When they have effected any improvement in the administration, it will be time enough to institute comparisons between themselves and their predecessors.

Our little City has been honoured, during the past week, with more than its usual proportion of distinguished visitors. At the beginning of the week we had Major General Trollope, Commander of the Forces in Halifax, Lieut. Col. Fordyce and several other officers of the Royal Engineers; and at different

times during the week, we have had about thirty Protestant clergymen from different parts of the adjoining Province, whose meeting here has had some connection with church affairs. The place had a very sanctified appearance during the week, but we did not hear that the dry bones of the celebrated "Protestant Convention" had been gathered together to preach the downfall of "Popery," and to complain of the injustice done to Protestant children by not having the Bible legally recognised as a class book in our public schools. If the late Government were still in office what an outcry we should have heard ere this, about the "blighting influence of Popery," and so forth! how the Temperance Hall would ring with philippics against the Vatican! how the Bishop's letter would be again made the stalking horse of Bigotry! what sympathy would be expressed for the spiritual darkness in which the whole land was enveloped! and how fiercely "the minions of the Pope in high places" would be denounced for their alleged opposition to the circulation of the Bible!

"While thick and thrang, an' loud an' lang,
Wi' Logie, an' wi' Scripture,
They'd raise a din that in the end,
Would likely breed a rupture
O' wrath some day."

But the pets of the "Protestant Convention" having obtained the offices formerly held by the friends of the Catholic, "modest stillness and humility" have taken the place of the fierce passions that were continually bursting from the breasts of certain pious divines while the Liberal Government existed,—the Bible question has been dropped—shelved—thrown to the dogs by those who were most active in getting up an agitation about it,—even the lamentation respecting the "godless" state of the Central Academy and Normal School is no longer heard, although the party in power have not moved an inch, nor done the smallest act in reference to the Bible and the schools. There is now abundant proof, if it was ever wanting, that the Bible agitation, got up about two years ago, was only a political scheme, to be dropped as soon as it served its turn.

There is one consolation connected with the avalanche of piety with which our little City has been so graciously visited. We have heard or seen no signs of a "revival." We shall always have a dread of such a thing, for at the last "awakening of sinful souls" in our midst, we were most woefully sold by one of the leading saints.

"THE IRON ROD."

The following passage appears in the leading article of a late No. of the *Islander*, and we quote it, as it reminds us of an incident in the last Session of the House of Assembly which we had nearly forgotten:—

"We trust, however, that we shall never again witness a return to the system which for the past eight years has obtained in this Colony—nor again see in the Assembly the Leader of a Government threaten the 'Head of a Department' with deprivation of office if he did not retract an honestly expressed opinion, which, as a Representative of the people, he had given, and vote according to the will of the Leader, and against his own sense of right."

We give the *Islander* people credit for sincerity in their declaration, that they do not wish for a return to the old system, as that would entail the loss of office upon many of them. The Leader of the late Government never threatened the "Head of a Department" with deprivation of office on account of a vote in the Assembly. We believe the little difference in the Session of 1858 between Mr. Coles and Mr. Clark is here referred to. In the first place, Mr. Coles as Leader of the Government, did not threaten Mr. Clark with the deprivation of his office; and, in the second place, Mr. Clark was not the "head of a department." It is unnecessary for us to enter on the details of the difference between Mr. Coles and Mr. Clark, as they are well known to the public, and very undue importance has been attached to it. It has been said that Mr. Coles used the "iron rod" over Mr. Clark in this instance; but the leader of the present Government used the same instrument most effectually on the backs of no less than seven members of his own party during one memorable day in the late Session.

When the House of Assembly was in Committee on the Elective Council Bill, Mr. Coles proposed an amendment, making it compulsory for candidates who sought to be elected to the Council to have their property qualification in the County for which they offered, or to reside therein. Four members of the Executive Council, and three others who invariably voted with the Government, supported this amendment, and it was carried by a considerable majority. The gentlemen who, in this instance, countenanced a liberal proposition were—Hons. Messrs. Haviland, Longworth, Laird, and Pope, and Messrs. Howat, Holm, and Ramsay. No sooner was the decision announced than Mr. Palmer, as Leader of the Government, became very indignant at the defection in his ranks, and threatened to vote against the Bill altogether if the amendment were not withdrawn. He saw at a glance that Mr. Coles's amendment would be injurious to the interests of the land proprietors, for they could not have their range over the whole Island in getting seats in the Upper House, and he was determined either to destroy the Bill thus amended, or to make his followers feel that he was their master, and held the iron rod. Several of them got round him, patted, caressed, whispered, coaxed and wheedled; nothing, however, would appease the wrath of the irate Leader but an unconditional retraction of the obnoxious vote by the four Councilmen and three slavish followers. In less than half an hour the Bill was reported to the House as agreed to in Committee. Mr. Palmer then moved to strike out Mr. Coles's amendment, and five out of the seven who had dared to think for themselves only half an hour before, changed their vote, and showed that they had been brought to a sense of their duty by the iron rod, voting against their consciences because the Leader of their party bade them do so—the only two who did not appear to be terrified by the rod or the frowns of him who held it, being Mr. Laird and Mr. Howat. There are no persons in the whole Island who have rallied out more violently, frequently, and senselessly against Mr. Clark's alleged submission to Mr. Coles than Messrs. Pope and Haviland, and we do not know of an instance in the Parliamentary history of this or any other country in which there was such debasing and humiliating submission to a Leader as in the case we have just cited.

ECONOMY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

When the party who are now in power were in the Opposition, one of their standing complaints against the Liberal Government was for spending so much money on the guard at Government House. It was found absolutely necessary to the preservation of the public property to have three persons stationed there