

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

APRIL 23, 1890.

The Civic Situation.

That the promoters of the Redistribution of Wards Bill would have done well to attend the meeting held last evening and explain the bill may be admitted; that they ought to have consulted His Worship the Mayor, goes without saying; that they would have acted more wisely if they obtained formal expression of civic opinion concerning the principles of the bill, is now evident.

On the other hand, it is also evident that it would have been folly to expect the City Council, as at present constituted, to consent to the proposed redistribution or to any redistribution which would neutralize or do away the advantage which the majority of its members now possess. It is evident, too, that a public meeting, no matter how large or how influential, cannot possibly decide a question involving the constitution of the city—a question which can only be decided at the polls, by the deliberate vote of the ratepayers.

Independently of all these considerations, the injustice which now prevails is patent. Three wards with a resident voting population of about 782, elect six Councillors, and two wards with a resident voting population of 1097 elect four Councillors. In short, the city is at present under the absolute rule of a minority.

The result is seen in the passion and prejudice which prevails at the Council Board; in the disgraceful state of the city at large; in the exclusion of certain members from the working committees of the Council; in the delays and mismanagement of business; in the absence of members from the City Council when they are most wanted; in the imperilling of the most vital interests of the City. Messrs. Crabbe and Hughes undoubtedly did that which was wrong when they left the Council, a few nights ago; but their wrong action was the logical outcome of the constitutional wrong which exists in the Corporation by reason of the unequal division of the wards.

Now, the bill before the Legislature is based on these two principles:—

- 1. That there shall be, as nearly as possible, an equal division of the wards.
2. That the bill shall, when passed, be submitted to the ratepayers and be constitutionally voted upon by them before it can be put into operation.

It is for those two principles that we contend. It is for these two principles that we ask the Legislature to take action.

But, it is said, the bill will have the effect of giving unfair representation at the Council Board. If this be true, let the bill be amended—but not destroyed. If the Legislature should obliterate the wards altogether, and provide for the election of Councillors as the Mayor and Water Commissioners are elected, equal justice will be assured and a majority of the people of Charlottetown will, we feel sure, be satisfied,—though, it must be admitted, a large minority will not be pleased. Or, if the Legislature should decide to make the wards run North and South, instead of East and West, there can be no valid objection so long as the division be made as fairly and equally as possible. Anything that the Legislature may, in its wisdom, see fit to do, on the principle of equal distribution, will, we feel sure, be thankfully accepted and carefully considered before it is voted upon by the body of the citizens who will have the option as to whether it shall, or shall not, go into operation.

We sincerely trust that the Legislature will not, when considering this matter, think of men, or parties, or motives, or anything of that kind; but that they will keep only in view the demands of justice and the necessities of the city.

Let them remember this, that,—
"Because right is right,
To follow right were wisdom in the scorn of consequence."

They have been elected to legislate for the whole Province, including the city; therefore they ought not to shirk the consideration of this question, and the action which should follow such consideration, even though the action of those who have prompted the Bill has not been in every respect judicious.

—The Patriot grossly misrepresents the "Paddy McQuaid" matter. Mr. Peters was trying to demonstrate to the House and the country that in Charlottetown about two hundred votes were made for the Conservative party; and as an instance of the manner in which votes were "made," he alleged that twenty-five "Paddy McQuaids" had voted against him at one election when he contested this city, though there were only three electors of that name in the city. It was this sneering manner in which the name "Paddy McQuaid" was used, and the connection in which it was used, reference having been made to "jail-birds," which called forth the well-merited rebukes administered by Hon. Mr. Ferguson and Hon. Mr. Black. To say that these gentlemen "attempted to raise strife" is not true. It was Mr. Peters who let fall the firebrand.

CIVIC.—At an adjourned special meeting of the City Council this afternoon the rate of assessment on real estate and personal property for general civic purposes was fixed at 1/2 of one per cent.; the rate on real estate for waterworks purposes was placed at 1/2 of one per cent., and on personal property for the same purposes at 1/10th of one per cent. The poll tax for waterworks purposes was fixed at 10 cents. The rate of discount on assessments for general civic purposes paid before the 12th July next was placed at 2 per cent.

GRAND RALLY OF CITIZENS

In The Market Hall.

The City Bill Condemned

A PUBLIC MEETING of citizens was held in the Market Hall last evening to consider the Bill about to be introduced in the House of Assembly making certain alterations in the Wards of the City and other amendments to the Act of Incorporation. The Hall was filled, and among those occupying seats near the platform were a goodly number of members of the Legislature.

His Worship Mayor Haviland, in opening the meeting, explained the purpose for which it was called. He regretted that he was not in a position to explain to those present the nature of the contemplated changes, as he had not read the Bill or been consulted in reference to it by any of the gentlemen who had drawn it up. However, he presumed there were those present who were acquainted with the details of the Bill, and who would give the necessary explanations. After hearing what the different speakers had to say on the subject, it remained for the meeting to decide whether it would be in the interests of the citizens to let things remain as at present or adopt the proposed changes. He was very sorry that he could not remain throughout the meeting, or act as chairman if so desired, as he was in ill health himself, and one of the members of his family was dangerously ill. He had performed his duty in opening the meeting, and asked that a chairman be appointed.

W. E. Dawson, Esq., was then elected chairman, and the undersigned secretary.

The chairman, after thanking the meeting for the honor conferred upon him, and expressing his regret at hearing of the serious illness of a member of Mayor Haviland's family, said that, like His Worship, he had not read the Bill, and was therefore not acquainted with its details. He thought that the promoters of the Bill had greatly slighted His Worship in not consulting him in reference to it. This slight, he thought, was all the more grievous when it is remembered that the Mayor is elected by a vote of the whole city, instead of by any one Ward, and he, therefore, cannot be looked upon as interested in any particular Ward, but must be considered as having at heart the interests of all citizens in common. He trusted that a synopsis of the Act would be read to the meeting, so that all might be able to tell what it was like. He, however, noticed by the papers that it was proposed to allow Wards One, Two and Three to remain as at present, to divide what is now known as Ward Four into two Wards, and Ward Five into three Wards—making eight Wards in all, instead of five as at present. While it was thus proposed to increase the Wards, the number of representatives was to be reduced from ten to eight. Ward Five, under the proposed change, would have three representatives, Ward Four two, while Wards Three, Two and One would have but one each. Was this fair? He regretted that the self-styled promoters of this Bill had seen fit to announce through the press that they would not appear here to-night, and to intimate that they would not consider the action of this meeting as indicative of the wishes of the citizens. In so deciding he thought they made a serious mistake. But perhaps they thought that the meeting of twenty or thirty which appointed the committee to draft the bill in question voiced the opinions of the citizens!

Thomas Morris, Esq., O. C., was the first speaker. He said that the bill under consideration originated at a hole-and-corner meeting called by a number of persons who had their own personal ends to serve. There was no word about gerrymandering the wards at the election in January last, nor had the representatives of Ward Five at the Council Board asked for any change. When the Board is asked to make a change they will attend to it. The promoters of the bill had made a house to house canvass for signatures to the petition, but out of an electorate of 2,500 they only obtained the signatures of some 250; and some of those who signed the petition had their names taken off. He knew of one man in Ward Five, one of the wards it is proposed to divide, who had asked to have his signature erased on the ground that he had been deceived in the matter. If there is one man who will tell the Council that Ward Five is not getting its share of attention at the hands of the Board, he would at once take steps to make the matter all right. But no complaint was made. He ventured to say that three-fourths of the people of the town were opposed to the bill and in favor of the present arrangement.

George Peake, Esq., followed. He said that like the preceding speakers he had not seen the bill, was never asked to sign it and had not been consulted about it. However, he understood that Ward Five was to be made into three wards, with three representatives, Ward Four into two wards with two representatives, while Wards Three, Two and One were to only have one each. He did not think this was a fair arrangement. It looked very much like a scheme to swamp Ward One. In that ward there was a good deal of shore property and wharves which was made all the more valuable according to the business of the place. This property, of course, had to be kept up, but the City Council did not contribute anything for this purpose, although it collected the taxes. This was one of the things that should have been considered by the promoters of the bill. He thought that the least these gentlemen might do was to submit the bill to the taxpayers. The bill had its origin at a "hole and corner" meeting, and its promoters had refused to come here and explain their work. They claimed that this meeting would not voice public opinion; but public opinion had been voiced in just such a way on many previous occasions. It was at a meeting such as this that the Waterworks Bill was passed. The promoters of the Bill, in acting as they were doing, were deliberately insulting the citizens. The Bill, as he understood it, provided for representation by population. But was this always practicable or desirable? He had heard no complaints about the wards; but if any change was necessary in Ward Five, which was growing and extending, he thought that perhaps it might be equally divided at West George Street,

making two wards instead of three, as proposed. He certainly did not think it fair to swamp Ward One, as the proposed change would do. He moved the following resolution:—
Whereas, There has appeared upon the Order Book of the House of Assembly of this Province notice of the introduction of a Bill founded on a petition presented by a few citizens who have not consulted the electorate of Charlottetown, dividing the wards and reducing representation; and
Whereas, It is apparent to this meeting that the amendments to the Act of Incorporation embodied in said Bill will have the effect of giving unfair representation at the Council Board, and of destroying the well founded principle of minority representation so jealously guarded by all wise legislation; and
Whereas, A reduction of the number of representatives now returned by each ward is unnecessary as no remuneration is received by persons elected to the Common Council;
Therefore Resolved, That this meeting of the citizens and taxpayers of the City of Charlottetown disapprove of the Bill about to be presented to the Legislature and request the members from the City to vote against the same.

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Hon. Daniel Davies seconded the resolution. He said that he was not opposed to representation by population when on a fair basis, but he certainly was opposed to the changes proposed. His opinion was that the whole city should be thrown into one ward, and the councillors elected by a vote of the whole city, as the Mayor is now. Under this arrangement perhaps there was a possibility of getting better men for Councillors, but tinkering with the City Council would do no good. At present the city was ruled by two parties. One was known as the Rum Party, and the other as the Temperance or Scott Act Party. The great struggle was to get the majority of one. He then spoke of the evils of intemperance and of the harm done to the city by the Scott Act party. Proceeding, he explained that there was a good deal of property in Ward One, although it was not a strong Ward numerically, and he did not think it was right or just that that Ward should be thrown to one side and have practically nothing to say in the government of the city.

James Byrne, Esq., C. C., thought that it did not show very good taste on the part of the promoters of the Bill to refuse to leave the matter in the hands of the citizens at this public meeting. He agreed with the chairman that it was the duty of those in charge of the bill to send a copy thereof to the Mayor. Had they done so, His Worship would have sent it to the Council, and that body would have seen that the citizens were made acquainted with every detail of it. But this course had not been taken. Two years ago a great meeting was held in this very Hall to consider certain proposed changes, and on that occasion the members representing the city in the House of Assembly took the decision of the meeting as representing the wishes of the citizens, and acted accordingly. He thought that they would also accept the decision of this meeting, which he believed would be unanimously against the proposed change. He regretted the discontent in reference to unequal representation at the Council Board. But was it possible or desirable to have equal representation? Did any person know of an electorate where the representation was equal, be it a town, or county district, or one of those big pieces of territory that send representatives to the Dominion Parliament? He did not think any person did. Everywhere the representation was unequal, and he thought it was the greatest folly in the world to attempt to equalize ward representation in the City Council. No complaint had ever been made to the Council that Ward Five was not receiving justice in the matter of representation. If any such complaint was made to that body, they would apply for the legislation necessary for remedying the evil. A good deal was said about their being two parties at the Board, and about the class of men elected as representatives. So long as human nature remained as it was there would be two parties at the Board, as there were two parties everywhere else; and he thought that the manner in which the present members managed the affairs of the city was creditable to themselves and satisfactory to the citizens. He failed to see where they were remiss in their duties to the citizens, and was at a loss to understand why a reduction in the number of councillors was asked for. He could not see why ten men could not work as well as six or eight. He asked this question two years ago, but had not yet received an answer. He thought it was an insult to the large number of highly intelligent and respectable citizens here this evening to have it intimated through the press that the better class of citizens would not attend the meeting. It was said that the fairest way to test public opinion was to take a vote of the whole city on the bill, and the enacting clause provides for the calling of an election for that purpose. This might appear to some to be a very plausible way to dispose of the matter; but would it not do away with minority representation? Had minorities no rights which should be respected? The spirit of the age was favorable to minority representation, which fact should not be overlooked in the consideration of this matter. Our best men, however, were here, and he felt sure that they would pronounce upon the bill in a reasonable and intelligent manner—that they would vote against it, and in favor of the present arrangement.

The resolution was here put and carried unanimously; and it was ordered that a copy thereof be forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Assembly and each of the representatives of the city.

A vote of thanks was then tendered the Chairman, which he suitably acknowledged; and after giving hearty cheers for the representatives of the city and country in the House of Assembly, the meeting dispersed.

H. MACINNIS, Secretary.

—The large building on Upper Great George Street, next the residence of Hon. David Laird, used as a hay pressing establishment, has been purchased and will be turned into a tannery. With a factory to right of him and a tannery to left of him, the editor of our Patriotic contemporary has, it will be admitted, good reason to curse the N. P. He bought a villa, and hoped no doubt, to enjoy, in his hours of repose, quiet and the prospect of green fields. But instead of that he will have the whirl of machinery, the stench of the tannery, and the view of a manufactory.

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London Novelties.

JAS. PATON & CO.

INVITE THE CITIZENS OF CHARLOTTETOWN to walk through their Store and inspect the Latest Novelties and Newest Fashions for the Summer. Every Department full of Novelties and Bargains. The Latest Novelties in Mantles, Jackets, Millinery, Black Silks, Dress Fabrics, Ribbons, Laces, Gloves, etc.; also, Special Bargains in Carpets, Curtains, Window Blinds, Curtain Poles, etc.

JAMES PATON & CO.

PRINT DEPARTMENT.—A grand selection in the latest styles of English Prints, Zephyrs, Sateens, Muslins, etc.

LADIES' UNDERCLOTHING.—Enormous purchase of fine Underclothing—Chemises, Night Dresses, Knickers, etc.

JAMES PATON & CO.

DRESS DEPARTMENT.—London purchases are now to hand, and a magnificent lot they are. Immense purchases of double width Black All-Wool Nun's Veiling, 42 inches wide, for 27 cents per yard; also, a big lot of single width All-Wool Beiges, only 13 cents per yard.

ROBES! ROBES!—We cannot help feeling just a little conceited about our collection of Robes. Our buyer has spared no pains to procure everything stylish, and the result is immensely gratifying. Borders, Vigoreux Beiges, Embroidered, etc.

JAMES PATON & CO.

CARPETS.—We are now showing the full range of new season's Carpets, in Wiltons, Velvets, Brussels, Tapestry, Scotch and Hems. We have the largest variety, the best designs, and lowest prices. Before buying a Carpet, come and see our stock. We don't press anyone to buy. Come and compare with what you see in other stores.

MEN AND BOYS' CLOTHING.—A big stock to select from. Prices as low as any in town.



PATON & CO'S. MOURNING GOODS.—This is one of our best Departments. Our buyer takes special care in selecting the most suitable goods for Mourning Dresses. We are offering good bargains in Black Silk Warp Henriettas.

WATERPROOF CRAPE.—This Grape is made wholly of Silk, and may be exposed to rain, and after drying gradually does not spot.

For all kinds of Dry Goods,

—TRY—

JAMES PATON & CO.,

Market Square.

Ch'town, April 23, 1890.

WANTED.

1,000 Bushels McIntyre Potatoes, GOOD QUALITY.

Highest market price paid for same. Apply to

A. H. MACPHERSON

BEER BROS.

London and Paris Dress Robes.

We show Special Values in DRESS STUFFS, and particularly invite your attention to our large variety of the latest Novelties and Newest Colorings in DRESS LENGTHS.

Fashionable Millinery and Mantles.

To-day we are opening a lot more Dress Goods, Parasols, Sunshades, etc. Our new stock is now pretty well opened, and we are showing a good assortment of Seasonable Goods at very low prices.

HARRIS & STEWART.

Ch'town, April 21, 1890.

WEEKS & BEER,

QUEEN STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.,

Importers of British and German Dry Goods,

MILLINERY, SMALLWARES, &c.

Also, Full Lines of Teas, Groceries and Warehouse Goods,

WHOLESALE ONLY.

Addition to our General Stock are being daily received from the different sources of production, and will be offered Wholesale only at a small advance on cost.

Charlottetown, April 19, 1890—dy 1m

SEED WHEAT.

Just Arrived Direct from Toronto and More to Arrive:

WHITE RUSSIAN, White Fife and Red Fife Seed Wheat, Timothy Seed, Vetches, Alsike and White and Red Clover. Also, Island-grown Wheat, Barley, Buckwheat and Timothy Seed. Will be sold cheap Wholesale and Retail. This is a very choice lot of Seeds.

A. HORNE & CO., Upper Queen Street, Ch'town, April 23, 1890—dy 4w 2aw wy 4i

OATMEAL.

CANADIAN STANDARD OATMEAL arriving to-day.

HORACE HASZARD, ap23—1w pd

A CARD.

MR. AND MRS. RAYDEN, of Westbourne, regret that they have not been able to bid good-bye to all their friends, as they had wished to do. They hope that this apology will be kindly accepted.

Y. M. C. A.

LECTURE.

THE CLOSING LECTURE OF THE SEASON before the Young Men's Christian Association will be delivered on

Thursday Evening Next, 24th April,

BY REV. JOHN REID.

Subject, "Lord George Jeffreys."

Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock. Admission, 10 cents.

R. M. BARRATT, Secretary.

S. S. "William."

FOR CHARTER.

THE ABOVE STEAMER is now open for Charter to ports in United States, Newfoundland or elsewhere. Apply to

R. McMILLAN.

VALUABLE BUILDING LOT, BY AUCTION.

I AM instructed by Mr. William Pearden, to sell by Auction, on the premises,

On Wednesday, 30th instant,

AT 12 O'CLOCK, NOON,

That valuable Building Lot, situated on the corner of Great George and Fitzroy Streets.

Terms at sale.

GEORGE M. HARRIS,

ap7—eod wy li Auctioneer.

IMPORTANT!

"BARRISTER" is at his old Stable on Kent Street for the present. Further information by advertisement.

ap22—eod wky

VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.

Sale of Lands in Charlottetown Royalty.

WE are instructed by the Executors of the Estate of late Owen Connolly to sell at PUBLIC AUCTION, on the Premises,

On Monday, 12th day of May, 1890

AT 11 O'CLOCK, A. M.,

Part of that valuable property lying between the St. Peter's Road and the Lower St. Peter's Road, adjoining the residence of the late Ralph Bezeley, Esq., and formerly owned by Michael Bezeley, Esq.

The property has been laid off in Building and Pasture Lots.

For further particulars apply at office of Peters & Peters, or at the office of Estate of Owen Connolly, where plans of the property can be seen.

Terms liberal and will be made known at the sale

E. H. NORTON & CO.,

ap21—eod 1 sle Auctioneers.

Valuable Property at Auction.

TO be sold by Public Auction, on MONDAY the 5th day of May next, (if not previously disposed of by private sale) the 3 tenement house and premises situate at Spring Park, just outside city limits, together with two building lots adjoining same. The above property is pleasantly situated, and will be sold cheap. For further particulars, apply at the office of Haszard & Rattenbury, Solicitors, or to the undersigned.

Dated this 3rd day of April, A. D. 1890.

ROBERT WHITE.

April 23—dy eod wky li.