

The question of a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces is now being discussed by the Press of Nova Scotia. With one exception, all the leading organs of public opinion in the sister Province have declared in favor of the proposed union. Indeed it is so patent that the fusion of the three legislatures and governments into one will result in a saving of nearly, if not fully, one half the cost of administering the public affairs of the Provinces, divided as they now are, while it will also concentrate and materially add to their influence in the Councils of the Dominion, that the desirability of the union cannot be doubted. The only question is, can it be brought about? It is said the great difficulty will be to get the people to consent to it. We have no fear of such a difficulty, because we know that the people of the Maritime Provinces are on the whole a sensible people, and because they are "friendly disposed" (one of Mr. Laird's expressions) one towards the other. Once they are persuaded that the proposed union will curtail the expenses of their local Government and enlarge its powers they will unhesitatingly favor it.

But it has been said that the people of this Island will object to the union because the influence of the Island will be neutralized by the influence of the larger Provinces; because the Island will lose its individuality and independence; because the Island's share of the public money will not be under the control of her own people; and there can be no guarantee that it will be fairly expended. We are convinced that reflection and discussion will in time, do away with these so-called "objections." Respecting the latter we have no cause to fear. The patronage of the Island's share of the public funds will be just as much under the control of the representatives of the Island as it is at present. Every one acquainted with parliamentary practice knows that the representatives of each electoral district practically control the distribution of public money in each district. Great works for the benefit of the general public will, as now, be carried on by the general Government. The Legislature of the United Maritime Provinces will be emphatically a Local Government, and the grants it may make will be for local purposes. There is not the slightest danger that our revenue will be applied to the opening of the Bay Verte Canal, or the extension of the railway into Halifax, or to any such services. Roads and bridges, and education are the chief objects of the solicitude of our local politicians; and we have no fear that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and their overflowing treasuries, and their friendly people, will unite to defraud Prince Edward Island of its just proportion of the public money.

Respecting our influence and our importance—these can never be very great. But, in our opinion, the proposed union will materially increase it. Small, intelligent communities, sending to a Parliament composed of partisans, all men always exert an influence in Parliament out of proportion to their numerical strength. Under the late administration of the Dominion Nova Scotia—with Tupper and Howe and McDonald to represent her wielded more influence in the Councils of the Dominion than Quebec—then, perhaps, Ontario. And our people will remember that little Prince Edward Island not more than twelve months ago, held the political fate of the Dominion in her own hands; and her politicians could obtain from either party just what they most desired. In the Legislature of the United Provinces, there is little doubt that similar "situations" will constantly recur.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

NOTWITHSTANDING the repeated assurances of the ministerial press, that no change in the personnel of the Cabinet was contemplated, Mr. Ross, of Cape Breton, has been forced out of the Government, and Mr. Vail, of Digby, has been taken in. It is reported other changes will shortly be made. Mr. Huntington, President of the Council, will, it is said, make way for Mr. Holton.

TREATY WITH THE INDIANS.—

Mr. Laird has succeeded in making a treaty with the Cree Indians, respecting lands through which the Pacific Railway is to pass. The following telegram was sent to the *Patriot*, but received too late for insertion on Saturday night, and we have been kindly favored with it:—

PORT GARDY, MASTRONA, Sept. 26, 1874.

Arrived to-day from Quappell. Made treaty to cover fifty thousand square miles.

D. LAIRD.

SINGULAR.—Forty candidates for teachers

seats were examined by the Board of Education on Wednesday last, and every one of them failed to pass the Board.

OUR CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

UNTIL some very radical changes are made in our "Asylum for the Insane" and our "Poor House," these institutions must of necessity absorb a large share of public attention. Our people must be assured that the lunatics and paupers of the Province are well cared for, ere they suffer for the agitation for improvements to cease.

Since the memorable fourth of July, on which the Grand Inquest of the County discovered poor Mary McCormack wallowing in filth in a noisome underground cell, the condition of the inmates of the Asylum has materially improved. They have not the same black, melancholy-breding prospect always before them. The buildings have been thoroughly cleaned and white-washed inside and outside; a drain has been laid in the yard to carry the slops and dirty water to a distance; and there are no stagnant bad smelling pools in the vicinity. Although traces of the peculiar odors—described by the Grand Jury—may be perceived, the air in the rooms and cells is, for the most part, pure. The beds on which the patients lie at night are not the inexpressible horrible styes they used to be. Each bedtick has been refilled; and the sheets and blankets are, at least, tolerably clean. Some of the patients appear to be very comfortable. Miss Ready, whom the Grand Jury mention as a patient illused in the old time, has her room (which she invariably reminds the visitor is "her own room") as clean and neat as possible; and one or two other female patients are model housekeepers in their own small way. Mary McCormack who was condemned to live out her weary years in a condition one or two degrees below that of filthiest of our domestic animals, is now up among the other patients. She appears to be very quiet and harmless. On the day we visited the institution, she was engaged in the lady-like occupation of "tattling"—in which she appears not unskilful. The old bed-ridden woman, to describe whose condition the Grand Jury could find no words, may now be seen by the most sensitive without nausea or shuddering. She complains of nothing but cold. John Connolly, another patient, doomed to darkness and to dirt, we found in the yard, spread out in the sun, amusing himself with the pictures in one of the bound volumes of the "Illustrated London News," recently presented to the Institution by J. S. Carvell, Esq. In fact, the patients appear to have improved under the superintendence and care of Dr. Blanchard and Mr. Waller.

Still it is painfully apparent that there are ameliorations of their unhappy condition of which they are not yet possessed, and which it is incumbent upon the Trustees to provide. The want of occupation is much felt. To be forced to remain passively idle from day to day and from year to year is itself enough to make a sane man crazy. How, then, can crazy men and women, forced to remain idle, be expected to become sane? "Something to do" appeared to be the most pressing want of the lunatics in our Asylum. One poor melancholy, idle woman, with her hands folded before her, said, while we were present, that she "would so like to have some knitting" which she "could do very well;" another was very demonstrative in her demands for a fiddle; and a man of active temperament and industrious habits actually begged one of the attendants to take him to work. Of course it would not be proper to give heed to all the whims of a lunatic, nor would it be prudent to trust violent lunatics with tools with which they might destroy themselves and injure their attendants. Still, the general craving for employment should in some way be at least partially satisfied. And this cannot be done while the Asylum is so small, the attendants so few in number, and the grounds adjoining the institution so contracted.

Another great want is amusement. Mr. Carvell, a short time ago, provided some illustrated books and papers, which have been greedily coneyed by many of the patients. We trust that Mr. Carvell's good example in this and other respects may be followed by thoughtful, charitable persons in the city. The proprietors of the Island journals could send copies of their papers free of charge; and they might utilize some of their exchanges in the same way. Other means of amusement and recreation might easily be provided at trifling cost. A little music, dancing and entertainment in the evening would go far to relieve the maddening dullness of our lunatics' existence at the Asylum.

But the prime necessity of the patients is a suitable building in which to live; an Asylum in which the Superintendent could constantly reside, and be ready at any moment to minister to the mind diseased." Till an Asylum—worthy of the name is provided—all efforts to cure and ameliorate the condition of the inmates must prove, in a measure at least, abortive. The building now used, would, with a few alterations, do very well for a penitentiary, but it can never be made fit for a hospital for the insane.

Notwithstanding all the agitation, little we may say nothing, has been done towards the improvement of the Poor House. The buildings have lately been white-washed; a sort of sink has been made for the reception of the slops, and some of the filth in the yard has been cleared away. But everything else remains in statu quo. The Government still adheres to the shameful resolution of the 25th January, 1873; and the Keeper, Mr. Allen, is still without an assistant. The rooms are unwholesome—not to say dirty. The out buildings are still in the state described by the Grand Jury in July last—a state in which they should not have been suffered to remain twenty-four hours after the charge of the Grand Jury had been delivered. The rooms where married and single men and women live and sleep together—harshly and innocently it may be—still remains, it is, at present, occupied by a man and his wife, a young woman and a child; and there is yet no bath room in which a dirty paper may be scrubbed in private. Altogether, the Poor House is still in a scandalously bad state.

A Conservative Convention is to be held in Toronto some time during this month.

"ORGANIZED HYPOCRISY."

THE excuse put forward by Dorion & Co., in palliation of the inexcusable offence of publishing the stolen Pope-McDonald letter, was, our readers will remember, that it "exposed a crime against the country, because it indicated the use of public patronage as a means of preventing party division among the candidates at an election which was supposed to be imminent." Recent developments furnish proofs of the hollowness and insincerity of these professions; for they show that Mr. Dorion himself did not hesitate to commit the very same kind of offence. In the trial of the contested election of Richmond and Wolfe, it came out in evidence that a certain Mr. Beigne, who was strong in Wolfe County, was announcing himself as a candidate in the Liberal interest, and this in the manner, Mr. Aylmer explains in his evidence, in which he was got out of the way:—"Mr. Beigne had received a Government appointment since the election. Had not had any conversation with members of the Government or Civil Service in reference to that appointment; had not used his influence in order to procure it for him. Had seen a number of letters addressed to Beigne by Hon. Mr. Dorion, promising a situation, and Mr. Beigne had expressed a wish to him that he would not attempt to forward his application for an appointment in any way. Knew that Hon. Mr. Dorion had used his influence with Beigne to prevent him being a candidate, in order not to divide the Liberal interest. Had seen a letter to that effect from Mr. Dorion to Mr. Beigne." Of this evidence the *Montreal Gazette* says:—"It is not necessary to add one word by way of comment to this exposure of the manner in which the patronage of the Crown was prostituted at the late elections for party purposes. It is, however, but one added to the list of cases which go to show that Sir Francis Hincks was quite justified when he described the so-called Liberals as "an organized hypocrisy."

THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT.

AFTER several weeks of an interregnum, a Local Government for the Province of Quebec has been at last formed, as follows:—DeBoucherville, Premier and Provincial Secretary; Mailhot, Crown Lands and Leader of the Assembly; Church, Attorney General; Angers, Solicitor General; Garneau, Commissioner of Public Works; Lemaire, President of the Council; Robertson, Treasurer. This Ministry is considered "respectable, but not strong." None of the new men can boast a brilliant political record. Only one member of the *Quincent Cabinet* (Mr. Robertson) has been admitted to the new administration. It is said that the "Land Tanneries Swap Scandal" is to be investigated in January next.

MARITIME UNION.

Quite a number of our Provincial contemporaries are discussing the question of legislative union of the Maritime Provinces. Nearly all view the proposal favorably. We have not seen any journal which takes stronger ground than that of suggesting objections that will inevitably arise in a discussion of the question. That there are difficulties in the way of the accomplishment of such a union we freely admit, that these difficulties are insurmountable we are not yet prepared to admit. That a legislative union of the Maritime Provinces is desirable, investigation of the subject clearly shows. We still hold to the opinion previously expressed in these columns that preparatory to any practical action on Maritime Union is the adoption of Municipal Institutions in the Lower Provinces. When that question is settled, and Municipal Institutions were put into good working order, then the question of legislative union of the Maritime Provinces will be in order. We hold most strongly that the subject of Municipal Institutions first, and imperatively, demands the attention of all our legislators. At the same time we desiderate discussion of Maritime Union. The people desire the information on which to base their opinion, and we and our public decision when such a decision is taken will naturally favor discussion in order that they may be able conscientiously to give public opinion. One thing is to be deprecated, and that is hurrying the matter as was done in the case of Confederation. Our politicians, we hope, have learned an important lesson from the history of that movement. In carrying out the idea of legislative union it is necessary that the people, or at least a good majority of them, should be in accord with the movement. Our politicians must have a care on that point. Hence discussion of the subject is in order so that public opinion may be ripened thereon. We do not intend to enter into an elaborate discussion of the subject at present. We have stated our position as the question now appears to us, and we will add that we do not disagree with the following from the *Colonial Standard* of Tuesday:—

"There are, of course, several difficulties which present themselves, and several very imaginary ones which will be urged against a maritime union, but we are convinced that the great importance of the subject, and its manifest advantages, will justify the most arduous and successful accomplishment. In the meantime, it is important that the subject should be thoroughly discussed, so that it should be understood in all its phases. If the union decision will be shown to offer a more efficient and economical system of Government than the present, we have no doubt it will meet with public approval, and will soon be adopted."

EARLY SHIPMENT.

The *sch. Melbina* cleared from Capraud, for Halifax, on the 23rd inst., with the following cargo: 4,500 bushels oats, 40 bbls potatoes, 4,500 lbs butter. The shipper was Messrs G. Howatt and J. R. Reid. When Capraud understood in all its phases. If the union decision will be shown to offer a more efficient and economical system of Government than the present, we have no doubt it will meet with public approval, and will soon be adopted."

EXPORTS.—

On Thursday last the S.S. *Carroll* sailed for Boston with 1,300 bbls, mackerel, shipped by Nickerson, Churchill and others; 240 tons butter by G. Howatt; 145 boxes preserved lobsters, by Shanks & Smith; 250 boxes eggs, J. Hughes and G. W. Gardner; 65 bags oats, T. O'Connell; 7 bbls, pelts, G. W. Gardner.

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LAST WEEK.

THE REGATTA—ON TUESDAY IN THE DRILL SHED—CEREMONY AT A GOVERNMENT GROUNDS—GRAND BALL AT MARKET HALL.

A cloudy morning often precedes a sunny day, and an unpromising beginning is not unfrequently followed by a successful enterprise. Last Monday was exceedingly unpromising. The sky and the atmosphere betokened a storm. In the afternoon rain fell in torrents. When the Band arrived it was still raining; and fears were entertained that the Regatta on the morrow would prove a total failure. These fears were not, however, verified. The weather on Tuesday was as fine as could possibly be desired; and the regatta was a complete success. There was wind enough to make the day blowing disagreeable. The air was light and bracing; the sun shone in unclouded glory; the water in the harbor rippled and sparkled pleasantly. Thousands of holiday-attired citizens crowded the wharfs and shipping, and the grand stand on Cornwall's wharf, and hundreds of small well-filled pleasure boats lent additional brilliancy to the scene. About ten o'clock the Band of the Royal Rifles took its station at the front of the Fairgrounds, and at intervals throughout the day discoursed first-class music. The sailing matches were lively sights, but the greatest interest was taken in the skill and pluck and muscle displayed by the rowers. We append the official prize list:—

FIRST RACE.—

Silver Cup, presented by Major Pollard, and \$15; 2nd prize \$10. The following boats entered:— 1 Surprise, entered by W. H. Lund. 2 Cutter, " " C. Hamilton. 3 Whaler, " " C. Hamilton. 4 Wagon, " " Alex. Cantley. 5 Linnet, " " P. Foley. 6 Old Ferry Boat, " George Coombs. 7 Ada, " " A. Daly. 8 Daintiness, " " J. A. McDonald. 1st prize won by Surprise; 2nd do by Old Ferry Boat.

SECOND RACE.—

Four oared boats. 1st prize \$20; 2nd prize \$10—two boats contested as follows:— *Lady Duffin* entered by James Peake; rowed by John McVahan Matt. Murphy, Thomas Wade, and Michael Sewell, and the *Edwaid* rowed by E. G. Fuller, Wallace, McDonald, and McDonald. The *Lady Duffin* was by about a hundred yards. The *Edwaid* was too heavy to match the *Lady Duffin*.

THIRD RACE.—

Single scull. 1st prize Earl of Dufferin's Medal and \$10; 2nd do \$7.50. The contesting boats were:— 1 Water Lily entered by W. L. Dean. 2 Henry Ward " " Henry Hales. 3 Nancy Fat " " F. H. H. 4 Stranger " " Dan Murray.

THE WATER LILY came in first, and Mr. W. L. Dean had the honor of carrying off the Governor General's Medal. The *Nancy Fat* won second money.

FOURTH RACE.—

Two oared boats. 1st prize \$20; 2nd prize \$10. The following boats entered:— 1 Lark entered by James Peake. 2 Morning Star " " Angus Cameron. 3 Little Wanderer " " Prof. Donnie. 4 Wagon " " Alex. Cantley. 5 Brant " " George Lund. 6 Plover " " John Livingstone. 7 Lone Star " " John Selgrove. 8 Quiescent " " James Brown. 9 Bellefleur " " William Houston. First prize won by *Wagon*; second prize by *Morning Star*.

FIFTH RACE.—

Stem scull. 1st prize \$4; boats entered—Sea Bird, J. A. McDonald, and Water Lily, Fred Douce—first prize won by Sea Bird. SIXTH RACE.—Two oared boats. 1st prize \$15; 2nd prize \$7.50—boats entered— 1 Kathleen, rowed by C. Burns and C. Gay. 2 Nancy Fat, " " C. L. Strickland and H. W. Longworth. 3 Peacock, " " Wm. Davison and James King. 4 Stranger, " " David Murray and W. Fraser. 5 Mrs. Tilton, " " P. McCarver and P. E. Palmer. 6 Nallie Lane, " " John Coombs and W. L. Dean. 7 Henry Ward, " " H. Hales and P. Hope. First prize won by *Kathleen*; second prize by *Nancy Fat*.

SEVENTH RACE.—

Four oared boats—boys under seventeen—1st Prize \$12; second prize \$8; boats entered— 1 Lady Duffin rowed by Daniel Davies, et al. 2 Edward, " " James McLean and J. McFadden. 3 Edward, " " N. Fraser. 4 Wagon, " " Dan Murray. 5 T. Robins, " " J. Stanley. 6 Tam O'Shanter, " " J. McFadden, et al. 7 James Brown, " " J. McDonald. 8 H. Ramsay, " " H. Ramsay. First prize, *Lady Duffin*; second prize *Tam O'Shanter*.

EIGHTH RACE.—

Sail boats open to all except winners in 1st and 4th races. 1st prize \$10; 2nd prize \$5; boats entered— 1 Butterfly, entered by D. Lane. 2 Linnet, " " J. Hughes. 3 Wave, " " Cantley. 4 Lone Star, " " Selgrove. First prize *Butterfly*; 2nd prize *Lone Star*. NINTH RACE.—Double scull. 1st prize \$10; boats entered— 1 Henry Ward rowed by H. Hales and J. P. Hope. 2 Nancy Fat, " " E. G. Fuller. 1st prize *Nancy Fat*.

TENTH RACE.—

Canoes (Indians). 1st prize (\$25) won by Martin LeBlas; 2nd prize (\$1) won by Abraham Spear.

PROMENADE CONCERTS.

The rain of Monday afternoon materially affected the first Grand Promenade Concert in the Drill Shed. Owing to cloudy, threatening skies and muddy streets comparatively few of our citizens attended. The music was very select and beautiful—more select and more beautiful, perhaps, than any ever before rendered in Charlottetown. Yet in the manner in which it was received by the majority of the audience would indicate that it was "nothing more than common." To judge by the gossip of Miss C., the active flirtation of Miss T., and the unremitting small talk of Mr. S., even while the finest strains were being rendered, and that sort of thing—all the days of their life. Probably they were unaware that they displayed ignorance and insensibility to a degree which astonished strangers. The following programme was rendered:—

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PERMISSION FOR THE DISTRIBUTION, BY HIS HONOR THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, OF THE PRIZES WON AT THE REGATTA.

6 Oresture, *Mansfield*, " Aubrey. 7 Valse, *Knuttenleben*, " Strauss. 8 Fantasia, *Erin*, " Boquet. 9 Aria, *Travolta*, " Gungl. God save the Queen.

CEREMONY AT MARKET HALL.

A cricket match, Charlottetown vs. Summerside, was played on Government Farm Grounds on Wednesday. At 2 p.m., the land entered the field and played at intervals throughout the afternoon. A large number of the elite of the city and others were in attendance.

NO BETTER DAY COULD BE DESIRED FOR FIELD SPORT.

Of course the Summerside eleven were no representatives of the cricketing prowess of our western county. They could not be expected to compete successfully with our town boys, for they had no notice of the match until the day previous. The wonder is that they had the courage to play at all. The following comprise Prince County eleven:—Mr. Shreves, (Captain) Charles McDonald, A. McDonald, M. Doyle, J. Bethune, M. Chappell, J. Richard, J. Warburton, G. Hibbert, J. Prophet, J. Viorissey. The city eleven were:—F. Longworth, A. Hensley, J. T. Jenkins, L. H. Davies, N. McLeod, J. Doyle, R. Freeland, W. Hokkirk, D. Longworth, J. Longworth, J. Yeo. At 12 o'clock the play commenced, the town boys going to the wicket. Doyle and Freeland took the bat. Shreves and Bethune are both, however, and Freeland kept up with a couple of fine innings. Freeland, a beautifully caught by McDonald—1, out for 12. Longworth takes the bat, and Doyle immediately retires bowled by Shreves—2 for 12—making one for Hokkirk. Longworth makes a splendid three run hit, followed by Hokkirk with a ditto. Two good bats in now and a big score is expected. Both are making a score, but slowly. After being in a considerable time Hokkirk is found to retire for 16, bowled by Bethune hum-dum-ely—3 for 28. Jenkins takes the bat and makes 0, Bethune shivering his timbers. Davies fills the gap, and plays carefully. Longworth at length retires, splendidly caught by Prophet on a score of 23—for 53. Hensley fills the vacancy, but soon gives way for Fitzgerald for 55. Fitzgerald is caught by Bethune for 57. McDonald goes to the bat and makes one, bowled by Shreves—8 for 58. He is succeeded by D. Longworth, who plays well for a young fellow, and between him and Davies are making a lively play. But a fatal ball from Bethune does him up—9 for 63—making way for J. Longworth. Davies is taken at length after making a score of 21. 1st man out—then a total of 28. Time, 1 hour. After a little rest they commence play again. Doyle and Chappell at the bats, and Davies and Hokkirk bowling. Chappell run out—for 4. The vacancy is filled by Warburton who plays well. Doyle is—10 for 8—and Richards goes in. They are being put out pretty lively now. Warburton is well caught by Jenkins—3 for 8—and makes way for McDonald. A ball from Hokkirk comes. Richards to retire—4 for 9—making a gap which is filled by Shreves