

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

MARCH 23, 1893.

The Franchise Deprivation.

THE arts of the special pleader were exhausted, in the House of Assembly, last evening, in an attempt to prove that the disfranchisement of certain electors is in accordance with Liberalism! Mr. Peters has a "principle" upon which he bases this contention. It is that the Province is independent of the Dominion, and that this independence must be asserted. The same principle would make the Dominion independent of the Province. If applied after the manner of Mr. Peters, it would, then, justify the robbery of Mr. Peters' franchise in Dominion elections and take away the votes of Messrs. McMillan and McLean and all of their subordinate Provincial officials. How would these hon. gentlemen like to be deprived of the right of engaging in Dominion elections? Mr. Peters would not, we feel sure, care to lose his chance of a judgeship on the "principle" that his services as Attorney-General of the Province shall be cancelled for nothing by the Dominion Government; and counted for nothing they must be, if the principle of "independence" as interpreted by himself be carried out as he is carrying it out. A moment's thought will convince any one that, though the Province and the Dominion are, in a sense, independent of each other, the "principle" by which Mr. Peters is disfranchising the Dominion officials has no existence except in his imagination. Upon the same "principle" the City Council may demand that both Dominion and Provincial officials shall be deprived of the right to vote in Civic elections. If the Province has a right to assert its independence of the Dominion in this way, surely the City has an equal right to assert its independence of both the Dominion and the Province! The boldest desperado who ever robbed a mail coach had some "principle" by which he justified his conduct—a "principle" just as good, and sound, and defensible as that by which Mr. Peters justifies his robbery of the Dominion officials' right to the franchise and places them upon a political level with Indians.

But there are principles, good principles, established principles according to which Mr. Peters' crime differs only in form from that of the highway robber, who with his loaded pistol at the head of the defenceless traveller, demands "your money or your life." One of these is based upon reason and experience and has been cemented by blood. It is expressed in the well known motto: "TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IS TYRANNY." Another established principle, maintained by Lord Brougham, John Stuart Mill and other great constitutional writers, is set forth in the words, "ONCE A VOTER ALWAYS A VOTER." Mr. Peters' act, it will readily be seen, in violation of both these principles. The right of a freeman to vote is as strong and good as his right to make use of any other form of property which he may possess. The franchise, though not always of tangible value, is, indeed, one of the most valuable forms of property. Its possession is to its possessor and to the world a proof, an outward and visible sign, that he is a free born Briton, entitled to a share in the Government of his country. This highly prized property, Mr. Peters, with his majority, is, after the manner of the highwayman with his pistol, taking away from our Dominion officials.

Mr. Peters contends that the officials cannot exercise freely the right of the franchise. We defy Mr. Peters to prove that the Dominion Government has ever intimidated its officials in respect to Provincial elections. The contention is false. Even, if true, it does not afford a valid reason for depriving officials of their right to vote.

Suppose, as Mr. Peters asserts, that a few weak-kneed officials have been overawed by the false representations of local canvassers, is that any reason why the whole body of Dominion officials should be robbed of their franchise rights?

Everyone knows that many of the Dominion officials have, in both Dominion and Provincial elections voted continuously for the Grits. But not one has, on that account, been discharged. On the contrary, some of them, whom we could name, have been promoted and their salaries enlarged.

But it is held by Mr. Peters that some of the officials would "rather be disfranchised." After they have been disfranchised they will think differently. The right of the franchise is one of those intangible, but very real things, which is apt to be counted as of little worth until it is lost! Just before the last Dominion election a gentleman who had neglected to have his name registered on the Voters' List, was heard to declare that he would give a hundred dollars for the right—which he had forfeited by simple carelessness—to vote at that election. When the Dominion officials want the right to vote in Provincial elections, and cannot use it, they will know the value of that which Mr. Peters has taken away from them.

Mr. Peters points triumphantly to the examples of Ontario and Nova Scotia. Yes; there are precedents for every species of crime. These Provinces, under the Grits, afford precedents for the outrage

which Mr. Peters is now committing here. But a jury would hesitate to liberate Dick Turpin because Sixteen-String Jack had committed similar deeds. We feel sure, too, that the people of Prince Edward Island will not acquit Mr. Peters because Mr. Vail in Nova Scotia and Mr. Mowat, in Ontario have been guilty of political crimes like his.

Ottawa Notes.

INTERESTING TO FARMERS.

Before the committee on agriculture Veterinary Surgeon Prof. McEachern made an important statement with reference to the disease known as tuberculosis, which he said exists universally wherever domestic animals are raised. In Great Britain, recent reports show that the percentage varies from 4 to 28 per cent., according to the localities, while in France it is fully as high. This disease is due to a bacillus, a micro-organism, which was discovered by Koch in 1883, and is now well understood and well recognized by scientists. It is contagious, and it has been proved by experiments that it is communicable from animals to man. It is well-known to exist in all the domestic animals, and can be communicated by or to them. It has been found to be communicable by poultry eating spurs from consumptive patients; from dogs in the same way, and by dogs and other animals drinking the milk of or eating the flesh of cows so affected, and in the minds of many scientists, consumption in the human family often arises from the drinking of milk or eating the flesh of animals affected with tuberculosis. The disease does not extend to any alarming extent in Canada. Recently it has been discovered that by injections of tuberculin, which is an attenuated condition of the virus, that this being injected into animals suffering from the disease, immediately causes an increase in temperature of 4.5 or 6 degrees; but it has no effect on animals not affected with tuberculosis. By means of this virus, professional men may go into a herd of cattle and pick out every animal affected with the disease. By this means, proper measures can be instituted for entirely eradicating the disease; and once eradicated, by keeping watch on the herds which have been affected, and taking proper sanitary measures, the disease can be prevented. He was not prepared to say what amount would be required to exterminate it entirely from the herds of Canada; but was bound to say that it will cost less than half a million of dollars. He thought that would certainly be a small amount as compared with the value gained, as well as preventing a very serious loss constantly occurring in the cattle themselves. He asserted that the loss from tuberculosis amounts annually to that sum now. He recommended the distribution to the public of information about tuberculosis. Dr. Playter, editor of the Canada Health Journal, had sent him a copy of an admirable pamphlet, which contains valuable information on the subject. From time to time pamphlets of that kind should be distributed among members of Parliament and agricultural societies throughout the Dominion. He recommended the appointment of specially instructed and specially trained veterinary surgeons in different parts of the Dominion, who would know how to distinguish the disease, for then we would be free from these disturbing reports which we get from men with diplomas to-day.

Additional evidence from Dr. Playter was also heard, after which Mr. Shutt, Dominion Analyst, gave interesting information on the composition of soils, and the best remedy for worn out land. In the Senate yesterday an interesting debate took place on canned fish, in which Senator Prowse took an active part and gave a lot of information on this important matter.

In the House of Commons the afternoon was occupied with the consideration of the Civil Service Bill, which went through the second reading, not, however, without vigorous protests from the Opposition. Mr. Costigan announced that the Government intended making important amendments to the measure, which could be considered in committee.

After recess Mr. Edgar brought up the Caron charges, but little attention was paid to the matter, the House being nearly empty. The Solicitor-General replied, and quoting from the sworn evidence showed there was no foundation for the assertion that the Postmaster-General had used his position as a member of the Government to afford aid to the Lake St. John Railway. The debate is to be continued this afternoon, but will not amount to anything that will weaken the Ministry. The Clark Wallace matter was the critical time for the Government and that snag was successfully passed.

Miss Winnie Macdonald has returned from Montreal and is a frequent visitor to the Speaker's Gallery. She is much admired and is an excellent representative of the fair ladies of P. E. Island.

It seems to be settled that the session will end on Saturday before Easter; but a good deal of work has yet to be finished. The Supplementary Estimates for 1893 have not yet come down. The announcement that \$20,000 had been obtained for the Souris breakwater was premature. It has been recommended by the Department, but has not passed the Treasury Board. It will likely be all right, and the members for King's are pushing hard for it.

Personal.

Late advices from Bridgetown, Barbadoes, announce the death of J. W. Edgill, Esq., of the well known firm of Clairmont, Mac & Co. Mrs and Mrs Edgill visited Charlottetown in November, 1891, and while here made many friends.

It is pleasing to hear that at the recent examination at the University Medical College, New York city, our young friend, Mr P. C. Murphy, received the degree of M. D. Mr. Murphy passed an excellent examination. We congratulate Dr. Murphy.

Andrew Usher's Scotch Whiskies thoroughly aged and matured in wood.

We invite you to call, and consider it a privilege to receipt accounts sent out.—Stanley Bros. 21—m23

Stamps—Old stamps very cheap at the Diamond Bookstore.

An Interesting Sight—To see how anxious the people are to buy Prowse Bros' hats. But it is not surprising, for the public have bought hats from the boys for years and they know they always get value, style, fit and comfort. To-day they are receiving nine cases more of Christy's hats.—Prowse Bros. m28-31

Provincial Legislature.

House of Assembly.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

MARCH 27.

In the afternoon the House met at 4.35. On motion of Mr. Clow, an Act to Incorporate the Murray Harbor North Dairying Company was read a second time in committee, with Mr. A. McLeod in the chair, and reported agreed to without amendment.

After recess, the House met at 8.45 o'clock.

Mr. Bell submitted a bill incorporating the Dank River Cheese Factory Company, which was read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Hon. Mr. Peters submitted the following resolution: Resolved, That the House resolve itself into committee to take into consideration the expediency of introducing a bill to provide for the establishment of a separate registry office in Prince County.

He supported this resolution in a brief explanatory speech, and was followed by Messrs. Bell, A. J. Macdonald, Rogers, Gordon and Richards in the order named.

The establishing of the registry office at Summerside was commended, and the hope was expressed that King's County would soon be similarly treated.

The resolution carried, and a bill in accordance therewith was submitted, to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Peters submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the House resolve itself into committee to take into consideration the advisability of introducing a bill to amend an Act passed in the 33rd year of Her present Majesty's reign, entitled "An Act respecting elections of members of the Legislature" by providing that persons in the employment of any department of the Government of Canada shall not be entitled to vote at the election of members for either branch of the Legislature of the Province.

In making the motion, he said he was well aware that he was treading on dangerous ground—that the matter had been fully and freely discussed during the past year. He knew that many persons thought it hard that any man or body of men should be deprived of the right to vote. At the present time, said he, we have two separate and distinct parliaments—the Parliament of Canada and the Provincial Parliament. The first deals with matters pertaining to the Dominion in general, and the other with matters of local importance. We have complete control over the licensing of liquors, the election laws and other matters that are referred to by the British North America Act. In these local matters we have supreme control and should brook no interference on the part of the Dominion Parliament. The theory is that they should not interfere at our elections, but what is the practice. As a matter of fact, we have had for years a Conservative Government in power in Ottawa, and in this Province a government who said they were in sympathy with this Conservative Dominion Government. The experience of the many years that these governments have been in power has shown us that there is not that absolute severance of the two governments that there should be. The two bodies have not always kept themselves apart. The resolution he proposed was in effect to take away from the Dominion Government every influence they exercise at our elections. What we are doing may benefit us for the moment but it is not beneficial to those who may be in power in the future! He claimed, however, that it was not the object of the Government to benefit themselves; the principle was one of bona fide reform. He thought no fair man could raise any objection to the principle of the proposed measure. If the Upper House never did anything for the country excepting to send down this one suggestion last session they have done something for the country that justifies their existence—that justifies their retention. The suggestion was well worthy of consideration—and the Liberal party in this House eagerly grasped at it. He thought there was independence enough amongst the members of the House to cause the resolution to support the measure it is proposed to introduce. The measure that he proposed to bring before the House was to the effect that all persons permanently employed by the Dominion Government shall have their votes taken away. This will affect a great number of persons, principally railway men. So far as he could find out the largest number of the railway men have no objection to the passage of the measure. There is a feeling amongst these men that if they vote against the Dominion Government they are running a risk of losing their situations. There may be good ground for this feeling, or there may not. On election day about 150 men came up to the railway and vote Tory, while at least 50 of them are in sympathy with the other side. He said he spoke from personal experience on this matter, as he had had the discomfiture of running two elections in Charlottetown, and remembering the fact that these men could not vote as they liked—that he was doing the right and proper thing in bringing on this measure of reform. We are told that this is not a Liberal measure. But what are the facts? In the great Liberal province of Ontario by far the largest number of the Dominion officials are disfranchised, and in that other Liberal province, Nova Scotia, it has also been decided that the Dominion Parliament shall exercise no influence in local elections. They have a law on their statute books almost in the same words as the one proposed here last session. All the Dominion officials and chiefs of departments have been disfranchised. In this matter, like the Georgetown Bill, we do not intend to take any back water. We propose to do what we think is right. The Government that is elected here, with the assistance of the Dominion Government, cannot go to Ottawa to press our claims as independent men; but must go about the work in a milk and honey kind of way. In this House for years back Charlottetown has been represented by men elected by officials in the employ of the Dominion Government, instead of by the people of the Province. He thought

the principle of the bill was right and that it would meet with general approval. If the principle is wrong, let the whole thing go; if it is right, let it pass.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson seconded the motion. He said he was not his intention to go into the matter to any great extent as it had already been very fully dealt with by the Leader of the Government. He thought the proposed measure was a good one. He did not think that men in the civil service of Canada could be induced to vote against their bread and butter—that they could vote as their consciences dictated. He had heard no complaints either from the heads or tails of departments. They appeared instead to be favorable to the change. Influences were brought to bear upon the railway employees that prevented them from voting as they desired, and it was this condition of affairs that they desired to see changed. We have our provincial rights and we should hold on to them. The Dominion has no right to control our elections through the Dominion officials. In the Province of Nova Scotia, as had been already stated, the votes of the Civil Service officials have been taken away and he did not know that there was any person crying over it. The Dominion officials should not be dragged to vote as their masters tell them—instead of voting as their consciences dictated.

Mr. Bantley said he had listened with considerable attention to the remarks of the mover and seconder. The burden of the remarks seemed to be that two-thirds of the officials were Conservatives, and so they disfranchised them. Why did the Government not go further and disfranchise all the Conservatives. They are not satisfied with taking away the votes of the young men, but are now taking away the votes of the Dominion officials. The real object was that they wanted to make their election sure and to keep themselves in power. It seemed to him that the Leader's object was to get revenge on the Dominion Government for imaginary interference at local elections. If they did interfere in this way it was unknown to him. Why did the Leader not get his spite out on the Dominion Government in some way instead of by disfranchising the officials of that Government? It is a good job he cannot do the officials greater harm than he is doing by taking away their votes. If he could do it he would. He ridiculed the idea of the officials petitioning the Leader of the Government to allow them to vote—a right that he belonged to them as freemen. But why did they not disfranchise the Local Government officials who were dependent upon the Government for their positions. It would not suit them to do this, however. Surely times must be hard with the Government when they had to resort to this disgraceful act.

Mr. H. C. Macdonald spoke in approval of the proposed bill. He thought that instead of doing harm to the Dominion officials they were rather removing the shackles from them in order that they should no longer be driven to the polls to vote like lambs to the slaughter. The Dominion officials, he claimed, had not been allowed to vote as their consciences dictated, and this being the case he thought it was time the Local Government stepped in and interfered. He believed that if the Dominion officials were allowed to vote as they desired one of the Charlottetown representatives would be a Liberal. The principle of the bill was a good one and it has been carried out to great advantage in the Liberal Provinces of Ontario and Nova Scotia, and also in British Columbia. He felt sure that the civil service officials would approve of the Government's action. What works well in the three Provinces referred to should work well in Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Shaw followed. A synopsis of his speech is unavoidably crowded out of our days issue.

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SOAP.

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Charlottetown, March 7, 1893.

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TO LET—A Dwelling House on Bayfield Street, containing nine rooms, stable and coach house. Heated with hot water and is in good condition. Possession given at once or on the first of May. Also, a fine Fruit Garden situated, if desired. Inquire of A. HERMAN, Queen St. mch19—11

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