

THE DAILY EXAMINER

JUNE 6, 1899.

THE CRAPAUD STEEL BRIDGE.

MR FORBES, of the Hamilton Steel Bridge Company, arrived last evening and proceeded today to Crapaud, accompanied by Mr. McMillan, the Local Government Engineer. This looks a little like business. The Government will deserve some credit if they can put this business through economically and without political log-rolling and corruption. It will be interesting to note the results of this experiment in steel bridge building in P. E. Island.

DRUMMOND RAILWAY DEAL.

In the House of Commons, a few days ago, the Minister of Railways was constrained to admit that the action of the Senate in throwing out the measure last session had resulted in a saving on one item of \$6,000 a year, representing a capital sum of \$200,000. This is the first time the Government has openly confessed that the present bargain is in any way better than the first. Incidentally, it was discovered that Mr. Blair did not know whether or not the contract bound the Government to buy the rolling stock of the Drummond County Railway. This is a matter of \$50,000 or thereabouts, but the present Administration seems to think that a little thing like that is not worth bothering about.

THE GERRYMANDER.

THE Mail and Empire puts the case of P. E. Island in this way:

"There are five constituencies there now, having the following population:

King's.....	21,694
Queen's East.....	22,464
Queen's West.....	22,210
Prince East.....	20,723
Prince West.....	20,987

"It is a fair distribution into constituencies.

"The new scheme alters the boundaries and forms the following constituencies:

King's.....	26,633—1 member
Queen's.....	45,788—2 members
Prince.....	36,470—2 members

"There is one member for 26,633 people in King's and one for 18,235 in Prince.

"It is calculated by the Government that by thus shuffling the constituencies into irregular units as to population five Liberals will be returned from the Island and the Conservatives will be entirely unrepresented."

The Mail and Empire has hit the nail pretty squarely in the head as to the Liberal calculation. But it is not at all likely that their calculations will be borne out. P. E. Islanders may be manipulated if they don't know it; not if they do.

The Montreal Gazette remarks that "the object of the skilful gerrymander is to get as much political advantage as is possible with a superficial appearance of fairness."

But so far as this Province is concerned not even the appearance of fairness is maintained. Continuing the Gazette says: "The fact that the Government scheme creates obvious and startling inequalities in itself enough to condemn it, whether the constituencies which are deprived of their fair share of representation are Conservative, or Liberal, or uncertain. All the talk about city voters being given less power because they have not as much 'stake in the country' as the 'honest and independent farmer' is mere poppycock. Representation by population is the founda-

tion stone of Confederation, and nothing more inconsistent can be imagined than this Liberal attempt to set it at naught. If we begin to make distinctions between various classes of the electorate in this country, no one knows where we shall stop. There are good people in Ontario who believe that this province is educationally and religiously backward, and it would seem quite just to them that Quebec votes should weigh far less than those of the superior people who have better advantages. Indeed, this very argument was advanced almost in these terms after the prohibition plebiscite. It is evident that if Confederation is to hold together, the principles of equal rights on which it was founded must be maintained, and any talk about one part of the electorate being less intelligent or responsible than another is not to be tolerated."

NOTES AND COMMENTS

—Commenting upon the Gerrymander, the Montreal Gazette remarks that "So long as there is a remnant of public opinion in Canada, a plain case of steal will always do a party harm at the polls."

—The marriage of Dr. Gregor, of McGill College, is announced in another column. Dr. Gregor's friends in this Province will be sure to unite with THE EXAMINER in wishing him and his bride a long life of happiness and prosperity.

—Sir Louis Davies has brought in a bill to amend the act respecting the protection of navigable waters. As the law stands the dumping of ship refuse is prohibited in waters of less than ten fathoms. Harbor commissioners allow ships to dump ballast in certain parts of harbors, and Sir Louis's bill will make this legal.

—The quarrel between The Guardian on the one hand, and The Patriot and Pioneer, Premier Farquharson, et al, over the license question, is fun for THE EXAMINER. When old friends fall out the truth is very apt to come out. Meantime, Premier Farquharson rejoices in the possession of \$3000, levied specially upon citizens of Charlottetown.

—The Montreal Gazette remarks that the Queen went past a whole host of political democrats with lightning rods up to catch the flash, and conferred a birthday knight-hood on a quiet old Toronto judge, noted chiefly for minding his own business. There is nothing, after all, so uncertain as a royal favor, not even bye-elections.

—The school trustees of a Massachusetts town have issued a decree that under no circumstances must teachers appear attired in short skirts or attenuated trousers. The order is of course aimed at those who ride bicycles. The trustees give as a reason that besides bordering on the improper the wearing of short skirts by women "lowers the dignity of the teacher." As for the men, they say, "they should have better sense than appear in the street in knee breeches and loud stockings." The order has given rise to much indignation among the teachers.

—Sir Henri Joly Lotbiniere has brought down a return to Parliament showing the number of factories established since 1890 for the manufacture of Canadian tobacco, or of Canadian and foreign tobacco mixed. The statement shows that from July 1891, to February, 1898, twenty-three factories had been established for the manufacture of Canadian tobacco, of which number fifteen had been discontinued before June, 1898. Since July, 1898, four factories have been established for the manufacture of Canadian and three for the manufacture of mixed tobacco, none of which have been discontinued up to the present.

—The Hamilton Spectator says all signs point to a general election in September of this year, or thereabout, the date depending in some measure whether or not the international conference is resumed, and the length of time it will be in session, if resumed. The haste of the Government in pressing the gerrymander through, the expectation of a short crop in Manitoba and the Northwest, and the good times which now exist, combine to make September a good time for a general election—a good time for the Government. There is no other explanation for the Government's anxiety to get the gerrymander through. Sir Wilfrid feels sure of Quebec, and he desires to draw Ontario's teeth.

—The government should have taken

its friends into its confidence on the gerrymander, and thus have saved them the humiliation they are now undergoing. The Ottawa Citizen says that at the very hour that Sir Wilfrid introduced the bill in the house the Montreal Witness declared that representation by population would be cardinal in the measure. And the Montreal Herald said in anticipation, "The boundaries of counties are to be respected in all cases." Yet in over fifteen constituencies, where the electoral and county lines are not the same, no change is contemplated. The editors of these journals are now wiser if sadder men.

—The contention is advanced that the Senate has no right to amend or reject a bill approved by the House of Commons affecting the representation of the people in that chamber. The Liberals who stand by such a contention are, as the Gazette points out, going contrary to established precedent, made by Liberals. Senator Scott, in 1882, moved the three months' hoist of the Conservative Redistribution Bill of that year, and there voted for the motion Senators Baillargeon, Chaffers, Grant, Haythorne, Leonard, McClellan, McMaster, Paquet, Power, Poyer, Scott, Stevens and Wark. Since then Mr. McClellan has been made a lieutenant governor and Mr. Scott a minister, fair evidences of their admitted soundness as Liberal party men. If Sir Mackenzie Bowell, needs a precedent for moving in the Senate the rejection of the Laurier redistribution job, he will find it in the acts of a member of the Laurier Government.

—A colony is being formed on Station Island by the School of Psychic Philosophy organized in the spring of 1898. A tract of 150 acres in Meisner avenue, near the village of Richmond, has recently been bought, and preparations are being made for the erection of a house of worship and many small cottages. The site is on Richmond Hill, and it commands a fine view of the lower bay. A great part of the property is wooded, and the clearing away process has begun. The object of the school, as stated in its constitution, is "the investigation and study of psychic phenomena and the relation of such phenomena and their underlying principles to daily life." The society proposes to begin in July to hold meetings every Sunday morning and afternoon in its place of worship, in which will also be given lectures and psychic demonstrations.

—Mark Twain has come to the conclusion that the books he has written will not live, and he has declared his intention of writing a work in an entirely new style for the benefit of posterity. It will not be published for a hundred years, so that there will be no danger of the authors opinions being warped by fear of the reviewers, or hope of personal profit. It he proposes to give his sincere and unreserved opinion of the people he has met, not concealing their little weaknesses or the errors of their private lives. The Montreal Gazette remarks that it would be of so much more interest now than a hundred years hence that the risk of premature publication would be great. One would be more interested in the proposal if one were quite sure that the veteran humorist had left off joking. It is a hard habit to get rid of.

ESTEEMED EXCHANGES.

Ottawa Citizen: Hon. John Costigan says he was disgusted with the Conservative party. Well, the Conservative party is disgusted with the Hon. John, so they are quits.

Guelph Herald: In view of the proposed gerrymander, it is meet that we should all rise and sing:

"The traitor's hand is on my throat,  
On-tay-ree-ol On-tay-ree-ol!"

Louisville Courier Journal: My income has been between \$25,000 a year for the past fifteen years. I will make an oath tonight that I'm not worth \$20,000 to my name. I try to do good with my money. Does God restrain a man from making money? No, He does not. But He restrains you on the way you spend it.

London News: The more the redistribution bill is looked into, the less it appears that the principle of representation by population has been followed. Why one constituency should contain nearly four times as many votes as another will bother anybody to explain, and nobody can explain it on the ground of justice. It is most unjust.

Kingston Times: The parliamentarians at Ottawa can hardly be regarded as an overworked lot. At the approach of every national and church holiday they adjourn, go home and remain away for several days. They thus kill time, unnecessarily prolong the session, and waste the public money.

Montreal Gazette: A tunnel between England and Ireland, the idea of which is now being promoted, would be a stupendous engineering work, and might have important political as well as commercial effects. It would hardly be as useful, though, as a tunnel to France. Like the proposed tunnel from the Canadian mainland to P. E. Island, also, it is open to question if its traffic powers would enable it to earn enough to pay the cost of maintenance, and interest on the construction expenses. It is very likely to remain for a long time an engineering dream like some schemes Canadians are familiar with.

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