

Legislative Notes and Comments.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ABOLITION OF THE COUNCIL.

At last the Legislative Councillors, with tardy self-sacrifice, have made a move towards the abolition of the upper branch of the Legislature. They also suggest that, after the proposed abolition, persons now entitled, by reason of the property they possess, to vote in a Legislative Council election, shall be entitled to two votes in an election for the House of Assembly. This proposition is somewhat startling, is very far-reaching, and it, certainly, requires attention. It evidently emanates from false liberals,—probably from the very same men who suggested the disfranchisement of young men by the Dominion Parliament, and who afterwards accomplished their purpose during the last session of the Local Legislature. An epitome of Mr. Campion's speech—which was delivered this morning—upon the proposition will be found in another column.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THE ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT ACT.

THE proposed amendments to the "Assessment Act, 1877," are given in another column. Surely the sober second thought of supporters of the Government will come to their rescue. Surely they will never sanction such a mad attempt to excite jealousy among the people—to set man against man and neighbor against neighbor—to throw the whole Province into confusion.

By a policy as short-sighted as it is narrow, the Government have already alienated the towns from the country, and excited a feeling of hostility between members of different religious denominations which long years will not allay. And now they propose to carry the same principle of discord to the very hearthstones of the people. Fancy the feelings of the poor farmer—who, after submitting to the indignity of having his lands and houses inspected by legalized spies, hears the value these spies may choose to set upon this property trumpeted aloud in a crowded court-room, to be set down in a note book, learned and coned by rote cast into his teeth by jealous neighbors, hostile partisans, and personal enemies' value. The Government which could propose such a plan have not the slightest sympathy with the people. They do not understand the people. They do not appreciate the meaning of "freedom" and "liberty" and "independence" who, after the manner of tyrants, send hired spies through the land to find out what each man is worth, and afterward to report from the house-tops. It is a good old English maxim that a "man's house is his castle." But the axiom no longer applies to Prince Edward Island. A man's house and barns are not only to be placed under Governmental espionage, but the value placed upon them is to be the talk of his neighborhood. If the Government have decided to drive this unhappy Act through the Legislature, we trust they will drive it slowly, so that the people may, in the meantime, be enabled to petition and protest against it. Judging by the

LEVITY OF THE LOCAL PREMIER.

we imagine that he is quite unaware of the grave results likely to flow from his policy. Last night he was positively jolly. He even so far forgot his present position as to talk of the days and nights he and Mr. Conroy had stood side by side as political friends. For the nonce he lost sight of the fact that he is the proscriptionist Premier who, after Mr. Conroy has publicly and manfully announced his submission to the will of the majority on the question that at first divided them, continues his proscriptionist policy and to proscription adds insult. We are really surprised that such men as Messrs. DeBlois, Lefurgey, Prowse, Yeo and Gordon should—the principle for which they fought having been established—continue to maintain an unholy alliance with Messrs. Davies, Stewart and Robertson, and to carry out a policy diametrically opposed to the principles of Liberal-Conservatives and to the union and good-fellowship of the people. Mr. DeBlois says that the Government Party is the "Local Liberal-Conservative Party." If so, let them, now that there is no great dividing question, break down the religious barrier. Let them not add insult to injury. Let them legislate according to Liberal-Conservative principles—according to the well understood wishes of the people. Let them withdraw the Assessment Amendment Bill, because it contains the principle of discord, and repeal the "Assessment Act 1877," because it is the will of the people that it should be repealed. They cannot do this in union with the Grits with whom they are allied—and it is the

bounden duty of good Liberal-Conservatives to come out from among them.

The minor amendments to the Assessment Act are scarcely worthy of comment. We may remind the Government, however, that, according to the best authorities, they cannot properly legislate away a man's right to vote, or put a bar in the way of his voting which did not before exist. If a man has been possessed of the right to vote without payment of a poll-tax, the Government cannot properly prevent him from voting unless he pays it.

The Poor Asylum.

THE annual report of the Commissioners of the Asylum for the Poor was submitted yesterday. It appears that the institution is over-crowded. It now contains forty-eight poor persons—the greater number of whom are old, maimed and decrepid. There are among the inmates six infants. The Commissioners report that the Institution partakes more of the character of a poor hospital than a poor asylum. They ask for more room and accommodation. The cost of the Institution during the past year was \$3,685.36. There was also expended upon the improvement of the building \$633.14. Dr. Beer, in his report, commends, very highly, Sergeant Allen, the Keeper of the Poor House.

A Plea for the Distressed.

THOSE of our citizens who reside on the entrance of St. Peter's Road are in hopes that the City Tax Collector may be sent on his rounds at once, as owing to the great depth of mud, which now obtains there, there is a strong probability that he would never reach them, but would be "forever lost to view." We are at a loss to know how it is that this part of the City has been so systematically neglected by our Civic Fathers. As is well known, St. Peter's Road is the principal thoroughfare on this Island, and we may safely affirm that there is more traffic upon it than upon all the other roads leading into Charlottetown taken together; and yet while other roads of far minor importance have had sidewalks laid upon them (and even the luxury of "oil-lamps" has been indulged in), this road has been the object of a studied neglect, notwithstanding the oft-repeated and reasonable requests of those who have the misfortune to have their dwellings upon or near it, many of whom are amongst the largest contributors to the Civic revenues. We have received quite a number of communications upon this subject, some of which partake slightly of a threatening nature; and, unless something be speedily effected in the way of a reform, we apprehend that there will be some difficulty in collecting taxes, and would advise Councillor H. B. Smith to look out for a new constituency before the August elections. We shall have something more to say upon this subject in the near future.

Can the Assessment Act be Dispensed With?

(From the Presbyterian.)

Mr. Campbell, after an able speech, pleading in behalf of the country, moved the following resolution for retrenchment, but the Government voted it down in short metre:—

Resolved, That this House do not now go into Committee of Supply; but that it be resolved as the opinion of this House that the welfare of this Province demands a judicious system of retrenchment by reducing our Legislative machinery and curtailing our expenditure in every branch of the civil Service without in any way interfering with the necessary institutions of the country, and that such a policy is necessary to prevent increased taxation, to restore the confidence of the people, and secure the prosperity of the country.

Mr. McKay in rising to second the foregoing resolution, said that he was surprised members of the Government would persist in declaring that they had not spent one dollar but what was voted by this Hon. House. Now, what are the facts? Last year the Government came down and asked this House for a sum sufficient for the annual expenditure for the year. The sum was in round numbers \$282,000. They told this House that this sum was every dollar that would be required to expend for the past year. Now we find that this Reform Government instead of having kept their expenditure within their income, have spent this year \$331,000, a sum of \$49,000 greater than what they asked for, and what this Hon. House voted that they should spend. In looking at their actions and comparing the Public Accounts, he had come to the conclusion that they had falsified every principle they hitherto held and promise they had made, and therefore should not command the confidence of the people.

The Assessment Act was not required last year, and by a judicious system of retrenchment and economy there would be no necessity for such a measure for some years to come. Any Government that would inflict such a curse on this country, under the present circumstances of this colony, are its most determined enemies. The following sums had been extravagantly spent by the Government during the past year:—

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Paid for sinking an artesian well at High Bank,                        | \$ 335 00 |
| Volunteer Band for music,  | 125 00    |
| G. P. Tanton, to take the Pictures of our Lords,                       | 145 00    |
| D. H. McKinnon, silk gown for President Legislative Council,           | 66 00     |
| F. S. Longworth, Law Clerk to Lords,                                   | 50 00     |
| Almanacs supplied,   | 35 00     |
| L. H. Davies, going to St. John to import Superintendent of Education, | 72 23     |
| Horse hire to drive A. McKenzie on his visit,                          | 30 00     |
| A. B. Warburton, copying accounts,                                     | 40 00     |
| McIntosh & Co., Parliamentary Companions,                              | 67 50     |
| Assistant to audit accounts,   | 60 00     |
| W. H. Shanks, assisting in Provincial Secretary's Office,              | 287 75    |
| Georgetown Market House,   | 21 66     |
| E. Manning, Superintendent of Education,                               | 1,700 00  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Bailey, Engineer, Disbursement of Government House,   | 1,700 00   |
|   | 1,897 55   |
|   | \$6,632 69   |
| The following sums may be saved, some of which will not require to be paid again under any circumstances:—  |  |
| Legislative Council, Furniture fitting Education Office, Claim paid Teachers intercepted by a late Secretary Board of Education,  | \$ 7,500 00<br>152 74<br>144 61                                  |
| Land Damages P. E. I. Railway, George Dogherty to Wimbledon Shooting,   | 983 84<br>100 00   |
| Prince of Wales' College, Fees of Board of Education, Park Fence, Charlottetown, Paid revaluing land to tenants, Plans and surveys of estates, By repealing Assessment Act, Repeal of Road Service and going back to the old Statute Labor Act, | 2,994 15<br>411 16<br>636 42<br>6,981 26<br>3,623 13<br>8,084 00 |
| J. A. McLeod paid for Schooner lost,  | 21,600 00<br>800 00  |
|   | \$ 56,026 31   |
| Brought down as above,  | 6,632 69   |
|   | \$ 62,659 00   |

The total expenditure of last year was \$331,632.13, for which take the following sums for Extraordinary Expenditure:—

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Expended in the new Asylum, Purchase of the Carey Farm, New County Court House, Payment of Land Estates to be refunded, | \$ 15,067 07<br>7,280 00<br>3,579 83<br>8,793 75 |
| Take the sum of \$34,710.65 from  | \$34,710 65<br>331,632 13<br>34,710 65           |
| Ordinary Expenditure equal to   | \$296,921 48                                     |
| Take from this the sum which may be saved as above,   | 62,659 00  |
|   | \$234,262 48                                     |

Now, let us look at what we have to depend upon for a revenue, exclusive of assessment upon property and poll tax:—

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Subsidy from the Dominion, From Public Lands, Receipts from Provincial Treasurer as per account, 1877, Refund of money to purchase land, Proceeds from Land Tax, at \$1.50 per 100 acres, | \$162,000 00<br>75,000 00<br>34,000 00<br>8,79 753<br>19,296 78 |
|   | \$299,090 53  |
| From this take total expenditure,   | 234,262 48  |
|   | \$64,828 05   |

Here we find a surplus of \$64,828.05 over any expenditure which is required to carry on the Public Service with ordinary economy. There is an amount of \$40,000.00 placed this year in the estimates for payment on the Asylum building. If we take this sum from the \$64,828.05, we have still a balance of \$24,828.05 to the credit of the colony. These figures are based upon the public accounts, and upon making a just and honest retrenchment such as the people are now asking for. The people are demanding a repeal of the Minister of Public Works' "Act," and going back to the old "Statute Labor." They also ask for a repeal of the "Assessment Act" and the "Registration Act," which have ground heavily upon the poor people of the country, whilst the wealthy citizen is altogether freed from such a curse. Unless this Government soon remove the burden, they will find that the paper and press they choose to designate in this House as "the shameless and misguided press," will have the response of a grateful people, who will rise in their might and hurl from power the present party, and have them replaced by men who will regard and acknowledge the will of the people.

Strange Suicide of a Young Lady.

A young lady named Maud Marguerite Orban, has committed suicide at Sheffield under very shocking circumstances. She was left an orphan when very young, and had been brought up by grandparents at Hull. They are in a very comfortable position, and gave her a good education, and she is described as a very clever and exceedingly high-spirited girl. About three months ago her grandparents sent her to a house of a friend at Sheffield, in order that she might obtain a situation. A situation was obtained for her, but she appears to have regarded it as a great degradation. On Monday she left her home, and nothing seems to have been either seen or heard of her until about four o'clock, when she went into a druggist's shop, and purchased a packet of vermin killer. About two hours afterwards she was seen to fall on her face in Corporation street. On being restored to consciousness she informed the bystanders where she lived, and was conveyed home in a cab. On her arrival she told her friends what she had taken, and a doctor was called in; but, though all possible remedies were applied, she died the same evening at about eight o'clock. At the inquest the coroner said it was a most deplorable case. It was astonishing that the feelings of a mere child like the deceased could have been so far developed as to lead her to destroy herself. The foreman remarked that the poor girl had committed suicide from being reduced to servitude after many disappointments. Verdict, suicide during temporary insanity.

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25 TONS Prime Chewing & Smoking Tobacco, SECOND TO NONE. Sold at prices to suit the times. Give us a call.

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FOR SALE—A FLAG STAFF, TOP-MAST and LOWER MAST, already finished, about 66 feet long, which will be sold for less than cost. Apply to J. D. CURRIE, corner Prince and Grafton Streets. March 5, 1878—5t law

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RESERVE your Spring Order, and get our Low Quotations— LOWER THAN EVER BEFORE.

CARVELL BRO'S, AGENTS.

Ch'town, March 23—sw pat s jour 2i

Grand Magic Lantern Show

ENTERTAINMENT,

Y. M. C. A. HALL,

Friday, April 5th, 1878.

Mr George Bremner has kindly consented to exhibit his beautiful assortment of views in behalf of New Dominion Section No. 2 Cadets of Temperance.—These views comprise Comic, Historical and some magnificent views of Nature.—The evening's entertainment will be interspersed with Recitations, etc.—No pains will be spared to make this a success in every way. Admission 20 cents; children under 14, 15 cents. Doors open at 7.30; to commence at 8 o'clock.—Tickets to be had at Apothecaries' Hall and at the door.

R. E. McKECHNIE, W. J. LELACHEUR, Chairman of Com. Secretary.

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AIR: "MY MOTHER-IN-LAW."

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Assorted patterns—various kinds—Of choice and pretty WINDOW BLINDS, The purchaser most surely finds

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ROOM-PAPER BORDERING, galore, One thousand patterns, less or more,—You'll find the cheapest at the Store

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Room Paper

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FOR SALE,

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THE Subscriber takes this opportunity of thanking the Public for the liberal patronage he has received during the five years he has been in business, and solicits a continuance of the same.

He is now prepared to execute, in a very superior manner, House, Sign, and Carriage Painting, Paper Hanging, &c. Special attention is given by him to WHITENING, COLORING and the DECORATING OF CEILINGS, WALLS, etc.

On hand and made to order— EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CARRIAGES.

Carriage Repairing promptly attended to.

Prices to suit the times.

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JAMES HOBBS, CABINET MAKER.

Cor. Kent and Prince Streets, Charlottetown.

THE SUBSCRIBER, in returning thanks to his customers and the public generally for past favors, would take this method to solicit a further continuance of their patronage.

I am better prepared than ever to execute any orders that may be entrusted to me. The latest styles of all kinds of Household, Office, Church and School Furniture, made from well-selected and seasoned stock, at short notice.

Special attention paid to Cutting, Making and Laying Carpets.

Repairing neatly done, at short notice I would also invite the attention of Trustees of City and Country Schools to A DESK, one of the Cheapest and Best ever offered here for School purposes. Please call and inspect it in my Show Room.

JAMES HOBBS,

Corner Kent and Prince Streets, Ch'town, Feb. 23, 1878. } 3m 2aw

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Provision Store!

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AT HIS OLD STAND,

and will be pleased to have them call and inspect for themselves.

ON HAND,

10 CHESTS CONGOU TEA,

("New Season")

1,000 Lbs. Canadian Cheese,

10 Casks American Kerosene Oil,

(120° test; 36 cts. per gal.)

20 BARRELS SUGAR

(all kinds),

100 Bbls. Sup. Extra Flour,

3 Puns. Very Choice

MOLASSES

20 doz. Pickles, 20 doz. Assorted Jams

20 boxes Dessert Prunes,

100 Tins Sardines

CANS PEACHES, PINEAPPLES, STRAWBERRIES TOMATOES,

NEW RAISINS, ZANTE CURRANTS, DRIED APPLES, STEWING PRUNES,

300 QUARTS CRANBERRIES, GREEN GRAPES,

100 LBS. SMOKED HALIBUT,

25 Q'LS. CODFISH, 100 BOXES DIGBY HERRING.

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Jan. 16, 1878—y.

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—AND—

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Wants, Lost, Found, &c.

Advertisements under this heading, in space not exceeding half an inch, will be inserted for Ten Cents per day.

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WANTED.—A HOUSEMAID, must be well recommended, and a good washer and ironer. Enquire at the EXAMINER OFFICE, Charlottetown, March 30, 1877—1w

WANTED.—By a steady, respectable young man, a situation in a Store or Office, or at any respectable employment. Good references. Apply at this Office. March 20—

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