

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

APRIL 17, 1894.

WINTER COMMUNICATION.

While the Stanley is stuck in the ice off Pictou, the W. H. Aiken is having a free communication between Charlottetown and Cape Tormentine. The lively little steamer left here at five o'clock this morning, and reached her destination at nine! If the Messrs. Batt had been applied to ten days ago, we might have had "continuous communication" all this time. We hope that Mr. Strang's letter—published in another column—will be read with attention by not alone the people but by the ministers at Ottawa responsible for the faithful performance of the contracts of Canada. If Mr. Strang states the facts—and there will be no doubt upon that point—the duty and interest of the Government of Canada in respect to the Dominion at large and this Province in particular is clear.

UNEARNED INCREMENT.

INCREMENT is "matter added." A man goes into the forest primal as a squatter and takes a hundred acres of land,—he adds this land and that which it has produced to the matter of his possessions; it is all "unearned increment." But he goes to work, cuts down some of the trees, builds a house and a barn, clears some of the land, making it useful for the production of crops, and by so much adds to the matter or value of the possession. All that he has so obtained is earned increment, the product of his industry. The State then constructs a road near by, and some other man comes in and erects a mill. These things, though they cost the squatter nothing, add to the value of his possession. The increase in value, whatever it may be, is, again, "unearned increment."

Now, it is proposed that only the "unearned increment" shall be taxed. The Guardian would have the Government "honestly and seriously say: "We will exempt all the products of industry, enterprise and thrift. We will tax nothing but that portion of the value of land which the individual possessor never made, the unearned increment. We will leave each possessor of land in absolute, undisturbed possession so long as he pays this tax. Moreover, for all the fruits of labor that he extracts from the soil we will guarantee him complete right of ownership and we will not violate that right by taking part of his property in taxation. We will not tax industry and thrift."

While waiting for the mails, we may, perhaps, be excused, if we devote a little attention to this question. Is it possible or practicable to exempt all the products of industry, enterprise and thrift and tax nothing but the "unearned increment"? It will readily be seen that "unearned increment" does not consist wholly in land. The trees of the forest were as free to the squatter as the land. There is in everything made by human ingenuity and industry a portion of "unearned increment"—something that is due wholly to the Benevolent Provider of all things. Therefore a large proportion of unearned increment in every house, barn, or other appearance of every owner of property. If the houses, barns, etc., be exempted from taxation, a large proportion of the unearned increment will be exempted. It is not practicable or possible to separate, for the purposes of taxation, things that are inextricably involved the one with the other. For all practical purposes nothing is valuable except that which has been made so by reason of the skill and industry of man. Neither the forest, nor the land upon which the forest stands, is practically of any value until man has made it so. The "unearned increment" is worth nothing without man's labor. Whether, therefore, you tax land, or buildings or personal property, the money must of necessity be paid out of the products of skill and industry. As to the "unearned increment" which proceeds from the labors of others than the possessors of the property which is enhanced in value, how is it possible to distinguish that, or to assess it for the purposes of taxation? In many cases the increased value is merely fictitious. For instance, the nominal value of property rose in this city and in other towns of the Province, as a result of the construction of the railway. The increased value really never existed, except in the imaginations of speculators anxious to make money. A school-house, a store, a forge, and a few other buildings, may be erected, and men may call them a village or a town, and the price of the neighboring property may be raised. But can the farmers in the neighborhood add to their products by reason of that fact or obtain their goods at less cost? If not, then the added value, the "unearned increment," is as nothing; and it would be wrong to tax the earners of the neighborhood, directly or indirectly, on account of it, while those who reside a little further away, and produce just as much under circumstances equally favorable, are left untaxed. We do not deny for a moment that the location and quality of land ought to be taken into consideration by those who are compelled to levy a tax. But we do maintain that farmers residing on poor land ought not to be mulcted in heavy taxes merely because they may happen to reside within a mile or two of a village or town. That a standard of value should be adopted in respect to the imposition of taxes, and that each man should pay according to his privileges and his ability, is true; but the Government will search long ere they find such an equitable standard in merely "unearned increment."

—The music at the Scott Act meetings is very good and very attractive; but does it tend to convince electors to vote for the Scott Act?

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

MONDAY, April 16.

House met at 4.15. The act respecting succession tax was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. H. C. Macdonald, the bill incorporating the Wood Islands Hall Company was referred back to the committee to make a small alteration. Ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

Mr. D. A. McKinnon moved the following resolution: That a committee of three members of this Assembly be appointed for the purpose of taking into consideration the adoption of a system of registering titles to land, and also a method of registering deeds and documents that will simplify the present system, and to devise, if possible, a plan whereby short forms of indentures will be in duplicate, and to especially improve upon the present plan of indexing the Registry of Deeds books and other general improvements in the Registry Office, such committee to report thereon as soon as convenient.

Mr. MacKinnon explained that while the present system of registration was safe it was hampered a good deal by old time usages, and in view of this latter fact he thought it would be advisable to appoint a committee for the purpose outlined in the resolution. The system he had in his mind was the Torrens system, which is in use in Australia and Ontario. Under that system, when a man once has his title examined he receives a certificate which entitles him to register. He hoped to see the day when such a system would be adopted here.

Mr. Rogers (Alberton) seconded the motion.

Hon. Mr. Peters explained the difference between the Torrens system and the one now in use here, pointing out the great outlay of money that the inauguration of the proposed system would entail. The Torrens system in a country like this is considered impracticable. It is in a new country, but here, where the search for titles to every piece of land would mean the expenditure of a tremendous sum of money, it seemed rather visionary. He was, however, happy to support a resolution that a committee be appointed.

Mr. Bell agreed with the Leader of the Government regarding the impracticability of the Torrens system here. He thought, however, that some improvement could be made in the law of registration as it exists here, and therefore supported the resolution.

Mr. Arlison Peters was also of the opinion that the Torrens system was impracticable on account of the expense. Mr. Gordon thought that after hearing the very clear explanation of the Leader of the Government regarding the proposed measure, it would be well to give the matter of the proposed change their most serious consideration. Perhaps it would be—

"Better to bear the ills we have Than fly to those we know not of." Our system is based on the English system, and he thought there were as good lawyers in England as could be found here. It would be better, perhaps, to let well enough alone.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson, after complimenting Mr. McKinnon for introducing the resolution, went on to remark that he preferred modern to old-time methods. He referred to the tremendous undertaking it would be for the Government to guarantee a title in every case, and spoke of the great outlay of money such a course would entail.

Mr. McKinnon again spoke in support of the resolution after which it was put and carried, the committee being Messrs. McKinnon, Rogers (Alberton) and Warburton.

The act incorporating the Tiron Dairy Company was read a second time in committee, Mr. Rogers (Alberton) in the chair. At six o'clock progress was reported and the House adjourned until ten o'clock on Tuesday forenoon.

TUESDAY, April 17. House met at 11.30. Mr. Wise introduced a bill incorporating the New Glasgow Dairy Company, which was read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Mr. Rogers (Charlottetown) introduced a bill to amend the Act of Incorporation of the City of Charlottetown, which was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Peters presented the report of the Hospital for the Insane for 1893. House resumed committee on the bill incorporating the Tiron Dairy Company, Mr. Rogers (Alberton) in the chair. Bill reported agreed to, and ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

Mr. Rogers (Charlottetown) moved that committee be resumed on the bill respecting the better collection of debts, entitled the "C. Collections Act, 1894," Mr. H. C. Macdonald in the chair. The bill was discussed by Hon. Mr. Peters, Mr. Bell, Mr. Warburton, Mr. A. Peters, Mr. Rogers (Charlottetown) Arsenault, Rogers (Alberton). Mr. Arsenault spoke strongly against the bill and moved that the Speaker take the chair. The motion was not seconded. Mr. Gordon also took strong ground against the bill.

Hon. Mr. Peters suggested that it would be better to let the intervention rest as it is in that section by the sting of the bill. Section 3 provides for the imprisonment of any person who obtained credit under false pretences, and he pointed out that this matter was already covered by the criminal law of the Dominion. There was provision made already for the punishment of debtors who fraudulently disposed of their property, and the provision regarding willful and malicious breaches of contract was also unnecessary. He said the bill would cause a good deal of litigation and would bear hardly upon the poor people.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

—A return asked for by Mr. Shaw shows that the disbursements of the Trinity Term of the Supreme Court, Charlottetown, 1893, were as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Juries' fees and expenses, Davies & Hazard, counsel fee and retainer, case Queen vs. A. C. Shaw, F. T. Worley horse hire for Grand Jury, Constable, Queen vs. Larter, O. B. Wallman, Myers vs. Mathew, Hazard & Moore, stationary Prothonotary's office and Sheriff's office, Queen's Co., Wm. Meikle, attendance 16 days, W. F. Best, chemical examination of the viscera of the late Miss McEachern, and attendance at court to give expert evidence.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes F. H. Home, sheriff, constable fees, Dr. W. Sheriff, sewing sulphur, H. C. McDonald, counsel fees in case of Queen vs. Larter, Witnesses' fees, Less jury fees, and Total.

GREAT SCOTT ACT MEETING.

The Opera House Crowded.

Good Speeches and Good Music.

Reasons Why to Vote "For the Petition."

The Scott Act meeting in the Opera House last evening was largely attended. When eight o'clock arrived the Hall was thronged, the gender sex being well and numerous represented. The chair was occupied by Hon. Donald Farquharson.

The proceedings opened with a chorus by the choir, after which the chairman made some preliminary remarks. He said that opponents of the Scott Act looked to the city, and the city only. But he looked to the country and to the interests of the country. He knew that in the days of license in the country young men learned to drink in the country tavern. But now they could scarcely get a drink in any place, except in the towns and villages, and a good effect is being made to wipe out these places. Notwithstanding the statements of the liquor people, he claimed that the Scott Act was a good law.

Every man and every woman had a duty to perform in enforcing the law, and if that Act is re-nacted on Thursday, he asked everyone to assist in its enforcement. The Legislature, as at present constituted, was not fit to pass all the time. If the vote taken is in favor of the Act, the Legislature would do all in its power to see that it was enforced.

Everybody seemed to think that it was wrong to sell liquor, and prohibition is the popular movement. Politicians, if they knew what is wise, will be on the popular side. The liquor people are looking to the Government to pass a license law in the event of the Scott Act being defeated. This is a popular movement with the poor tax-payer, as if \$2000 or \$3000 could be raised by means of a license that each would pay in taxes, but speaking for himself and a good many other members of the Legislature, he said they could not get a license law. "In my opinion," said "you will never see a license law in Charlottetown." Prohibition is the coming question, and we be to the politician who does not support it. He understood there was a good fund being prepared for the enforcing of the Scott Act, and he was speaking for Premier Peters he (Mr. Farquharson) said that if the people decided to re-adopt the Scott Act he would be the first man to use the public money to support it.

Rev. Mr. Corey warned the people to beware of taking a backward step. Let us go ahead. The prohibition plebiscite was a forward step. The Scott Act is a prohibitory measure but not in the sense that prohibition is. The chairman tells us that act does prohibit in the country, and what better authority do we want? In his wanderings through the country he (Mr. Corey) never found a place where it did not prohibit. The rumblers are doing a lot in the power to defeat the Act. They are spending more money than the Scott Act party. It was claimed that the Scott Act more rum was imported than since. He would not dispute this statement. But less was drunk over the large, perhaps it was drunk in the houses. He thought the fact that the Scott Act was a good liquor selling was a good argument in favor of the Act. He claimed that it was not the Scott Act that produced perjury; it was liquor and the sale of the diseased state of society. The Act was an educative measure, and should be re-nacted. He warned the people to beware of deception on the part of the liquor people. They would be led to believe that when a man votes against the Scott Act he votes in favor of license. This is not the issue. The issue is the Scott Act vs. Free Rum. He warned them also to beware of the money men who would lead the liquor people in this contest, and to beware of indifference. Indifference may be as detrimental to temperance as the opposition of its opponents; it may lead to election. Beware of putting the blame on someone else. Do not try to shift the responsibility from your own shoulders to the shoulders of some other person or persons. The editor of the "Examiner," in a recent article, asked what "they" were going to do in the matter of enforcing the Scott Act in the event of its being re-nacted on Thursday. He would reply to that editor, if you said "we," instead of "they," we would have the Scott Act on Thursday; if you had said "we" in 1891 we never would have lost the Act.

Mr. J. A. Davidson then sang "Where is my wandering boy to-night?" by special request.

Hon. B. Rogers (Alberton) referred to the importance of the question to be decided on Thursday evening, and the necessity of every elector doing his duty on that day and voting down the rum traffic. The issue was between purity, comfort, religion and sobriety on the one hand, and drunkenness, crime and an crime on the other. The issue is not between the Scott Act and license, but between the Scott Act and free rum. The advertisement of the liquor people was very misleading on this score. As a member of the Legislature, he could say that no matter what the decision may be on Thursday, license will not be granted. Every elector should be aware of this, with one exception, has already pronounced in favor of prohibition, and dare the Legislature grant a license in the face of this fact? Why, he asked, should a license be asked for the liquor business more than any other business? Why should it be restricted? He (Mr. Rogers) sold groceries, etc., and did not ask for a license. Every other trade and business of use to the community was the same. Why was the liquor trade excepted? Why should it be restricted? He (Mr. Rogers) should be asked for the liquor business more than any other business? Why should it be restricted? He (Mr. Rogers) sold groceries, etc., and did not ask for a license. Every other trade and business of use to the community was the same. Why was the liquor trade excepted? Why should it be restricted? He (Mr. Rogers) should be asked for the liquor business more than any other business? Why should it be restricted? He (Mr. Rogers) sold groceries, etc., and did not ask for a license. Every other trade and business of use to the community was the same. Why was the liquor trade excepted? Why should it be restricted? He (Mr. Rogers) should be asked for the liquor business more than any other business? Why should it be restricted? He (Mr. Rogers) sold groceries, etc., and did not ask for a license. 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