

The Colonial Secretary, on Tuesday last, submitted correspondence between the Government and the proprietors. Several of the latter have, as yet, made no reply to the overtures of the former.

MR. HAYTHORNE'S LETTER.

The New York Times was not loved by the Tammany Ring; the EXAMINER is not admired by the Hon. R. P. Haythorne; the Times exposed the Ring's gigantic swindles; the EXAMINER directed public attention to Mr. Haythorne's criminal blundering.

A letter, written by Mr. Haythorne, and directed to Mr. William Hooper, has been published. It may, or it may not, be the only epistle in which Mr. Haythorne threatens and cautions the Court of Appraisers. On this point we may be allowed the privilege of a doubt. But even if it is the only letter, it fully sustains the charges preferred in last week's EXAMINER. Those charges were drawn from and based on a letter, to which the name of EDWARD J. HODGSON was attached.

The true meaning of the letter which has been published, is partially obscured by the unctuous pliancy and politeness for which Mr. Haythorne is noted. It might not be discerned by a careless or disinterested reader; but by the Appraisers to whom it was addressed, it could not be mistaken. Mr. Haythorne wrote:

It is quite probable that very sufficient reasons can be assigned, in each case, for making the appraisements, and, if so, it would be well that the Council should be informed of them, because as members of Parliament, the members of Council will be called on to explain and defend the action of the appraisers.

The Court of Appraisers ought to be just as far removed from political influences as the Court of Assize. The Members of Council were really no more responsible for awards of the Appraisers than they were for the verdict of a jury or a decision of the Vice-Chancellor.

Consequently they were not called upon—they could not be called upon—to "explain" and "defend" the Appraisers. The Appraisers themselves were alone responsible for their awards. The awards were their acts. They were sworn to do justice between owners of property (who saw fit to appeal from the Railway Commissioners) and the Government.

They—and they alone—were accountable. Mr. Haythorne knew this right well; therefore, his intimation that "as Members of Parliament the Members of Council will be called upon," etc., can only be construed as an extortion and a threat. It was equivalent to saying, "Gentlemen, do be very careful about your awards; you know the Government is in a critical position; the Opposition is watchful and unscrupulous; they may bring us to task in Parliament; though I know you alone are responsible, still, if you continue giving such high prices, your acts may make us unpopular; we may lose control, and you may lose your offices, Gentlemen. I pray you be careful." Bear in mind that the appraisers were dependent upon Government,—that they were each and all zealous partisans; that some of them were overburdened with wealth,—and then imagine the effect of this letter upon them, unless they were sternly upright and honest men. We have not been favored with either the "embarrassments" or the advantages of a legal education; but we hazard the opinion that this letter of Mr. Haythorne is sufficient to invalidate every award made by the Appraisers subsequent to the day on which they received it.

Then, mark how blindly the following burning insult is conveyed:— "His Honor in Council is not unkindly of the fact that the Board of Appraisers are sworn to the faithful performance of their duties, and in what has been said, it is by no means intended to insinuate that your Board has been negligent of the public interests."

"Remember, sir, that you are upon your oath," says the insolent braggart to a suspicious witness. "His Honor in Council is not unkindly of the fact that the Board of Appraisers are sworn," are the mild words in which Mr. Haythorne touches this coarse reminder. That the Appraisers are darkly worded insult, is Mr. Haythorne's own. Doubtless they manifest from their lips, and their feelings would have expressed their indignation in plainer and stronger language had they not been needy dependents of the Government which they were addressing; but the sarcastic disdain of men who have been subjected to unmerited reproach and suspicion, finds vent when they—

Assure His Honor and Council that they never lose sight of the fact that they are sworn to the faithful performance of their duties; and they are pleased to find that it is by no means intended to insinuate that they have been negligent of the public interests.

It appears that Mr. Haythorne's letter was due to the representations of Hon. B. Davies, Chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners. Mr. Davies was dissatisfied with the Appraisers. They were not as nearly of his mind as they should be. His influence is not sufficiently great; perhaps the Government could exert a greater. He tells his troubles to the Premier, and the Premier sits down in a public office and writes the candidless letter which has been reviewed. The case is sufficiently clear. We do not for a moment impugn the honesty and independence of the gentlemen who formed the Board of Appraisers, when we state our belief that Mr. Haythorne's letter may have indirectly influenced their awards subsequent to its reception.

At a meeting of the Executive Council, held on the 18th November last, it was ordered that Circulars be addressed by the Colonial Secretary to the several proprietors of Township Land remaining unsold in this Island, enquiring at what price they will be prepared to sell the said property to the Government.

In pursuance of this order the following letter, or one to the like effect, was dispatched to proprietors of their agents:—

CHARLOTTETOWN, 28th Nov., 1873. Sir,—I have been directed by the Provincial Government to enquire and ascertain from you, at your earliest convenience, the lowest price per acre, in cash, at which your consent will be given to sell to the Government the Township lands in Prince Edward Island, including all arrears of rent due thereon.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, (Signed) GEORGE W. DEBLOIS, Colonial Secretary.

This letter was addressed to Hon. John Longworth, Agent for Viscount Melville; George W. DeBlois, Esq., Agent for Lady G. Fane; George W. DeBlois, Esq., Agent for Miss Sullivan; William Cundall, Esq.; Edward J. Hodgson, Esq., Agent for Colonel and Mrs. Cumberland; Miss Fanning and the devisees of Lady Wood; Robert Bruce Stewart, Esq.; H. J. Cundall, Esq., Agent for C. McDonald, Esq.; James F. Montgomery, Esq.; Alexander McLean, Esq., Agent for Rev. John McDonald; John R. Bourke, Esq., Agent for Messrs. Thompson; Miss Margaret Stewart; Sir Graham G. Montgomery, Baronet; Alexander McLean, Esq., Agent for the Rev. John Allister S. McDonald; Miss Eliza Cundall; H. J. Cundall, Esq.; the Hon. Donald Montgomery.

The following replies have been received:—

CHARLOTTETOWN, 21st December, 1873. Sir,—In reply to your communication of 28th November, I beg to say that I have never considered what price I would take for it. If the Provincial Government be really desirous to purchase my property, and will make me an offer standing the price they would be willing to pay for my acre, and what rate of discount upon the arrears of rent due to me they would expect me to allow them upon their paying me those arrears, I will be glad to accept of any offer, and give them an answer as to whether I will sell or not.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, (Signed) ROBERT BRUCE STEWART, Agent for Viscount Melville.

CHARLOTTETOWN, 21st December, 1873. Sir,—In reply to yours of the 23rd ult., wishing to ascertain from me, at my earliest convenience, the lowest price per acre, in cash, at which the Messrs. Thomson would sell their land to the Provincial Government, including all arrears of rent due to me, I beg to say that I have no objection to their selling their land to the Provincial Government, on receipt of which I shall advise you on the subject. At the same time, I would beg to say that the Provincial Government 500 acres of my own land on Lot 37, under lease and agreement, which I hereto annex.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, (Signed) JOHN A. McDONNELL, Agent for Miss C. Sullivan.

CHARLOTTETOWN, 20th January, 1874. Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd November last, enclosing a copy of that letter to my constituent, Miss Sullivan, and to inform you that I have no objection to her selling her property to the Provincial Government, on receipt of which I shall advise you on the subject. At the same time, I would beg to say that the Provincial Government 500 acres of my own land on Lot 37, under lease and agreement, which I hereto annex.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, (Signed) GEORGE W. DEBLOIS, Agent for Miss C. Sullivan.

CHARLOTTETOWN, 20th January, 1874. Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that, immediately upon the receipt of your letter of the 23rd November last, I enclosed a copy of that letter to my constituent, Miss Sullivan, and to inform you that I have no objection to her selling her property to the Provincial Government, on receipt of which I shall advise you on the subject. At the same time, I would beg to say that the Provincial Government 500 acres of my own land on Lot 37, under lease and agreement, which I hereto annex.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, (Signed) GEORGE W. DEBLOIS, Agent for Miss C. Sullivan.

CHARLOTTETOWN, 24th February, 1874. Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 28th November, 1873, enquiring at what price I would be prepared to sell to the Government my lands in this Island, including arrears of rent.

I am, yours, &c., (Signed) EDWARD BAYFIELD, Attorney-at-Law.

(The schedule to which reference is made by Mr. Bayfield, shows the rental of 663 acres amounting to £36 16s. 10d. It does not specify the arrears due.)

To reply, I beg to state, that I am one of the proprietors, consenting to the terms of the Bill, and to provide for the trial of controverted elections by Judges of the Supreme Court, was introduced to the Legislature, by the Colonial Secretary, on Thursday last. It is a very stringent measure. It provides that, if any candidate be proved guilty of bribery or corruption at an election—if he shall offer an elector money, office, "rum," or any other consideration whatever, in return for a vote—the election shall be void, the candidate shall forfeit the privilege of the franchise, he shall not be permitted to sit in the Legislature, and he shall be shut out from any and every office of honor or emolument under Government for a period of eight years after the commission of the offence. If an agent shall attempt to induce an elector to vote "for a consideration"—in case conviction be proved between the candidate and the agent—the election shall be void, and both shall be subject to the disabilities before enumerated. In case conviction cannot be proved, then the election may stand, and the agent only shall be placed under the disabilities of the law. On the other hand, if an elector shall be proved guilty of receiving a bribe, or of being corrupted in any other way, he shall be disfranchised, and precluded from sitting in the legislature, or taking an office under Government for a period of eight years. The tribunal before which a contested election will (if the bill become law) hereafter be tried, will be, as far as possible, impartial. A Judge of the Supreme Court will hear the evidence, decide the dispute, and award punishment to the guilty. The measure appears to be very complete; and we trust that no amendment which may render it futile will be offered by the Opposition. The desire of the Government is that a healthy public opinion may find expression at the polls, and that honest men may be returned to represent the interests of the Island in our Legislature.

I hold on Lot Twenty (20) forty-one farms, containing 3014 acres, all granted on long leases, viz:—of their respective lots, 2527, 26, 3014 acres, my Town-plot land is leased. The arrears of rent due on the last annual rent day amount to \$1276.61. The amount will stand as follows:—

15 years purchase \$557.26 \$28,358.90 Arrears to last rent day 1276.61 \$9,635.51

I beg respectfully to be allowed to state that after the expiration of ten years, I shall not hold myself bound to the present terms. I have, &c., (Signed) W. W. CUNDALL, Colonial Secretary.

CHARLOTTETOWN, 21st February, 1874. Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 28th November last, as also one of a later date addressed to me as agent for W. W. McDonald, Esq., of Montreal.

In reply, I beg to say, with regard to the Winstole Estate: 1st, That I am agent for Sydney T. Evans, and Amelia Evans, his wife, in Montserrat, G. B., and Guardian of the infant children of the late Alfred Winstole, though the papers are not yet in my possession and residing in Charlottetown.

2d, That I transmitted a copy of your communication to Mr. Evans, and received a reply that for his son's 1000 acres on Lot 33, he will take £1250 sterling.

3d, That with regard to Mrs. Evans's property, he could not get her to name a price for her land.

4th, That, in viewing the peculiar situation of the rest of the above mentioned estates, it would be premature for me to attempt to express my opinion as to the lowest price at which the said estates could or ought to be purchased.

With regard to the estate of W. W. McDonald, Esq., I beg to say that I forwarded to him a copy of your communication to me, but, up to this date, had received no reply thereto.

I have, &c., (Signed) H. J. CUNDALL, Colonial Secretary.

CHARLOTTETOWN, 21st February, 1874. Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 19th inst., relative to the purchase of my Township lands by the Provincial Government.

In reply, I beg to say— 1st, That my property on Lot 20, though a very small one, for fertility of soil and natural advantages, is exceeded by few in the Island.

2d, That it consists of 1204 acres, all leased—the annual rental being £70 2s. 7d., or \$227.51, and the arrears at this date being \$48.88.

3d, That the lowest cash price which I will take for the said 1204 acres of land, including all arrears, is \$4286.00, currency—this amount, less the aforesaid arrears, being a principal sum which I will accept of, and yield interest equal to the annual rental.

4th, That the said arrears can easily be collected, and should any payments on account thereof be made, I will be glad to accept of them, and the amount thereof will be deducted from the said amount of \$4286.00.

5th, That inasmuch as all arrears were small, and as the rent reserved is small, compared with the quality of the soil, I do not feel under any obligation to forego my claim for arrears on any part thereof.

6th, That on the above terms, I am ready to convey to the Government the said property at any time.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

A Bill to prevent bribery and corruption at elections, and to provide for the trial of controverted elections by Judges of the Supreme Court, was introduced to the Legislature, by the Colonial Secretary, on Thursday last. It is a very stringent measure. It provides that, if any candidate be proved guilty of bribery or corruption at an election—if he shall offer an elector money, office, "rum," or any other consideration whatever, in return for a vote—the election shall be void, the candidate shall forfeit the privilege of the franchise, he shall not be permitted to sit in the Legislature, and he shall be shut out from any and every office of honor or emolument under Government for a period of eight years after the commission of the offence. If an agent shall attempt to induce an elector to vote "for a consideration"—in case conviction be proved between the candidate and the agent—the election shall be void, and both shall be subject to the disabilities before enumerated. In case conviction cannot be proved, then the election may stand, and the agent only shall be placed under the disabilities of the law. On the other hand, if an elector shall be proved guilty of receiving a bribe, or of being corrupted in any other way, he shall be disfranchised, and precluded from sitting in the legislature, or taking an office under Government for a period of eight years. The tribunal before which a contested election will (if the bill become law) hereafter be tried, will be, as far as possible, impartial. A Judge of the Supreme Court will hear the evidence, decide the dispute, and award punishment to the guilty. The measure appears to be very complete; and we trust that no amendment which may render it futile will be offered by the Opposition. The desire of the Government is that a healthy public opinion may find expression at the polls, and that honest men may be returned to represent the interests of the Island in our Legislature.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

On Monday last the Assembly presented its address in answer to the Administrator's speech. On the same day, a bill relating to guarantees on public securities, was introduced, and read a first time. It provides that officials who have to give bonds for the honest and faithful performance of their duties, may be permitted to obtain, as security, the guarantee of any Company organized for the purpose, instead of being compelled, as heretofore, to obtain "recognizers" from among relatives or friends. This will be an improvement on the old system. For a small sum an official may obtain bonds which will really be more binding than those of private individuals, no matter how wealthy they may be; and he will be relieved from the necessity of being 'under a compliment' to friends. On Tuesday, a bill was introduced by the Attorney General, to alter and amend the Act incorporating the Charlottetown Gas Light Company. In the course of a short discussion which followed, Hon. B. Davies suggested the appointment of a supervisor of gas and gas-meters. The suggestion, we think, a good one. Gas-meters, Mr. Davies truly said, will sometimes get out of order, and had gas occasionally be furnished. In other cities, men who understand gas-meters, and the way to test gas, are appointed by the City Corporation to protect the interests of citizens. Charlottetown is not too small to sustain such an officer. On Wednesday, several petitions were submitted, unimportant Bills introduced, and other business transacted. On Thursday, the Colonial Secretary introduced a Bill for the prevention of corrupt practices at elections. To this Bill allusion is made elsewhere. On Friday, the House went into Committee of the Whole, to consider the correspondence between Government and the proprietors. Hon. Attorney General submitted a resolution to the effect that, as the replies of Proprietors are unsatisfactory, and the prices they have named for their lands too high, it is expedient to pass a law to compel them to sell their lands "at such prices as may be awarded for the same by arbitrators impartially selected." During the discussion, Hon. B. Davies brought up the old threadbare subject of a Court of Escheat. On Saturday, the Colonial Secretary introduced a bill to provide for the Independence of Parliament. Dr. Jenkins presented a petition for a grant to aid in a search, by boring or sinking a shaft, for coal and minerals. He supplemented the petition with a short speech. He suggested that a grant of £1000 made by the Legislature many years ago, be now applied to the purpose for which it was intended. The Commissioner of Crown Lands, and Mr. Campbell, member for New London, favored the prayer of the petition. It was laid on the table. Dr. Jenkins also presented a petition from Rev. J. Davies, Artesian Lord, and other residents of this city, praying for the repeal of a section in the Act relating to the new Protestant Cemetery for Charlottetown. The petitioners set forth that the place of burial should not be more than one mile from the city proper, and that the new cemetery is three and a half miles, and they desire that the old graveyard, on Malpeque Road, be again opened, till better arrangements are made. Several Bills were read a third time, and ordered to be sent up to the Legislative Council. Some time was spent in discussing the Bill to prevent corrupt practices at elections.

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6th, That on the above terms, I am ready to convey to the Government the said property at any time.

FREE TRADE vs PROTECTION.

From the Halifax Citizen, March 12. It is rather a mournful commentary upon the mission of the schoolmaster that we should be obliged in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and in an intelligent British Colony, to seriously argue the question of Free Trade vs. Protection. It is now ninety-eight years since Adam Smith gave the world the first full and able exposition of the advantages of Free Trade, and during the greater part of the period, extending from 1776 to the present time, the subject has been discussed in all its bearings by the various writers on political economy. It is perfectly safe for us to say that the overwhelming weight of authority is against the advantages claimed for protection. At this late date, however, it would seem that a new generation has grown up "which knew not Joseph," which has apparently not read the works of the political economists who have followed Adam Smith, and which is disposed to forget everything but the fact that protection is intended to give increased profits to the manufacturer.

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