

Chignecto Post.

Sackville, N. B., April 5, 1877.

The Council Elections.

No matter how beneficial Municipal system may be in principle, very much depends upon the manner in which the Act is administered. If ignorant, selfish, or extravagant men are elected and hold a majority at the Council Board, what guarantee is there that the people's money will not be voted away on all kinds of pretexts and for all kinds of unproper purposes, and that in fact things will not be formed to carry on systematically log-rolling and axe grinding at the expense of the rate-payers? There is no guarantee except in the economy and honesty of the members of the Council. Upon the business ability and economical principles of the members of the council depend entirely the successful carrying out of the measure and the proper expenditure of the County funds. We are led to make these remarks because too often the public are led to elect to positions of honor, men who have no merit of their own, beyond being a bar-room pet, a popular fellow with the crowd or a street corner demagogue and thus exercising a certain sort of popularity. If such men are elected to the Council, the people will pay dearly for it in the end. The very best business ability that can be found in the County ought to be sent to the Council, and we trust that no considerations will impel the election of second rate or inferior men, or men lacking a successful experience.

We understand that a number of leading rate-payers have asked Amos Ogden and J. L. Black, Esqrs., to put themselves in nomination for this Parish. Should they do so, as it now seems probable, and be elected, Sackville will be well served. Mr. Ogden possesses superior business qualifications and besides has a more intimate knowledge of Parish affairs than any other man, and will bring to the Council Board an experience that cannot but prove beneficial to the County's interests. His colleague, Mr. Black, as Chairman of the County Audit Committee has been for years the most prominent and active, if not the most useful, member of the Sessions. That Court has not failed on several occasions to express his deep obligation to him for his labors in checking expenditure and auditing accounts, and the tax-payers of the County owe him much for his efforts in keeping down expenditure by the rigid supervision he has exercised. During the first year the By-laws of the Municipality have to be prepared, books opened, and the municipal business organized and worked systematized for future years. This is a work for which Messrs. Ogden and Black are peculiarly well qualified to perform as by reason of their business principles, and as by their economical principles, and as by their ability to be entrusted with it with the confident assurance it would be well performed. To put into successful operation, a difficult and extensive piece of machinery as a County Municipality is, would require a good deal of time and the closest attention, and while no doubt Messrs. Ogden and Black would feel it something of a compliment to be tendered the positions in question, we believe the tax-payers would have reason to congratulate themselves in making such a selection.

The Nova Scotia government has its hands full of troubles. The Western Counties Railway and the Great Seal are not the least of its difficulties. It is hinted that something has gone wrong in the Educational department. What is wrong is only yet a matter of conjecture. The *Reporter* and *Citizen*, both government papers, call for a rigid investigation. It is now also stated that the financial statement of the Provincial Secretary is deceptive, and that instead of having a surplus revenue, a close scrutiny of the public accounts shows that in 1875 there was a deficit; that this deficit was doubled in 1876; that the Road Advances (\$80,000) which the Government professed to rely on to pay off a portion of the deficit cannot be obtained this year; and that the Government in their income have included the certain items of the Revenue for 1878. The *Reporter* asserts the deficit for 1875 was \$57,544; for 1876, \$121,781.

The *Chronicle* made charges last week against Mr. Woodworth of apparently a very serious character. In the Public Accounts appears this item: "D. B. Woodworth, Grant of 1876, Kings Co., \$900."

The grant was for Navigation Securities and should, Mr. Woodworth's accusers say, only be paid by the Government on certified accounts after the issuing of commissions to the persons who are to expend it. Mr. Woodworth made application for the sum in April last, and enforced his application by telling a plausible story that the grant was to be appropriated for work which could at that moment be done under very favorable conditions if he had the money to place in the hands of the commissionaires at once, so that advantage could be taken of a favorable opportunity to purchase material. Mr. Woodworth promised that the money was to be expended in the usual way and the vouchers deposited in due season, and the money was not to be expended until the present moment. It seems that Mr. Woodworth drew the money without the knowledge or approval of his colleague.

It is not known whether the money was really expended or not. The

singular part of the business is that Secretary Hill has taken up the cudgels in his opponent's defence against the attack of his own organ. He stated in the House on Monday that he regretted the attack deeply; that Mr. W. had acted most honorably; that he received from Mr. W. vouchers for over \$500 of the money, and believed there was a commission outstanding for \$150 more. The balance, \$180, was on deposit, bearing interest.

The *Chronicle* still sticks to the charges and demands an investigation. The local Government appears to be almost without an organ; the *Chronicle*, *Citizen* and *Reporter* are showing signs of rebellion.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION in this Province, which has stirred up so much strife the past few years, really appears to be settled, on terms that are to be honorable alike to Bishop Sweeney and the authorities. The basis adopted in St. John is that the Catholic schools are to come under the control of the School Board, and work in harmony with the law. The premises heretofore in use for the schools will be leased to the School Board for school purposes. Catholic teachers only are to be employed. We understand these teachers are to be examined and licensed, as the law prescribes for all teachers; and the school books sanctioned by the educational authorities are to be used in these schools, and said books are to be open to regular inspection as required by law. It is, however, understood that before and after school hours religious instruction may be imparted to pupils in said schools.

Tax Cases in South Carolina have passed away. The President has directed the removal of the troops on the 10th inst. from the State Capital. These troops sustained the authority of the Republican Carpet bagger Governor Chamberlain. When they are gone, the Democratic Governor Wade Hampton will take possession. The situation in Louisiana remains unchanged. —Nicholls and Packard both still claiming the Governor. President Hayes' disposition seems to be to recognize Nicholls, (Democratic) who was undoubtedly elected by nearly 9,000 majority, but as Packard holds the Governorship by the same right, Hayes holds the Presidency, naturally he cannot see his way clearly to pronounce his own election a fraud. Every day makes the position more threatening.

CORRECTION.—Our issue of 22nd ult., contained a paragraph respecting the death of the late Hon. J. D. Beaubien, an eminent M. D., of Ottawa. Mr. G. F. Baillarge, (the Asst. Chief Engineer) writes to us on 28th as follows:—

"I beg to give you the most positive assurance that the death of Dr. Beaubien, which occurred at the time of his death, which occurred very suddenly, an hour or a little more, after his return from the bedside of one of his numerous patients. He was highly esteemed here by all classes on account of his great integrity and ability in his profession. The sick and poor have lost in him a benefactor, and one of their best friends. His funeral was held on the 24th inst. and was attended by a large number of persons, and part of the funeral expenses was paid by the City Water Works Commission, in recognition of his valuable services, as one of its most active members, during several years."

PARLIAMENTARY.

—Mr. Domville made a most telling speech against the last loan of the Finance Minister. He showed that for \$3,000,000 worth of Australian bonds, sold in London by tender, realized 92½ p. c., thus refuting the Minister's assertion that such a figure could not be obtained for bonds. Our bonds bought, sold at fixed rates, less than 91, demonstrating most clearly the impolicy of fixed prices and very clearly how the country lost by Mr. Cartwright's imbecile policy nearly \$500,000.—*From Correspondent.*

It is now the intention of the Opposition to defeat if possible the extra duty on malt and tea.

—On 29th ult., on the Bill to transfer the Victoria Branch Railway to the New Glasgow line, Hon. Mr. Mitchell moved to reserve to the Government free of cost the absolute right of transporting coal for the use of the I.C.R. This he considered necessary to prevent a monopoly of coal in the Spring Hill Co's. His amendment was lost, 44 to 88.

The Secret Service Money Committee's proceedings excite a good deal of interest. Sir John A. Macdonald in his testimony says he told Mr. Langton, the Dominion Auditor at the time of the resignation of the late Ministry, of the balance on hand and that two claims were still pending. Mr. Mackenzie in his evidence declared that,

In the fall of 1875 Mr. Langton came to me and said that a very unexpected thing had turned out, and that he had been told that Sir John Macdonald had had \$25,000 Secret Service money, which he had refunded; I expressed my amazement at this, and he said he really did not know that he had no conception of it until Sir John Macdonald told him.

Mr. Langton in reply to Dr. Tupper, said that after the resignation of the late Ministry he had a conversation with Sir John Macdonald, in which he told him that there was a balance of Secret Service money remaining, and that there were two standing claims. He did not mean to say that it was an unexpected addition to the revenue. He did not mean to say that it was an unexpected matter to him, and was of opinion that he had mentioned his conversation with Sir John Macdonald to Mr. Mackenzie.

Mr. Mackenzie—You stated that to meet witness felt quite certain he did not know that this should be the case without my knowing it; he said he really did not know that he had no conception of it until Sir John Macdonald told him.

the claim for which Mr. Campbell was responsible had not been adjusted. The sum claimed was much larger than that first paid, and he delayed for the purpose of saying as much money as possible.

Mr. Black—Did I understand you to say the proper course under the circumstances was to obtain an order-in-council for the payment of the sum?

Sir John—As things have turned out this would have been the better way. This discussion before the Public Accounts Committee would then have been avoided. He had just been told by one of his colleagues that he was authorized at that meeting to settle these claims.

Mr. Black—I suppose the Council gave nothing but a verbal authorization?

Sir John—Yes.

Mr. Black—How long before your resignation did this meeting take place?

Sir John—Only two or three days before; I cannot state exactly, but it was in the course of the winding up of our affairs.

Mr. Black—Was that the usual authority for settling these claims?

Sir John stated that the Secret Service money had been handed over to the sub-committee.

Mr. Black—Was it usual to obtain authority?

Sir John—No, but you must consider the circumstances of the case. We were anticipating immediate resignation of office.

Mr. Black—Then in contemplation of resignation special pains were taken to obtain authority from the resigning Minister? (Laughter.)

Sir John replied that it was merely done as a matter of caution, as they were settling their House in order.

Sir John then made the remark that he had not seen clean, to which Mr. Black retorted by saying that it depended upon what kind of sweeping they had before them. (Laughter.)

—Hon. Mr. Mackenzie's lawyers have entered actions for libel against the *Toronto Mail* on nine different counts, covering the publication of an article in which the *Mail* had charged that as many as fifty different malicious and injurious slanders against the Premier.

—The *Mail* on Saturday published five columns of a reply of the publishers of the *Montreal Gazette*, filed to the declaration of Hon. S. H. Huntington, who sued them for libel. The defendants go into a detailed account of the scandalous and disgraceful transactions in connection with Mr. Huntington's famous Copper Mines matter, and bring out most startling and painful disclosures, affecting not only the character of a Minister of the Crown, but calculated to demolish the last belief in the sincerity of those who in 1873 were blatant champions of Purity. The publication of these facts have fallen like a wet blanket on the Ministerial camp, and has struck terror into the hearts of the Grits.—*Halifax Herald.*

—Senator Miller will sue the *Ottawa Free Press* for copying an editorial of the *Halifax Citizen*, in which Mr. Miller and Bourinot are charged with deliberately selling themselves out to the interests of the Copper Mines. The *Free Press* refuses any retraction or reparation.

—On Tuesday Sir A. T. Galt replied to Mr. Mills, and contends that as the United States markets are closed to us, we are entitled to a tariff on the tariff, to be remitted on a basis of incidental protection.

—On 4th, the chairman of the Secret Service Committee presented a report for signature recommending that the Government should recover \$5,000 improperly paid by Sir John A. Macdonald. It also censured Auditor General Langton for not informing the Government that the \$82,000 was laying in the bank.

Correspondence.

The "Northern Light."

DEAR POST:—The *St. John News*, in a late issue, in speaking of the "Northern Light," says she has solved the problem of communication by steam during winter by the Prince Edward Island and the Continent, "and in doing so has played a part that will hereafter be remembered." The *News* must be unacquainted with the difficulties that attend the project.

All who understand the ice in these Straits, are aware that any attempt to establish permanent steam communication between the Island and the Continent in winter, must prove abortive. If the ice were stationary and of uniform thickness, the difficulty would be less, but this is not the case. It first forms in "fields" or "pans," by contra winds and currents, with great force; these "pans" are brought into collision; piling up huge hummocks from ten to twenty feet high. As the winter advances, the heavier ice from higher latitudes is driven into the Straits, some of it in large bergs frequently grounding in seven to nine fathoms of water (the present break in the telegraph cable is, no doubt, owing to this cause). These bergs, driven by the currents, and coming into contact with the "pan" ice, break and pile up the "pan" in immense heaps. In still weather, like distant thunder, the rumbling of these terrific collisions is heard for miles. During winter, for much of the time, the ice is so heavy that, when crossing with the ice-boat, the boat-men are obliged to haul their boat hither and thither for miles to avoid the hummocks over which it is impossible to pass.

In the face of all this, why waste the people's money in attempting to establish steam communication? but the *News* says, "The success achieved by the 'Northern Light,' etc." 'Tis true this boat has made several trips, but the public may not be aware of the circumstances under which she did the work. In a stormy night, dated St. John's, Nfld., March 1st, to the *Weekly Gazette*, Montreal, the writer, speaking of the Sea Fishery, said: "The season is remarkably open and is considered very favorable, as no ice has yet appeared and the harbors and bays are all clear (the latter are mine). Sailing vessels are allowed to leave to-day, and will get a good chance of reaching the seals before the steamers, which cannot start till the 10th. The 'oldest inhabitant' fails to recollect such a month of February as that which has closed. The thermometer is rarely more than a few degrees below freezing point." What this writer says of the winter

in Nfld., applies here. Almost without a precedent, southerly or westerly winds have prevailed, clearing a way for the *Northern Light*. These winds made her trips; any boat could have done the same. When the track was packed with ice, she failed. Had the winds (as is usual in most winters) prevailed from the opposite direction her track must have been packed with ice such as I have described. Many thousands of dollars that will in all probability be spent in experimenting on this useless undertaking would have been saved to the Dominion.

Can a few trips made under such circumstances be called a "success"? I answer most emphatically, No!!! If by experiments of the "Northern Light" it were shown that in her or in some improved model or appliance, the difficulties of a more severe winter could be overcome, then, and only then, could she do the work and there would be no delay, but there would be no certainty. A prosperous passage or two might for a short time turn the current of travel in that channel: to maintain disaster and disappointment. The present route of the "Northern Light" is from one to two hundred and thirty miles from that of the ice-boat. Any attempt by steam should be made near the track of the ice-boat, so that when steam failed the ice-boat could be used, and there would be no delay, but there would be no certainty. A prosperous passage or two might for a short time turn the current of travel in that channel: to maintain disaster and disappointment. 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