

THE PROTESTANT AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS

WEEKLY CALENDAR—APRIL

Full Moon, 5th day, 5h. 47m., evening.
Last Quarter, 13th day, 8h. 21m., evening.
New Moon, 21st day, 1h. 32m., morning.
First Quarter, 29th day, 10h. 32m., morning.

Table with columns: DAY, DAY WEEK, SUN, High Water, Moon, Day's Height. Rows for Sunday through Saturday.

LEGISLATIVE DEBATES

REVISION BILL

(Continued from our last.)

Monday, March 5, 1880.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Mr. DAVEN—I do not attribute selfish motives to the hon. member for Princeton. Mr. Sinclair is in no danger of making his constituents, who are undoubtedly very popular among his constituents, who returned him at the head of the poll. The residents of the District naturally feel aggrieved at the coming of a distance and voting on property of little value; but it will not do to make a distinction in the individual case of Princeton. Although I believe that Summerside would be the principal place in the county, by no means follows that Princeton is to be considered as of no importance. It possesses the finest harbor in the North side of the island, and the increase of the Fisheries must contribute to its advancement. No sufficient reasons have been adduced in support of the hon. member's views. For a long time Princeton will be found worth 40s per annum. A vote in that District resident in Charlottetown would be the sale of the value of his lot, and to carry out the plan proposed, an official appraisal would be necessary, or a great amount of false swearing would result.

Hon. Mr. HAVLAND—The hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, said that these lots in Princeton were not worth more than 1s. 6d. each. I defy him to get a Town Lot in Georgetown, which I represent, for less than 210, and he would find some difficulty in purchasing at that price. Hon. Mr. SPEAKER—Princeton has more land of good quality than Georgetown, and its situation is one of the best in the island; and it is not entitled to the designation of a swamp. Last year several Americans visited it, and expressed themselves very warmly in praise of the place as a station for the prosecution of the Fisheries. I am, indeed, surprised that the hon. member should disparage the place which he represents; but when that hon. member has done so, I cannot be surprised that the privileges of the constituents should be transferred to other parts of the County.

Hon. Col. GALT—If we are to legislate merely with regard to the present, I might be inclined to support the hon. member, Mr. Sinclair; but we must have regard to the probabilities of the future. It would be an act of injustice to disfranchise Princeton because at present the value of the lots there is small. Although Summerside is now in advance of Princeton, I consider that a brilliant future awaits the latter place. As I stated on a previous occasion, its material prosperity will be enhanced when the Atlantic Railway shall be completed, and then the privileges of the constituents should be transferred to other parts of the County.

Mr. SINCLAIR—When I introduced the amendment this morning, I had no idea that I should be regarded as a traitor and indignation on my head. I supposed the matter would be argued on principle, and that no unworthy motives would be imputed. I have been charged with bringing the question forward in the interest of Princeton, where my property is situated. I am not so desirous of real estate in this House as to seek it by unworthy means. I moved the amendment because, as a matter of justice, I felt it was unfair that non-residents should have the power of dividing the electors in the hands of a large majority of the resident electors. The hon. member, Mr. Pope, has not on all occasions shown himself so earnest a supporter of the interests of Princeton, as he has shown himself to be in this case. He has suffered to be sacrificed in favor of Queen's County. I have been misrepresented as having argued in favor of disfranchising Princeton, while my only object was to make the electors of that County equal to those of other counties, and I would be content to support 20s. as the annual value of a lot in which a non-resident should vote. It is unfair to deprive Princeton of privileges enjoyed by other parts of the County, and to give them to the residents of other parts of the County.

Hon. Mr. WHEATMAN opposed the amendment, as making an exception from the general law in respect of Princeton, and it would operate unjustly on voters resident in King's and Queen's Counties.

Hon. Mr. LAZAR coincided with the last speaker. It would be inadvisable to make the distinction in the case of Princeton. Lots may be very valuable which produce no annual return to the owners.

Mr. OREN—It was wrong to deprive owners of property in Princeton of their franchise. The hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, must be satisfied by selfish motives in seeking their disfranchisement. I am not in favor of having the hon. member defeated at the hustings, and afterwards Lot 19 was added to Princeton and Royalty.

Mr. BURNETT agreed with Mr. Oren. He was not disposed to believe in the disfranchisement of Princeton, as he was not in favor of the hon. member, Mr. Sinclair. His belief in that gentleman's sincerity was otherwise shaken by what transpired in the House the other day, when referring to a charge he had publicly made against the hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, in his injurious through feelings of animosity to his opponents in the House. That hon. member had expressed contempt for the hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, and applied to him, by name, as a traitor, and that he had no objection to Mr. Sinclair's having had the power. If, as has been said, the hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, objected to the addition of Lot 19 to Princeton, he would be disposed to believe in his sincerity, if he had moved to throw off Lot 19. The actual notice appeared to be the impression that there were too many non-resident conservative voters for Princeton to suit the hon. member. He hoped that gentleman's conscience would view his conduct fairly, and regard him according to the merits of his case.

Hon. Mr. OREN answered the hon. member, by reminding him that the hon. member, Mr. Havland, on the introduction of the Bill, had objected to the increase of the number of electors, by the hon. member, Mr. Oren, was a supporter of his. Why then did they not reduce it to 24, the original number? The hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, was justified in the promise he had pursued in claiming that the property qualification should be of some value. He had no intention to disfranchise Princeton. As to what had been said about Americans settling there, it should be borne in mind that not being British subjects, they would have no right to vote. There was no use in arguing the matter any length, as there was a majority prepared to vote the change. The amendments would have the effect of reducing the value of the lots. The amendments would be rejected. The hon. member, Mr. Havland, would be connected with the fishing business would be built; and if the railroad referred to, connecting Princeton with Summerside, the former would be the most eligible fishing station on the island. The original conditions for grants of Town Lots were, that they should be built on—of Pasture Lots, they should be cleared, and some have been reserved for non-residents with these conditions.

Hon. Col. GALT had been misinformed by the hon. member of the opposition. He was well aware that

American Citizens could not vote at our elections. He was happy to perceive that hon. member agreed with him as to the future prospects of Princeton.

Mr. OREN—The hon. member, Mr. Oren, had asked why he had not sought to throw off Lot 19 from Princeton. The answer was, that the value of Lot 19 was not so great as he supposed. The hon. member, Mr. Oren, had asked why he had not sought to throw off Lot 19 from Princeton. The answer was, that the value of Lot 19 was not so great as he supposed.

Mr. HAVLAND was in favor of the clause, as simplifying the election law, and tending to prevent the loss of time consumed last year in settling contested elections.

Hon. Mr. POPE—The addition of Lot 19 to Princeton, and the increase of members to 20, was merely a political dodge to secure the vote of the hon. member, Mr. Oren, and to secure the vote of the hon. member, Mr. Oren, and to secure the vote of the hon. member, Mr. Oren.

Hon. Mr. OREN—Princeton County had a just cause of complaint at the slight which the Government had put on it in the last appointment to the Legislative Council.

Hon. Mr. LAZAR—The hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, said that these lots in Princeton were not worth more than 1s. 6d. each. I defy him to get a Town Lot in Georgetown, which I represent, for less than 210, and he would find some difficulty in purchasing at that price.

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the disposition of the polling places should form the subject of a separate clause, after members should have had an opportunity of deliberation on the subject.

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