

POOR DOCUMENT

THE WEEKLY HERALD

CHARLES H. LEWIS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
FREDERICTON, N. B., JUNE 8, 1882.

Freeing the Month.

Let it be granted, as the Tories claim, that the surplus taxation will pay for the subsidy to the Pacific Railway Syndicate within half a score of years. Does not this prove a little more than the Tories want to establish? The people of the older provinces need not be, and are not so exceedingly anxious about this railway that they want to have the privilege of paying for it. Under a wise policy the road would have been constructed as rapidly as there was any need for, at a price within the limits of reason, and the payment for its construction would have fallen upon the people who will be the most benefited by it, that is the millions who are to fill up the West. The immediate effect of the construction of this road upon the eastern provinces is to depopulate them, to unsettle the value of property and to drain off capital, which ought to be kept in them. No man can deny that the eastern provinces would be better off for the next ten years if this road was never begun; yet at the same time not many persons object to its construction, looking at the matter from a national point of view. But if it had been put to the people in 1878 that they would have to bear a tax sufficient to enable the government to pay a foreign Syndicate \$25,000,000 of a bonus for taking the railway off the hands of the government—we say a bonus for the land grant and the completed portions of the road would have secured the construction of the prairie section—the vote of the constituencies would have been nearly unanimous against such a proposition. Yet this is what the Tories have done, and they boast of it. We do not say that the unnecessary taxation imposed has amounted to \$25,000,000. Dr. we beg pardon, the lawyer fellow called Harry Tuck puts it at \$13,000,000 in five years, and as he is deep in the secrets of the government he ought to know, and the Minister of Finance said in Parliament that any change in the tariff would be in the direction of further protection, or in other words further taxation. So that by the time the Syndicate want the whole of their \$25,000,000, the amount will have been squeezed out of the people, who will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have built, paid for and given away a great railway, with great privileges, monopolies and exemptions; that in addition they have given millions of dollars as an inducement to the Syndicate to accept the gift; and paid it out of their own pockets instead of permitting it to be paid by the people who are to get what benefit may come from the vast outlet.

THE LOCAL CONTEST IN YORK.

Late advices from the country are to the effect that the Hon. Mr. Colter's effort to carry Mr. Wetmore into the Legislature is really an untried man. His legislative career is short and he has had the advantage of being able to lean upon Mr. Fraser for support. The people, however, were very well pleased with the manner in which he conducted himself, and whether he was in the Government or out of it, there was no disposition on the part of any one to prevent his return for another term. He owed his elevation in the first place to the strong feeling of hostility which existed in the country to the Tory clique which surrounded Mr. Fraser. The electors, therefore, naturally rebel against the idea of having to take another candidate who is put forward as the legitimate successor of Mr. Fraser, in the exercise of patronage by divine right. They will take Mr. Colter willingly enough, because he is a representative of the farming interests and a gentleman without strong prejudices or inclined to claim too much for himself; but they object to Mr. Wetmore, not because he is personally objectionable, but because he is the candidate and the representative of an ultra-Tory and thoroughly exclusive clique, which almost forced him into the field as their last hope for retaining their hold upon the local patronage. A correspondent quaintly writes, "Mr. Wetmore don't look well on horseback. He is not a graceful rider, and he pulls too hard on the bit. If he don't look out his horse will have to throw him for self protection." The Chief Commissioner will probably be too loyal to his promises to leave Mr. Wetmore to shift for himself; but we hear from many quarters that the idea of Mr. Wetmore, a Barrister of many years standing and a Queen's Counsel, playing the part of follower to Mr. Colter, who only the other day was almost unknown outside of his own neighborhood, is a little the "shinest" piece of business we have had for some time. The electors recognize if they return Mr. Wetmore they may as well leave Mr. Colter at home, for the Tory clique we have above referred to will continue to be the virtual rulers of the county so long as the Government lasts.

SIR LEONARD TILLEY, his sons-in-law, uncles, nephews and cousins, continue to serve their beloved country to the tune of \$18,496 per annum. Truly the Finance Minister may well say that Confederation is a success.

TORIES UNMASKED!

The *Capital* proposes to discuss in a future issue the "exercise of the patronage of the Liberal-Conservative party in the County." Our contemporary gives its party away very badly in the expression we have quoted. "The patronage of the Liberal-Conservative party." Well, the expression is honest at all events. We had an idea, but it was derived from such antiquated books as Blackstone's Commentaries, Clitty's Privileges of the Crown, and the like, that the public patronage rested in the crown, or in these Provinces in the Governor General or the Lieutenant Governor, and we complained that it had been exercised in York County by a Tory clique. We did say also, that this same clique believed it was theirs by divine right, and behold their chief organ comes forward and deliberately claims it as the property of the Liberal-Conservative party.

The disposal of offices and the administration of the public service have, according to the ideas of this temporarily Tory sheet, ceased to be vested in the crown and to be exercised in accordance with the well understood wishes of the people, and have become "the patronage of the Liberal-Conservative party in this county." As we have said, we always knew the clique believed that no one but their own sacred selves should have a word to say as to the disposal of the patronage of the crown; but we scarcely expected that their organ would give them away so badly as to print in an editorial an expression, the use of which common prudence would have confined to their innermost meetings. We presume, however, our contemporary believes in rendering unto (Cullin) Caesar the things which are Caesar's, or will be, if the Tories triumph on the 20th. A more complete dropping of the mask we have never witnessed. The *Capital*, with its usual clumsiness, has managed to expose the Toryism of the clique in all its nakedness. "The patronage of the Liberal-Conservative party." A pretty claim for any set of politicians to make in a county which was the birth-place of Responsible Government in New Brunswick.

The Issue.

The Liberals of St. John by a resolution passed at a grand mass meeting in the Institute declare that the issue at the ensuing election is "not free trade or protection, but the amount and best mode of imposing taxation." This declaration gives an effectual answer to the continual prating of the Tory press that protection is the question upon which the electors have to pronounce. Free trade is an impossibility in Canada; but fair play to all industries is possible and the people will have it. One man has as much right to be protected as another, and no vested rights in the enjoyment of special privileges can be tolerated. Fair play is the watchword of the Liberals. Monopoly that of the Tories, and the fight is between them.

In a recent speech at Hamilton Mr. Blake thus defined his position upon the tariff: "He had always said that he was a believer in the principle of free trade, and in the liberty of the subject as possible. The tendency of the world with the ever-increasing means of transport and communication was to become one in commerce and universal free trade, but he also recognized that there were insuperable obstacles in the way of carrying out free trade pure and simple. In Canada a revenue must be raised, and, as he believed, direct taxation, for the present at least, impracticable, it must be raised by customs duties. It could not be raised by putting a tax on a few articles as in England. The taxes must be spread over a vast number of articles. In Mr. Mackenzie's time, as under the present Government, duties were imposed on certain articles capable of being manufactured in the country, thus giving a greater or less advantage to the home manufacturer. So it must always be, and, therefore, those who raised the issue of free trade versus protection raised a false issue, free trade being impossible in Canada. It is well known to every one that Mr. Blake believes in the principles of free trade, and we have no doubt he will apply them as far as is possible in the formation of the tariff in Canada; but the utmost extent to which they can be acted upon is to give, as we have stated above, fair play to all industries."

The Increase of the Debt.

Our evening neighbor says that during the years of Liberal rule the debt increased \$8,000,000 per annum, while in the four years since the rate of increase has been only \$5,000,000 per annum. Accepting the figures as correct, but we are not quite sure we ought to, coming from the source they do, what do they signify? Why this, the increase in debt between 1874 and 1878 was for the most part made necessary by the contracts and agreements entered into by the Tories when they were in power before the first-named year; while the fact that the debt has only increased \$5,000,000 a year since the Liberals went out of power shows that they left no legacy of liabilities for their successors to meet.

At least fourteen of Sir John's followers decline to face the responsibility of answering for the Gerry-mander, the boundary steal, the interference with Provincial rights, the contract frauds and the Pacific outrage; while as yet only two Liberals, who were in Parliament, have signified the intention of not again offering. These are signs of the times.

The Ballying Cry.

We were satisfied that the first time Mr. Fraser's ballying opened his mouth he would put his foot in it, and so it has transpired. He made a speech to his constituents the other day, which kept them, or rather each of them as remained to hear him, up until after midnight, and in the course of his remarks called upon the people to rally to the support of the local government because "Westmorland had the preponderating influence in the Executive." The Premier has thus given his supporters their rallying cry, and we hope to see inscribed over every polling booth in the Province, "Vote for the Government in which Westmorland has the preponderating influence." Messrs. Colter, Estabrook and Wetmore have felt the need of a good election cry. They have it now. "Vote for the Government of the Province by Westmorland." They have pledged themselves in advance to support a man as premier, about whose future course they were as ignorant as unborn babes; and now that he has set the time they must, if they would be true to their pledges, join in the chorus. Thus we will have the music of the campaign somewhat in this style.

The Premier—"Vote for the Government of the Province by Westmorland."

Messrs. Colter, Estabrook and Wetmore, in chorus—"Westmorland!"

In days gone by the various counties were content with an equal influence in the Executive of the Province. To-day Westmorland has, and the Premier claims it as his right to have, a "preponderating influence." We call upon the electors to vote down a government the Premier of which basis his claim to support upon grounds so utterly at variance with political decency. Will the electors of York rally to the support of men pledged to sustain a "Westmorland" government? Why if the tide should sweep up the bay some day and wipe Westmorland out of existence there are thousands of people in the Province who would never miss it. We admit it is a fine and a prosperous county; but it is essentially local in all its connexions and ideas, and should never have more than one seat in the Executive. To-day it has the preponderating influence, and the Premier boasts of it. We do not deny the truth of this boast; and if we have not already referred to it, the reason was that we did not desire to appear to take any sectional view of the matter. But we are forced to refer to it now; and the electors of York are compelled to give a verdict upon it. In political campaigns it is the invariable rule for the Premier to sound the keynote of his policy when he addresses the people, and if his government is sustained at the polls, that policy is presumed to endorse Mr. Hamilton's has followed the usual course. He asserts his policy to be the government of New Brunswick by Westmorland influence. If the elections result in his favor, he can claim with propriety that the electorate has declared itself favorable to Westmorland domination.

Will York be content to be ruled by Westmorland? If so, let the people return the candidates pledged to support the local government.

Will Sunbury, which has always had some standing in the councils of the Province, determine to strengthen the hands of the Westmorland dictators? Then let them support Messrs. Perley and White. (We believe Mr. White is a candidate.)

Will Queen's assist in maintaining the claims of Westmorland to a preponderating influence? Then let her electors vote for the nominees of the Tory convention.

Will the people of the Province generally determine to submit to be ruled by one county? Then they can have their say by sending representatives to sustain the premier who claims this right for his county.

Mr. Hamilton's position in Westmorland must be desperate indeed when he feels compelled to resort to such a canvass as this, but as he has done so, the people in the other counties must tell him plainly, by their votes, that the only Executive they will tolerate is one so constituted that every section of the Province is equally represented in it.

Without desiring to say anything which may cause the friends of the Liberal party to relax their efforts we may state that the most encouraging reports are received from every section of the County. Everything looks as favorable as can be desired; but at the same time we urge upon the Liberals everywhere to keep hard at work. We will win by a magnificent majority if all do their duty; and that all will we have no doubt whatever. Mr. Pickard's meetings in the upper river Parishes have been of a most triumphant character. Mr. Gregory reports most favorably from Cork, Acton and Harvey. From the Nashuaak we get most encouraging news, and the same is true of Bright, Douglas and Southampton. We look for a grand victory. Let the friends of good government work hard and poll a bigger vote than both the Tory candidates combined.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.—A correspondent writing from Grand Lake says that the prospects of electing the Liberal candidates for both Parliament and the Assembly are very bright in Queen's county.

THAT JUDGEMENT.

Mr. Fraser has promised at a proper time to clear up all that Judgement matter. How will he do it? He cannot deny that he wanted the seat made vacant by the death of Judge Fisher. He cannot deny that he was told then that he "must bid his time." He cannot deny that he desired to retire from politics. He cannot deny that he was forced into the field against his old friend by pressure from Ottawa. And he cannot deny that he has been promised either the next vacancy on the bench if the Government stands, or something equally as good if the Government is defeated, as a reward for his candidature. We have said that he cannot deny these things. We do not mean that he cannot try to explain them away, but he cannot deny them squarely. Everybody believes they are true. His staunchest friend would admit, before his name was connected with the contest, that he was using every legitimate means to get upon the bench. It was an open secret that he wanted to get out of politics, and his friends and opponents would have both been glad to have seen him honorably retired.

But if he is not forced out by Ottawa pressure, why does he come? It is idle for him to say that his friends called him out. They did nothing of the kind. The clique which surrounds him, and which has largely lived upon him and the patronage he controlled, simply seconded the Ottawa pressure. But he had other friends besides those who now are clamoring for him, and first among them was John Pickard, the man without whose influence and friendship John James Fraser would have scarcely been known to-day outside of the circle of his clients. To say that Mr. Fraser has entered the field against Mr. Pickard because he has lost confidence in him, is to state what is absurd. To say that he has done so because he disapproves of Mr. Pickard's course, is nonsense; because he has on every possible occasion heretofore approved of that able politician. His explanation is possible except that which every one believes is the true one, namely, that his appointment to any office in the gift of the Dominion Government has been made conditional on his running this election.

The Dismissal of Hon. W. M. Kelly, M. L. C.

The remarks on the *HERALD* upon the dismissal of the Hon. Mr. Kelly from the Legislative Council have attracted a great deal of attention. Our views are concurred in by the legal profession generally, and considerable surprise is expressed that no defence of the extraordinary and unconstitutional act has been attempted. As a matter of fact it admits of no defence. Mr. Kelly is as much a Legislative Councillor to-day as he was when he last occupied a seat in the Council; and he will continue to be so until the body in which the law vests the authority declares his seat vacant. We are not informed whether it is Mr. Kelly's intention to appear and claim his seat, but in the interests of constitutional government it is to be hoped he will. Such an unwarrantable assumption of power on the part of the Local Government, as is exhibited in this arrogation of the rights conferred by law upon the Legislative Council, should be condemned in most positive terms. The Legislative Council is charged with certain powers and responsibilities, which it holds and exercises for the public benefit, and even when the candidates pledged to support the local government.

Will Sunbury, which has always had some standing in the councils of the Province, determine to strengthen the hands of the Westmorland dictators? Then let them support Messrs. Perley and White. (We believe Mr. White is a candidate.)

Will Queen's assist in maintaining the claims of Westmorland to a preponderating influence? Then let her electors vote for the nominees of the Tory convention.

Will the people of the Province generally determine to submit to be ruled by one county? Then they can have their say by sending representatives to sustain the premier who claims this right for his county.

The Liberals and the Tariff.

The Tory organs affect to be greatly elated over the fact that the Liberals do not come before the people upon a Free Trade platform. One of them says that the Liberals have accepted the N. P. Let us suppose for an instant that all the Liberals in Canada have decided that the taxation policy of the Tories is all right and must be continued. Then what does this signify? Why this, that what these same organs pretend to believe is the great issue at the elections, namely, Protection, is not an issue at all. These logical organs cannot get themselves out of the dilemma. Either the Liberals have accepted the N. P., or they have not. If they have not, then the organs tell what is not true. If they have, then the N. P. is not an issue. In either case their stock arguments are gone, for they say, see how excellent the N. P. is, for even the Liberals no longer pretend to say it should be changed, and in the next breath they ask—shall the people return these wicked Grits to power, whose first act will be to do away with Protection? If these organs would keep to the facts they would not get into such difficult places as this. The Liberals do not accept Protection as a thing which is desirable; but they recognize it as some thing which is unavoidable under any tariff, which will produce enough money to meet the demands of the public service. They, however, distinguish between this necessary protection and discrimination in favor of a few petted industries. The whole Liberal party, from the leader down, admit, and have admitted repeatedly, that Free Trade is impossible in Canada; but they are determined to do all that in them lies to put the poor man on at least as good a footing in respect to taxation as the rich man. This is the real issue upon the tariff, and perhaps it is as well for themselves that the Tories so persistently shut their eyes to it.

What the Pacific Syndicate have had Given them.

Cash \$25,000,000
Land 100,000,000
Completed Railway 50,000,000
\$175,000,000

In addition, they have exemption from taxation, a monopoly of railway construction and exemption from duties, worth many millions more.

We do not put the land too high. The Syndicate has just sold 5,000,000 acres for \$15,000,000, retaining a half interest in town and city lots. This will bring the price to \$4 per acre. Their land subsidy is 25,000,000 acres.

What are they to do to earn this enormous amount of money? They are to build about 1,400 miles of railway. Of this 900 miles can be built for less than \$10,000 per mile, and putting the cost of the remainder at \$25,000 per mile, we have as the cost of the road which they have to build \$21,500,000. They will, therefore, have in cash and land, at its present value, \$103,500,000 and a railway stretching from the Pacific ocean to within a short distance of the Atlantic, as the result of their undertaking.

This is the Tory gift to a foreign Syndicate. The Liberals fought against it at every step, but all in vain. Is there a man in Canada who does not know what every child knows of the west, believes that this tremendous subsidy was necessary to secure the railway?

A GENTLEMAN from Prince William reports that the success with which Mr. Thompson is meeting in his canvass is all that can be desired. An attempt was made to decry Mr. Thompson all over the county, but the hope that Mr. Blair would be left without a supporter from the County. Every effort was made to misrepresent his course in the Assembly, and by a very unjust use of the County patronage Mr. Fraser was enabled to create an impression that Mr. Thompson had little influence in the Legislature. The *HERALD* took occasion some time ago to expose these tactics, and said that when Mr. Thompson got into the field his detractors would find that his popularity was not diminished. Results have justified the prediction, and we shall be very much surprised if he does not poll a larger vote than he has ever done. Indeed of all the gentlemen who have offered themselves for election we know of none possessed of more practical common sense, independence of judgment, and sterling honesty than Mr. Thompson. Joined to this he has the experience of four years in the Legislature, during which he showed himself to be industrious and active in promoting the best interests of his County. The electors can count upon Mr. Thompson trying to do his duty towards them in a straightforward conscientious manner, and that of itself is as good a recommendation as a candidate can hope to have.

The *Capital* has had the meanness to insinuate that Mr. John Pickard has appropriated to an improper use \$400 granted to Robert Sutherland, Jr. We simply state the fact, and ask every man in York County, who knows John Pickard, if they believe that he has ever improperly taken a dollar of money which belonged to Robert Sutherland, Jr., or any one else. And it is well to remember that it is the organ of Mr. Fraser which at the hour charges his life-long friend with dishonesty.

Something for the Electors to think over.

Sir Leonard Tilley in 1864 said that \$2.75 per head of the population would pay all the expenses of the Confederation. In the fifteen years since the union, for eleven of which he was in power, the rate of taxation has been increased to \$11 per head. In 1878 Sir Leonard said he would have voted against an increase of duty from 15 to 17 1/2 per cent. In 1879 he increased the tariff to 35 per cent. In 1878 he said he would have voted against a duty on coal and flour; in 1879 he placed a duty on both. In 1878 he said that the rate of taxation would be reduced if his party were returned to power. In 1879 he increased it over 30 per cent. In 1867 he said he would not remain in a Government that would build the Intercolonial by the North Shore; but the road was built by the North Shore and he did not resign.

In 1878 he said the taxes of the people were too high. In 1882 he says that any change in the tariff must be in the direction of further protection.

In 1878 he said that \$22,500,000 were sufficient for all the requirements of the public service. In 1882 he expends nearly \$30,000,000, and taxes the people even more.

In 1878 Sir Charles Tupper said that the Liberals had no right to have a surplus, but should endeavor to get rid of it by lightening the burdens of the people. In 1882 the Tories boast that they have taxed the people millions of dollars more than is necessary.

MR. PICKARD'S CANVASS.—Mr. Pickard is meeting with capital success in the river parishes. He spoke at a large meeting in Prince William on Monday night, and was enthusiastically received. On Tuesday afternoon he addressed a meeting at Allendale and with great success; and on Tuesday night he spoke at Shogomoc to a good house. Everywhere he meets with expressions of surprise at Mr. Fraser's course, and no little indignation is expressed at the Dominion Government should attempt to dictate to York County. From present appearances he has an assurance of a magnificent victory, but his friends must work hard so as to make assurance doubly sure.

We regret the retirement of Joseph L. Black, Esq., from politics. No gentleman in the Assembly gave better promise for future usefulness than he did. Though a supporter of Sir John Macdonald he was a thorough Reformer on local politics, and his influence and counsel will be greatly missed in the preparation of those measures for the simplification and more economical administration of public affairs, which it will be the duty of the new Assembly to initiate.

To show the straits to which they are driven for argument we refer to a Tory contemporary's argument that the percentage of the cost of collecting the revenue was \$3.87 in 1880 as against \$5.58 in 1878. The answer to this proposition is that the taxes were increased enormously during the interval between the two years. It ought to cost no more to take 35 per cent. from an importer than it did 17 1/2 per cent.

ALTHOUGH some of the friends of Mr. Fraser still call themselves Liberal-Conservatives, Sir John Macdonald is fast weeding out any so-called Liberal element out of his Government. With the retirement of Hon. Mr. Atkins, the last Ontario Cabinet Minister who ever called himself a Liberal steps out.

The evening Tory sheet of Saturday only devoted ten articles to the *HERALD*. Why did it stop short of a dozen?

A Fredericton Industry.

A visit yesterday morning to the establishment of Messrs. McFarlane, Thompson & Anderson revealed a state of affairs which cannot but be pleasing to the many friends of this reliable and popular firm. Eleven years ago the firm started in business with a working force of twelve men. Yesterday morning forty-four employees were actively engaged in the different departments. The business has been steadily increasing since its foundation, and to-day it occupies the foremost place among Provincial industries. Its operations extend all over the Province, and it has already secured a share of the Nova Scotia trade.

Under the guidance of Mr. Anderson the *HERALD* representative visited the machine shop, the blacksmith shop, the moulding shop, the painting shop, and the wood work shop, in succession. In each of these the men were actively at work, and moving machines, hay rakes, ploughs, &c., were found in all stages of completion. A large consignment of moving machines and hay rakes are awaiting shipment.

The firm's specialties are agricultural implements, mill work of all kinds, turning lathes and drilling machines. They have been running on full time since Christmas, and occasionally over hours. In answer to an enquiry how his business compared with that of the upper Canadian manufacturers, Mr. Anderson replied that his firm could do as good work and as cheap work as the Ontario houses, but that he was strongly opposed to their system of doing business, viz., the long credit system.

In answer to another enquiry, whether the N. P. made any difference in their business, Mr. Anderson quipped returned, "Yes, it makes a difference to the extent of 50 cents duty per ton on coal, and \$2 duty per ton on pig iron."

With this last piece of information ringing in his ears the *HERALD* representative bade Mr. Anderson "good morning" and turned away.