

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, FEBRUARY 25, 1888.

MR. BOND AND THE BAIT ACT.

A Weak Reply from the Government Organ.

MR. BOND's able and forcible remarks in the Assembly on Wednesday last against the Bait Act have had a stunning effect on the promoters of that ill-advised measure, both inside the House and out. He has placed the matter before the public in such a lucid and powerful light as to convince even his bitterest opponents of the folly, under existing circumstances, of interfering with either the treaty rights of the French or the vested rights of our own people on the West Coast.

More than that; he has strongly emphasized the fact that, one after another, the few privileges enjoyed by the fishing population of this colony have been gradually wrested from them by exacting monopolists, until they (the poor fishermen) are now brought to such a pass that there seems scarcely anything left to them worth working for or living for either. This is a sorry condition of things, and one that should awaken a spirit of fair play, at any rate, in the breasts of those of our legislators who know how to sympathize with the unfortunate "toiler of the sea." In no other fishing country under heaven does the fisherman receive less encouragement while pursuing his avocation than in Newfoundland; and this, too, in the face of the fact that every business in the Island depends upon the fruit of his industry for success or failure, as the case may be. Surely it is only reasonable to ask some consideration for this large and deserving—but badly abused—section of the population.

But to return to the Bait Act. The *Mercury* of last evening has an editorial article of nearly a column in defence of the Government's policy with respect to the said Act, and in reply to Mr. Bond's observations of Wednesday. Our contemporary's argument is very weak, if it can be regarded as argument at all. It appears to us as if he had orders to defend the Government and to attack Mr. Bond under any circumstances; and that, in obedience to said order, he endeavored to do the best he could. Much better would it have been for the Executive, had they allowed Mr. Bond's invincible speech to pass without word or comment. As it is, however, they have laid themselves open to severe criticism, and nullified any little influence their organ might have exercised in the Western and Northern districts. The truth is, not one single point made by Mr. Bond has been successfully answered in the *Mercury's* article.

But why wonder at this? The Government dare not enforce their unjust Bait Act in any part of the colony, especially in a district the people of which almost entirely depend upon the bait traffic for a livelihood. Furthermore, it is a gross outrage on every principle of political economy, and one which the British Government, if fully acquainted with our condition and surroundings, would never have sanctioned, or even seriously considered. The Attorney General himself now, it would seem, admits the absurdity of the measure in its present form. At all events, in reply to a question put to him last evening by Mr. Bond, he stated, with more candour than usual, that the Government would grant a "bait license" to every resident of the West coast, if applied for. This is virtually ignoring the act in its present form and carrying out a suggestion of ours at the time the measure was framed, namely: that a bill to regulate the sale of bait be passed, not to prohibit it altogether.

Directly and indirectly a sum of money equivalent to not much less than \$300,000 (THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS) is spent among the people of Fortune and St. George's Bays, by the French and Americans, every year. Both branches of the Legislature know this as well as we do; and yet they deliberately go to work and pass the insane prohibitory measure in question. What are we to think of such legislators? They cannot reasonably find fault with us for saying, in the face of such silly enactments, that they are unfit to direct the public affairs of this country.

As we have pointed out, Attorney General Winter has now been forced to realize the ridiculousness of the whole proceeding. Whether he has been induced by Mr. Chamberlain or Sir Charles Tupper to adopt this altered view of the matter, we are not in a position to determine; but certain it is that since his (Mr. W.'s) return from Washington, his expressed opinions respecting the bait question are vastly different from what they used to be.

Then, again, we learn by telegraph that the new Fisheries Treaty permits American fishermen to enjoy all the privileges they desire for the comparatively small tax of \$1.50 per ton. If this be the case, what is there to hinder them from furnishing the French with bait, in the event of the latter being shut out from their present source of supply? Why, nothing at all. But, we may be sure, the British Government will not allow any legislation to be enforced which discriminates in favor of American fishermen to the prejudice of the fishermen of France.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY NOTES.

In Privilege Over a Slander in the Government Organ.

THE 'RUPERT OF DEBATE' REPLIES.

Opposition Tactics and Speeches.

THE House met at 4.15 p.m. yesterday. Mr. Parsons rose to state a personal grievance to the House, with reference to the publication of an insulting and slanderous letter in the *Mercury*, which was acknowledged by Sir Robert Thorburn to be the Government organ. It is laid down in Bourinot, p. 369, viz.: "It is a common practice for members in both Houses to make personal explanations or ask questions of the Government before the orders of the day are taken up. They may make these explanations in reference to an inaccurate report of their speeches in the official record or in the newspapers, or in denial of certain charges made against them in the public prints." Mr. Bond raised this point, still the Speaker ruled that Mr. Parsons was out of order. Mr. Parsons then moved for committee of privilege and the Speaker then ordered the House to be cleared, in accordance with an old parliamentary custom which has fallen into disuse since 1845. Mr. Parsons, having been ruled out of order on this motion, then moved an adjournment, in order to give the Government an opportunity of getting a new organ. Here the Speaker again ruled him out of order. At any time a member, when the Speaker is in the chair, as he was, may move an adjournment, assigning, of course, reason for it. The Speaker then again ruled him out of order, although the proper proceeding would be for a member to get up and move that he no longer be heard, and then suffer a vote to be taken. Mr. Parsons then asked for a Committee of Privilege, which he got. We are not allowed to publish the proceedings therein, for the Government might bring an Opposition paper—bring us—before the bar of the House and have us fined. It might be remembered that, two years before, he suffered Mr. Bond to speak for an hour on a similar matter, and that last year he said he would be guided by English and Canadian practice, as against the uncodified practice of this House. The House was cleared on what Mr. Morine had named "a partisan decision and proceeding, to shield the *Mercury*."

After half an hour of privilege, the public were again admitted inside the doors. The chairman of committee took the chair on the address of thanks. Mr. Murphy then arose and occupied the attention of the House for an hour. He commenced at the first three paragraphs, referring to His Excellency and the reputation he had won in popular literature. He brought in some new matter on the municipal and Barcelona Exhibition paragraphs &c., and made an excellent speech, a report of which will appear on Monday.

Hon. Mr. Goodridge then replied, defending the policy of the Government over coastal steam arrangements, Bait Bill, Placentia Railway, and the Barcelona exhibits. Some interesting intellectual passages of arms took place between the honorable gentleman and Mr. Morine. Some references were made to Sir Wm. Whitway. The reporters of Mr. Morine made a point against the Government by showing that they had offered him (Sir William) the high position of Chief Justice as a mark of confidence in him. When Mr. Goodridge sat down Mr. Morine arose and made every position taken by that gentleman untenable.

The amendment moved by Mr. Bond, owing to our limited space, is crowded out till Monday; also the fight between Mr. Morris and Mr. Parsons, and the report of debate on the sealing bill.

The House was filled all through with an attentive audience, who laughed heartily and rendered spontaneous applause to the hits scored against the Government.

After tea the ritualistic candles threw their soft effulgence over the apostolic beard of "His Honor the Speaker." Here we might mention the absence from the House of Messrs. Carty, Veitch, March, Hutchings and Emerson, and all the members of the Executive, with the exception of Hon. Mr. Penny, during the greater part of the debate. If they were discharging their duty towards their constituents they would have been in their places. At 12 o'clock the House adjourned till Monday at 4 o'clock.

The following are the names of the ten lucky men (not twelve, as stated by a contemporary) who won the \$750 in the Louisiana Lottery, viz.: Messrs. Ed. T. Barter, L. Thorburn, M. O'Farrell, Michael Power, Michael Condon, Jas. J. Tobin, Thos. Baker, J. T. Phelan, Captain English, M. J. Kelly.

NAMES of passengers per S.S. "Portia" for Halifax.—F. W. Finlay and wife, W. J. Kenny, John Omond. For New York.—E. Rothwell.

[FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAM.] ANNUAL MEETING

Of the Catholic Benevolent Irish Society.

THE annual general meeting of this society was held, according to rule, on the 10th inst., in the Total Abstinence Hall. The roll having been called, and other usual business disposed of, the following report was submitted:—

Report of the Officers of the Catholic Benevolent Irish Society for the Year Ending February 10th, 1888.

The officers of the Catholic Benevolent Irish Society, in accordance with the rules, beg to lay before you their report of its transactions for the past year.

In doing so, we have much pleasure in being able to congratulate the society on the creditable state of its finances, as shown by the treasurer's account now on the table, and also on the large accession to its ranks, twelve members being added to the roll during the past year.

On March 17th, the Festival of St. Patrick, the members of the society, having been previously notified by public advertisement, assembled at the Total Abstinence Hall. Having donned their regalia, the society, headed by their Bands walked in procession through the town and attended the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, celebrated by the Rev. John Roe. After mass the society, having reformed, marched to the Episcopal residence. Here the Band entertained the clergy with appropriate airs; after which cheers were given for His Lordship the Bishop and the clergy. Then, having marched around the palace grounds, they proceeded up Harvey street, down Noad street, to the hall and disbanded.

The sum placed at the disposal of the committee of charity was disbursed in accordance with your resolution.

We are happy to state that the band is progressing favorably under the able teaching of Prof. Patrick Cramm.

With deep sorrow, we record the death of two worthy members, namely, Michael Fitzgerald and James Walsh.

In conclusion, we desire to thank you for your prompt attendance at all meetings and for your hearty co-operation in carrying on the business of the society.

Respectfully submitted,
JOSEPH INNOT, President,
JOHN R. KENNEDY, Secretary.

The business of the year being thus completed, the officers vacated their seats and Capt. Isaac Pumphrey was called to the chair to preside over the election of officers for the ensuing year. Capt. James Deady acted as secretary. The following are the officers of the society for the coming year:—

Mr. Joseph Innot, re-elected, President; Capt. Wm. Hennessy, re-elected, Vice-President; Mr. Jas. Callanan, re-elected, 1st. Asst. V.P.; Mr. Thomas Cody, re-elected, 2nd Asst. V.P.; Mr. Thos. Strapp, re-elected, Treasurer; Capt. Isaac Pumphrey, elected, Assistant Treasurer; Mr. John P. Kennedy, re-elected, Secretary; Captain Michael O'Brien, elected, Asst. Secretary; Mr. William Scully, re-elected, Financial Secretary; Mr. Phillip Colbert, re-elected, Chairman Committee of Charity; Mr. Daniel Kennedy, re-elected, Chairman Review and Correspondence; Mr. Patrick Moriarty, elected, Chief Marshal; Mr. Kennedy Thomey, elected, Asst. Marshal. COMMITTEE OF CHARITY.—Messrs. Phillip Colbert, (chairman), Richard Lahey, John Lahey, sr., Kennedy Thomey, John Cody, Stephen Shea, Timothy Kelly and John Sheridan.

COMMITTEE OF REVIEW AND CORRESPONDENCE.—Messrs. Robert Lahey and Edward Daley. BAND COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Wm. Hennessy, James Callanan, Thos. Strapp; Phillip Colbert, Pat. Moriarty, Daniel Kennedy, and John P. Kennedy.

The officers-elect then took their places and a vote of thanks was given to Capt. Isaac Pumphrey for his readiness in taking the chair, and for the able manner he discharged the duties thereof. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved,—That the society hereby expresses its sympathy with the relatives of members deceased during the past year.

Resolved,—That the editors of the *H. G. Standard*, and the *EVENING TELEGRAM* and *Colonist*, of St. John's, are entitled to our best thanks for publishing our reports gratuitously. Meeting adjourned.

JOSEPH INNOT, President,
JOHN P. KENNEDY, Secretary.
Harbor Grace, Feb. 22, 1888.

THE Total Abstinence Society's band of music did some creditable practice work on Thursday night; their rendering of the "Dear Little Shamrock" was well done and denoted what first-class music they could charm us with if the full corps would but work together frequently. Nothing in the world is finer than the interpretation of an operatic overture by a good brass band of say eight or ten dozen players, supported by three or four leading reed instruments. The soft flute notes of the latter impart a luxurious mellowness to the combined harmony, which makes the multitude of all degrees stand still and listen. Of course to execute an operatic overture means hard work for each member of the band, but the satisfaction of being able to produce these beautiful pieces more than compensates for all the trouble they cost.

The steamer "Curlew" arrived between 4 and 5 o'clock this morning from the Westward, having had pretty fair weather on the whole. The steamer reports nothing of interest, however; the winter cod-fishery about Channel has yielded good fares the past two weeks, and the boat brought on several consignments of frozen fresh cod and halibut. A large quantity of venison has also been received by her. She brought a few passengers, amongst them being one of the tidewaiters sent to the South-West Coast for the alleged purpose of repressing smuggling; the remainder of the Customs' contingent are continued on duty there over the winter. "Qui bono?"

SOME TIMELY SUGGESTIONS.

Editor Evening Telegram.

DEAR SIR,—It may not be out of place, much less injudicious, to make a few remarks just at this time concerning the position of the time-honored and esteemed Irish Society. The reports of both sections, adult and junior, are indeed flattering, and show good work for the year ending to date; but a fair exterior oftentimes hides a heart ill at ease and a disarranged interior. It does not look healthy to see four efficient officers, having the fullest confidence of their brother members, resign without provocation. It is easy to trace the cause. The society is hampered with a big debt and no effort is being made towards liquidation. At the last meeting the word *bazaar* was mooted, which sent a shiver through some of those present—not, indeed, through all—for there were those present who talk without acting, who are never seen in a bazaar-room, no matter how laudable the purpose. Considering our bazaar experience, it would be the height of folly to venture one for St. Patrick's Hall. It would not, or could not, be reasonably patronized by the cents and dimes of the poor, whose poverty precludes the golden opportunity of a sound christian education. The well-to-do, likewise, will be very chary of their patronage, and will easily find reasons to excuse their non-attendance. It is a well-known fact that certain parents refuse their children to join the juvenile society, though they enjoy the benefits of the institution. What can you expect from such in time of a bazaar? Independent of all this, to my mind, a bazaar is the most extravagant way to raise funds, especially in a small community where the donors become of necessity the purchasers. It would be far better to hand over to the treasurer of the society the outlay made in purchasing bazaar goods, many of which do little more than realize first cost. What, then, you will say, is to be done? It may be permitted to make the following suggestions: First, curtail all expenses; the hall and schools have been well fitted up. Let them bear their own expenses until the debt is paid. The four hundred pupils attending school can well afford to pay for their own coal and school repairs. Let all the proceeds of both societies be given to payment of interest and debt. There is no reason why the beautiful hall might not be utilized to "raise the wind" by means of entertainments.

Moreover, every year let us have a collection or tax of some kind. The members themselves will contribute according to their means, as I am sure will also the many friends of the institute, whose children are educated gratis. It is high time to do something. The officers should mean work and not be resigning at the time their services and influence are needed. Every member should take a more lively interest in affairs, and management by clique ought to be a thing of the past. Hoping these few suggestions may avail the oldest, most honorable and benevolent society,

I remain, yours truly,
St. John's, Feb. 25, '88. A MEMBER.

GIVE OUR SEALERS EXCURSION FARES.

Editor Evening Telegram.

DEAR SIR,—Aware of your never-tiring zeal in advocating the cause of the poor fisherman, I deem the present an opportune time to call your attention, as well as that of the railway management, to the facts and suggestions hereinafter contained.

That there has always been evinced a laudable disposition on the part of the railway authorities, not alone to meet the convenience, but pleasures of the public, goes without saying—such as setting apart certain days in each week during the summer months, as "excursion days," or days on which the public can travel by train for half fare; but up to the present time, as far as I can learn, they (the railway authorities) have never made the least allowance in fares to the thousands of our poor fishermen who ride over their road every Spring going to and returning from the seal fishery. Now, this is not as it should be by any means, and does not seem to be in keeping with that spirit of "square dealings" for which the worthy manager is proverbial.

During the week or ten days before the day of steamers sailing, the cars are "packed" every day with hundreds of our hardy, but impoverished, fishermen, going to St. John's from this and Trinity Bay, nine-tenths of whom, doubtless, having had to borrow their railway fare. The only "accommodation" I ever knew to be extended to them was the "luxury" of riding in an "open excursion car," with the privilege of freezing to death.

Come, come, Manager Saville, put a stop to this outrage, and set apart at least one week before day of sailing, as the "sealers' excursion week." Give them "half-fare" rides going to St. John's, and who knows but they may make enough this Spring to pay a full fare home.

Yours, &c.,
Feb. 25, 1888. CONCEPTION BAY.

A CHARMING programme is in course of preparation for the Athenæum concert on Monday evening.

SEVERAL interesting articles on current topics are unavoidably crowded out of to-day's paper, and must stand over till next week.

THE brigantine *Scotia*, with part cargo of merchandise from Liverpool to Messrs. J. & W. Stewart, is the only arrival since yesterday.

By Telegraph

HALIFAX, N.S., Feb. 25.

The Republican party maintain that the treaty leaves United States fishermen worse off than before.

Government procedure rules have been adopted by the British House of Commons. It is proposed to meet at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and close at one in the morning. Gladstone assisted the Government in passing this measure.

A Liberal-Unionist has been elected for Doncaster, defeating the Gladstonian. At Ennis, Lloyd, the English Home Rule delegate, has been imprisoned for inciting tenants not to pay rents.

(Special to the Evening Telegram.)

CAPE RACE, This Evening.

A strong northerly breeze, with fine weather, has been blowing all day. The steamer *Curlew* passed inward at 9.30 last night.

(Special to the Evening Telegram.)

CHANNEL, This Afternoon.

A strong northwest breeze is blowing here to-day, and the fishing ground is free from ice; but there are only a few skiffs out. Our men are chopping the ice out of the harbor. Schooner holders have commenced sheathing their vessels for the sealing voyage.

THE SKATING RACE LAST NIGHT.

THE skating race in the Parade Rink last evening was an immense success. The gathering of spectators was little inferior to the throng which crowded the place at the last carnival in the same rink, and the majority of spectators appeared to have been attracted rather more from the social aspect of the occasion than from the spectacle of the race proper. The gallery was quite filled with promenaders; mutual recognitions and animated *tele-a-tetes* were the "order of the day" in this quarter. There was some little delay in getting the racers together, but once away they contested every one of the ninety circles, which made the six-mile course, in good and gamy style. The leader and winner, N. Snow, skated in truly splendid and graceful form; he skated from the hips, and his slightest movement brought his whole frame in unison together, every part contributing to the making of grand speed. He completed the six miles in thirty-seven minutes and fifty-six seconds. As showing the ease and confidence of his work, the uniformity of time in which he made each mile is a test, as follows: 1st mile, 4.30; 2nd, 4.40; 3rd, 4.45; 4th, 4.40; 5th, 4.38; 6th, 4.43; total, 27.56. The contest for second place was very close and stubborn, there being only five seconds difference in time between the second and third competitor. A. Moore gained the 2nd prize, in 29m.; and A. Smallwood the 3rd, in 29.05. Messrs. J. L. Noonan, Jr., M. K. Greene, J. C. Strang and A. Duffy were the judges. The band subsequently discoursed a selection of very sweet waltzes, and when the race was over hundreds of spectators joined in skating.

THE Wesleyan Mission, now in full operation in Regent Street and its neighborhood, is a striking indication of the disposition to adopt new and more aggressive methods of evangelisation. In Manchester the transformation of one of the old chapels into a new centre of activity has been productive of great good. In London this effort to establish a mission in the heart of the West has long been a subject of anxious consideration. A commencement was made by securing St. James's Hall for Sunday services, under the direction of the Rev. Mark Guy Pearce and the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes. The innovations include both string and brass bands. The sermons and addresses given have varied in style and subject, and included topics of present-day interest, with the aim to present the teachings of Christ in their application to social as well as personal needs. Large assemblies have gathered, including many who might otherwise have attended no place of worship, and every Sunday many have come forward professing their desire to begin a religious life. During the week the adjacent Wardour Hall is utilised, by the concurrence of the Congregationalists, for various religious meetings. Every Saturday evening there is a free concert. The schoolroom beneath is now opened as a dining-room for working-men. In addition, a house has been taken as a home for the lady workers; another is to be set apart for the men engaged in the mission. A vigorous organisation is being prepared, and it will be used in patient and prayerful effort, not only to arouse the thousands from indifference, but to grapple with the vices which make this district their headquarters.—*Sunday at Home.*

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

SUNDAY, Feb. 26.
GOWER-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. G. Boyd; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. W. Graham.
COCHRAN-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. J. E. Manning; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. G. Boyd.
GEORGE-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. J. Parkins; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. G. J. Bond, B.A.
ALEXANDER-STREET METHODIST CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. Geo. J. Bond, B.A.; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. E. Manning.
ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—At 11 A.M., Rev. W. Graham; at 6.30 P.M., Rev. J. Parkins.
QUEEN'S ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and 6.30 P.M., Rev. T. Hodgkinson.
REFORMED CHURCH OF ENGLAND—TRINITY CHURCH.—At 11 A.M. and at 6.30 P.M., Rev. A. N. Suckling.
GOSPEL TEMPERANCE SERVICE in Buchanan Street Schoolroom every Sunday at 3 P.M. All are cordially invited.

BIRTH.

On the 22nd inst., the wife of John Lewis, of a son. On the 19th inst., at Forest Row, Forest Road, the wife of William Hamlyn, of a son.

DIED.

At Fredericton, N.B., Patrick W., fourth son of Catherine and the late Florence Cantwell, of St. John's, Nfld.
This morning, after a short illness, borne with Christian resignation to the Divine Will, Patrick Kenny, (farmer) aged 65 years. Funeral on Monday next, at 2.30 p.m., from his late residence, Portugal Cove Road; friends and acquaintances are respectfully requested to attend.

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