

POLITICAL NOTES.

A Glance at the Leading Measures Carried in the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, from the Year 1854.

By G. E. FENNEY, Fredericton, N. B.

No. 14.

The Elections Held Against the Liberal Party—Fickleness of Public Opinion—Special Session Called—The Question of the Hour—The Government Safe—The "Dogs of War" let Loose—Mr. Boyd of Charlotte Hard Upon the Temperance Party—Mr. Fisher's Attack Upon the Governor's Arbitrary Conduct—The Governor's Prerogative a Farce, a Mere Fiction—The Speaker Interferes and Mr. Fisher is Called to Order—But Mr. Fisher is Not to be Put Down.

THE RUM ELECTIONS.

The elections for St. John County and City took place respectively on the 24th and 25th of June. The following were the names of the candidates:—

Government.—Messrs. Simonds, Wilmot, Gray, Godard, Harding, Lawer. (—first four for the County, the two latter for the City.)

Opposition.—Messrs. Cudlip, Wright, Jardine, Vaughan for the County and Messrs. Tilley and Robert Reed for the City. (The latter gentleman was the late well known Robert Reed—a most worthy citizen, a man of great pith and enterprise, who spent two fortunes in St. John in beautifying the once bleak hills of Portland, thus employing and benefiting the poor as no single person had done before or has done since.)

The speeches which were delivered on the day of nomination—the 20th—were lengthy, crisp and perceptive—in fact a fierce stump warfare between the leaders of the two parties, and the Governor's name was freely handled, his conduct bitterly denounced, and as warmly defended by his friends. The returns resulted adversely to the hopes and wishes of the opposition (the old responsible Government) party; and were as follows:—

For the County.—Messrs. Wilmot, Gray, Simonds, Godard—large majorities.

For the City.—Messrs. Lawrence and Harding (the late Sheriff.)

Perhaps the fickleness of public opinion, and in proof of what a hard jade it is to serve, was never more manifest than on this occasion. A couple of years before this, Mr. Tilley, as a Retainer, was elected by a large majority, as one of the idols of the Liberal party; and notwithstanding the Government with which he was associated had done great things for the country during their administration, he as a leading member of it, is thrown high and dry upon his back, in consequence of having made a single unfortunate miscalculation. It was like reversing the adage, by appealing to Philip drunk from Philip sober.

The returns for the whole Province, which will be found presently, were largely in favour of the new Government, or rather in favour of the "Repeal of the Liquor Law." There were 21 of the old and 17 new members returned.

SPECIAL SESSION.—1856.

A special Session of the Legislature was called by his Excellency on the 17th July, for the purpose of repealing the Liquor Law. Hon. Charles Simonds, on motion of Mr. Macpherson, was chosen Speaker, without opposition.



HON. CHAS. SIMONDS.

In the opening Speech the Lieutenant Governor remarked—"The Law which prohibits the importation and manufacture of the traffic in intoxicating Liquors, forms a subject for earnest deliberation, and I trust that a measure on this subject, which will be submitted to you without delay by the Government, will receive at your hands the consideration which its importance essentially demands."

"I do not doubt that your decision on this question, which so deeply affects the social and financial interests of the community, will be satisfactory to the people, and it will afford me the most sincere pleasure to find that the exercise of a power entrusted to me by the Constitution has been productive of consequences so beneficial to the Province."

On motion of Mr. Gilmor [the present M. P. for Charlotte] to introduce a Bill, a discussion followed as to the right of dealing with any other business except that for which the special Session had been called. The friends of the Government were for

repealing the Liquor Law and doing nothing more, while the opposition contended that the House had a right to deal with all business matters that might be submitted, in as much as the Proclamation in the Gazette set forth that they were called together "for the despatch of business," without specifying the nature of the business. It was very evident, that the liberal spirit that had been aroused in the former House was active in the new. The country had by this time been educated pretty fully into the principles of the Conservatives and Reform parties, and the weight of argument was on the side of the latter; but as yet had not shown a thorough appreciation of their Constitutional rights and advantages—without which, they were still subject to the caprices of an overbearing partizan, whether he be Governor or Executive Councillor. Unforeseen Constitutional difficulties had not been anticipated. Liberals no more than Conservatives could be prepared for a stretch of power, which had never entered into their calculations, and for which they did not know where to look for precedents. It was one thing to have a new Constitution in the abstract. It was another to be prepared to master its details and make it work in a particular groove, upon a sudden emergency. It required experience as well as practice—both of which our Politicians were as yet but novices. It was broadly asserted on the part of those whose wishes got the mastery of them, that the new Government would be found in a minority upon all questions except the question of the day, when that was once disposed of, another crash would follow. The Government on the other hand had strong faith in their own strength and future. If they could breast the surges of the short Session they knew they had a lease of power for at least six months longer; and, enjoying this advantage, the chances were altogether favourable to a much longer continuance. It was therefore their safest policy to allow nothing of an extraneous character to interfere with the actual business for which the House had been called together. The repeal of the Liquor Law was that business, for which a majority of the House had pledged themselves to their constituents. Thus the Government were safe for this Session, provided they could confine the House to the Liquor question. In this will be seen presently, they were successful.

July 19. Shortly after the reading of the Journals, the Address in reply to his Excellency's Speech was taken up, when the "dogs of war" were let loose. Mr. Boyd (of Charlotte) the mover, spoke at considerable length in defence of his Excellency's proceeding and justified it on the ground of imperative necessity. A large amount of revenue, exceeding £40,000, had been sacrificed, without any good accruing to the Province. Had blood been stirred up, and evil passions fomented through the workings of a law which was not only *Republican*, but *demoralizing*.—In fact, as un-English as anything possibly could be. He said the late Executive Council and not the Governor, should be blamed for all the turmoil and confusion into which the country had been thrown. When in power they were strong, knew their strength, and exercised their authority at the bidding of an organization, as recklessly as if they thought that they had a lease of office for life. They made a miscalculation in supposing that Temperance men could control this Province, and that all others must submit to their whims. In bringing in this Liquor Law the Government ought to have known that it could not be successfully carried out. Wherever the Governor had the soul power to exercise the prerogative as he pleased—a most dangerous doctrine, which that House had repudiated by their acts when Mr. Reed was appointed to office by Sir Wm. Colebrooke in 1842. Neither the decision of the country against the Liquor Law—nor the vote of that House, would settle the abstract question of right or wrong as regards what his Excellency had done. He was satisfied, however, that after the excitement had subsided, people would begin to realize the broad fact that concerned so seriously their political liberties and welfare. Mr. Fisher pointed out several cases, where, within a few years, people had reserved their judgment in respect to particular acts of their Representatives,—as, for example, in the case of the appointment of the Chief Justice by Sir Edmund Head (the late Sir James Carter). He had seen minorities grown into majorities in that House; and the British Government had decided the minority to have been right throughout in the object contended for. He denied that the former Government were (as a Government) responsible for the passage of the Liquor Bill through the Legislature. After the Bill had passed the Govern-

ment could not ask his Excellency to withhold his assent to it—when the two branches of the Legislature had called for such a measure. The Governor, he thought, had abandoned his high position, by identifying himself with this exciting question. At the recent Elections the cry everywhere was "Vote for the Governor." He thought it degradation that the Governor's name, which should be a tower of strength, should be dangled about from poll to poll. The use in this way of the name of the Queen's Representative, was base; but such a cry, Mr. Fisher said, met him everywhere in his canvass throughout his County. His Excellency, therefore, was now in the humiliating position which no Constitutional Governor should occupy. (Here Mr. Speaker called Mr. Fisher to order, as it was un-Parliamentary, he said, to introduce his Excellency's name into debate. The honorable gentleman admitted that the proceeding was unusual and out of order. He said he had never referred to his Excellency in this way, and although it could not now very well be helped, he would refrain as much as possible from doing so in the future.)

[NOTE.—In England it is considered to be out of order to introduce the Queen's name or name of any monarch upon her conduct. Why? Because, "She can do no wrong"—that is, her Ministry are supposed to be guilty of any political wrong that may be committed. The Lieutenant Governor of a Province when he identifies himself with a party, or bearing partizan, whether he be Governor or Executive Councillor. Unforeseen Constitutional difficulties had not been anticipated. Liberals no more than Conservatives could be prepared for a stretch of power, which had never entered into their calculations, and for which they did not know where to look for precedents. It was one thing to have a new Constitution in the abstract. It was another to be prepared to master its details and make it work in a particular groove, upon a sudden emergency. It required experience as well as practice—both of which our Politicians were as yet but novices. It was broadly asserted on the part of those whose wishes got the mastery of them, that the new Government would be found in a minority upon all questions except the question of the day, when that was once disposed of, another crash would follow. The Government on the other hand had strong faith in their own strength and future. If they could breast the surges of the short Session they knew they had a lease of power for at least six months longer; and, enjoying this advantage, the chances were altogether favourable to a much longer continuance. It was therefore their safest policy to allow nothing of an extraneous character to interfere with the actual business for which the House had been called together. The repeal of the Liquor Law was that business, for which a majority of the House had pledged themselves to their constituents. Thus the Government were safe for this Session, provided they could confine the House to the Liquor question. In this will be seen presently, they were successful.]

CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

Particulars of the Troops That Took Part in the Engagements.

The Charge of the Light Brigade," was made at Balaclava, a small town in the Crimea, about ten miles from Sebastopol. The siege of Sebastopol began on Sept. 20, 1854, and on Oct. 25, 1854, the Russian general, Liprandi, to make a diversion, attacked some redoubts near Balaclava, held by some Turkish troops. These he took, and then, with about 12,000 men, he attacked the British. The attack was repulsed and the Russians were driven back, mainly by the charge of the Heavy Brigade, commanded by Col. Scarlett. The brigade consisted of the Second Dragoons (the Scots Greys) and the Sixth (Inniskilling) Dragoons, in the first line, and the First (Royal) Dragoons, the Fourth (Royal Irish) and the Fifth (Princess Charlotte of Wales) Dragoon Guards, in the second line. Some time after the battle was over Capt. Nolan brought Gen. Lord Raglan's order to Gen. Lord Lucan, who forthwith ordered Lord Cardigan, commanding the Light Brigade, to charge on the Russians, who had reformed line at a distance of a mile or more. The light Brigade consisted of the seventeenth Lancers, and portions of the Fifth and Eleventh Hussars, numbering 673 men in all. The charge was made and the cavalry swept through the Russian lines, capturing the Russian artillery. But they were able to hold it only a few moments, when they were driven back with great loss. Four hundred and thirty-six men regained the British line, unwounded, and that so many as that escaped was due to a threatened charge of the Heavy Brigade, and to an actual charge by the French Chasseurs d'Afrique, under Gen. de Wimpfen, who with the remnants of the Light Brigade came off the field.

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What trees bear the largest leaves? An English botanist tells us that it is those that belong to the palm family. First must be mentioned the banana palm of the banks of the Amazon, the leaves of which are no less than 50 feet in length by 10 to 12 in width. Certain leaves of the Ceylon palm attain a length of 20 feet and the remarkable width of 16. The natives use them for making tents. Afterward comes the coconut palm, the usual length of whose leaves is about 30 feet. The umbrella magnolia of Ceylon bears leaves that are so large that a single one may sometimes serve as a shelter for fifteen or twenty persons. One of these leaves carried to England as a specimen was nearly 30 feet in length and 16 in width. The plant whose leaves attain the greatest dimensions in our temperate climate is the Victoria regia. A specimen of this truly magnificent plant exists in the garden of the Royal Botanical Society of Edinburgh. Its leaf, which is about seven feet in diameter, is capable of supporting a weight of 305 pounds.

MRS. PARKER'S STATEMENT.

An English Lady Interviewed—Her Remarks Will Interest Canadians.

Mrs. Parker, an English lady, living in St. Clerans, near Southampton, England, recently interviewed, said she had not been well for twenty years as then, having just taken a course of Hawker's nerve and stomach tonic and Hawker's liver pills. Mrs. Parker had been a great sufferer from flatulence and indigestion, complicated with bronchial asthma, and what the doctors termed heart trouble. Every remedy that her family physician could suggest was tried but without success, and her condition became so serious that she thought the only chance for her restoration to health was a change of climate. She could not lie down at night, but had to be bolstered up in a sitting posture and then could only breathe with difficulty. But after taking six bottles of Hawker's nerve and stomach tonic in conjunction with Hawker's liver pills she was completely restored to health. Her symptoms will be recognized at once by thousands of sufferers, in whose case they are present in perhaps a milder form, and to them also Hawker's nerve and stomach tonic comes as a deliverer from the tortures of sickness and disease. In Mrs. Parker's case as in thousands of others, the wonderful results obtained are due solely to the remarkable nerve restoring, invigorating and blood building properties of this great tonic, combined with the regulating qualities of the pills on the stomach, liver and bowels. Hawker's nerve and stomach tonic is especially adapted to the diseases peculiar to women giving tone to the nerves and stomach, vigor to the mind and body, and strength to the blood, restoring the bloom of health to the pale and delicate. It is a perfect nerve restorer and invigorator, and blood and flesh builder, as well as a valuable stomach tonic and aid to digestion. It is a certain cure when faithfully used for all diseases arising from nerve exhaustion, weakened or impaired digestion, or an impoverished or impure condition of the blood, such as nervousness, weakness, nervous headache, sleeplessness, neuralgia, loss of appetite, dyspepsia, hysteria, and the prostrating effects of ill-grace or any nerve weakness of heart or brain arising from worry, overstrain of mind or body or excesses of any nature. Hawker's nerve and stomach tonic can be obtained from all druggists and dealers. Price fifty cents a bottle or six bottles for \$2.50.

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