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L. STEWART, Editor.
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Weekly Tribune.
WITH SUPPLEMENT.
ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 3, 1874.

Timber Lands.
Mr. Hibbard's attempt to get the tax removed from wild land will, of course, be defeated. It is a special tax, and special purposes, and should be maintained. Every year more of the public lands are, happily for the Province, getting into private hands, and the new settlements require still further road building. It would be very pleasant for Mr. Hibbard or any other man to buy the timber lands on a strip of timber, and then not be relieved of taxes upon it until it could be disposed of to settlers at a good price. It would be better for the Province to give the lands away, and impose an additional tax on them, than to allow them to be pillaged and destroyed at the rate of \$3 a acre mile. Timber lands are farmed by their owners, lumbered over every six or eight years, and form a perpetual source of revenue. The public timber lands are robbed and plundered, with and without license from the Government, and destroyed. The mileage system is the one that ought to be carried away. Public business should be done on the same basis as private business. No owner of timber land would give another the right to enter upon his property at a certain square mile to cut and slash and waste his timber. Instead of this he would restrict his timber within certain boundaries, and charge him a certain amount for each acre or five dollars a thousand, according to circumstances, but the stampage, not the mileage system, would be the basis of the tax. The public lands are being stripped of the forests destroyed, and a source of revenue extinguished, under the present system, and nobody appears to be respicing any particular advantages. Alex. Gibson, who makes more money than any other lumber manufacturer in New Brunswick, perhaps never in any place, has cut and cut timber on a lot of his public lands after the common method. It is better for the Province, the people, and the lumberers themselves that the timber lands should be taken over, and made a source of revenue. Now that the export duty has been taken off, and a bill for granting railway subsidies should pass unaccompanied by an act for the raising of a large portion of the interest on the subsidies from the public lands. The Province should be plunged into debt, not as a matter of expediency, when the timber lands could be easily made to yield a hundred thousand dollars a year more than they now do, a sum sufficient to meet the interest on the proposed railway subsidies.

Why Rents are High.
The pretended reason for the enormous rents exacted in St. John, and for the unwillingness of capitalists to invest in house property, is the high taxes. But the taxes on property are high, but there are not enough of them. There are three or four times as many houses in St. John as in the rest of the Province, and the rents are low. Let us make a comparison with the pretty riverside city of Calais, for instance. The tax there is two and one-half per cent on real and personal property, and the city owns no wharves, has cut no streets through ledges, erected no water works, no public buildings except school-houses and a lock-up. St. John has carved streets out of the overlying hills, built wharves, brought water from a distance of four miles, has a jail, court house, city hall, and its property tax is but nineteen twenty-fifths of one per cent on an antiquated valuation, less than one-half of one per cent on a modern valuation. The owner of a \$10,000 house in Calais pays a tax of \$200; the owner of a \$10,000 house in St. John pays a tax of \$38. And yet there are more houses built every year in Calais than in St. John. The real reason for the extortionate rents that are demanded is the scarcity of accommodation and not the high taxes. People have been putting their money into ships and mines, instead of houses, until there are not houses enough for the people, and the owners of house property take advantage of the scarcity to get extortionate rents, just as corn holders extort a famine.

Post Mortem Appointments.
Everybody remembers the abuse that was heaped upon Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Tilley in consequence of the

appointments made just before the resignation of the late Government. From one end of Canada to the other the hon. members of the Organized Hypocrisy went up. There was no man in the Grit party from Cape Breton to Vancouver's Island, to say that the appointments were in accordance with English precedent and perfectly justifiable. Even Alex. Mackenzie, who is described as a statesman, said:

"Anything more infamous was never done by any Government! Anything more unjustifiable could not even be conceived. I will not waste words upon this disgraceful transaction. History will speak with one voice as to its political morality, and, Sir, I look with compassion more than anger upon the men who could thus prostitute their position as members of Parliament."

Mr. Mackenzie knew where he stood, the proscription of hypocrisy, and the above, that is, it is customary, thing for outgoing Governments to fill official vacancies.

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Miss Stanton, who was, Wednesday evening, by the toleration she accorded to the doings of the historic women whose names are linked with those of some great men but she charged her hearers with the same vices, and she said, "I will not waste words upon this disgraceful transaction. History will speak with one voice as to its political morality, and, Sir, I look with compassion more than anger upon the men who could thus prostitute their position as members of Parliament."

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Mr. Wedderburn, according to notice, moved a resolution for the purpose of amending the act relating to the duties of school teachers, and he said he had been informed that several teachers were not receiving their salaries.

Mr. Gough, from the Committee on the bill relating to the reduction of representation, reported the committee in favor of the bill, and he said he had been informed that several teachers were not receiving their salaries.

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