

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, FEBRUARY 21, 1888.

WHEN THE BATTLE BEGINS.

A Lively Debate Anticipated.

The House met at 3.30 p.m. to-day, and the Committee appointed for the purpose reported a draft address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. It was read a first and second time, and referred to a Committee of the Whole, after which the House adjourned.

To-morrow the battle will begin in earnest, and then the Opposition will be heard for the first time this session. Doubtless a lively debate may be anticipated, and tickets for "seats upon the floor" will be in demand. Admission to the upper gallery will be free, as heretofore, and we understand that an inducement to ladies to attend will be held out by reserving for their use a portion of those seats under the gallery, technically called "the floor of the House," in which the representatives of the press are installed when present.

It seems quite probable, then, that the session will be a very interesting one in various ways. Of course the presence of ladies—if they could only be induced to honor our legislative halls by attending some of the sittings—would have a mollifying effect on the tone of the Assembly, and, better still, it would, perhaps, make some of the "Conscript Fathers" a little more particular with respect to their attire as well as their conduct generally. At any rate, they would hardly care to sleep in presence of the ladies, or put in an appearance at all when out of temper or too much under the influence of their favorite beverage.

Since we went to press yesterday letters bearing additional testimony as to the unpopularity of the Government have come into our hands. In all the districts, north and west, the popular feeling against Premier Thorburn and his Executive associates has been greatly intensified since the close of last year's session, and it is safe to say that, if an appeal were made to the country to-morrow, the present governing party would not come back with a corporal's guard.

Recent revelations have caused a feeling of despondency in certain quarters, as the people fear for the future of the colony, already taxed to its utmost capacity. But we must check this feeling as much as possible, and strive to get poor old Terra Nova once more fairly started on the road to prosperity. Let the fact that Sir William Whiteway is at this moment organizing what will prove the strongest and best political party ever formed in Newfoundland inspire us all with hope, and nerve us to grapple with, and effectually strangle, the OFFICIAL CORRUPTION which since 1885 has been sapping the very foundations of the Commonwealth.

We would not go so far as to say that political dishonesty injuriously affects the catch of fish. But we do assert that unclean Government, incompetency, and imprudent legislation exercise a pernicious influence over the foreign markets, and greatly militate against local prosperity, as far as our fishing industry is concerned. The consequences of political corruption are far-reaching and fearfully disastrous; and it is folly for the people of Newfoundland to expect any permanent or appreciable improvement in the outlook until the public affairs of the island are placed in the hands of honest, competent and reliable men.

As in private life, so in politics. Our Senators must learn to be economical if they expect their policy to succeed and the colony to prosper. They should endeavor to learn the sage maxims of our parsimonious ancestors, and attain the salutary arts of curtailing expense; for without economy none can be rich, and with it few can be poor. The mere power of saving what is already in our hands must be of easy acquisition to every mind; and as the example of Lord Bacon may show that the highest intellect cannot safely neglect it, a thousand instances every day prove that the humblest member of our local Legislature may practise it with success. As Johnson forcibly puts it:—"Economy in the Senate is the parent of integrity, of liberty, and of ease; and the beautiful sister of temperance, of cheerfulness, and health; and profuseness is a cruel and crafty demon, that gradually involves her followers in dependence and debts; that is fetters them with 'irons that enter into their souls.'"

Let us take care, then, to support Sir William Whiteway and his party, whose mission it is to restore things to their normal condition by the constitutional means of CLEAN AND ECONOMICAL GOVERNMENT.

The first overland Northern mail, inclusive of the post from the mining settlements of Notre Dame Bay, is expected to arrive here to-morrow.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY NOTES.

The "Rupert of Debate" in a New Role.

EASY WAY TO "RAISE THE WIND."

The House met yesterday at 4 o'clock p.m. and, without doing any business, the Speaker, after taking his chair, adjourned the sitting until this evening at the same hour, for the want of a quorum. This was done to oblige the brilliant "Rupert of Debate"—the gentlemanly, scholarly and diplomatic A. F. Goodridge—and a few others on the Government benches, who wanted to close their mail for the Newfoundland. The four Opposition members were at the post of duty, and sat grim and silent, and in anxious expectation for the session's fight. Captain Duff, who presides over the "stormy myrmidons" of the gallery, raised the command of "order" high above the clatter and noise of the heavy-booted democracy, who clambered over the benches of their time-honored resort. Louder and more angry were the tones of the deep-chested hero of the "bloody pans," one of the last and oldest of our one time numerous seal killers, Captain John Hally, who now, in his old age, "keeps watch and ward" over the door leading to the Assembly floor. "Stand back there," he cried; "Do you think it's a seal's fo'castle you're in?" The crowd of men outside was large and the denunciation of Speaker McNeilly, who introduced the ticket system, was at once both fierce and just. It is not at all just that class distinctions should be drawn in the House of Assembly, and that the poor man should have a seat in one part of the House, while his fellow-citizen who may have a little more wealth than him, should have a cushioned and luxurious seat in another part of the House. All men are alike and equal in the eyes of the law; but it required the Thorburn administration and Speaker McNeilly to introduce a system of admission to the House of Assembly in contravention of this long established maxim of the English constitution. Perhaps this inroad on the usages of our parliament may be shortly followed with a breach of the privileges of the House and that, as a means of making up the shortage in our revenue Mr. Speaker McNeilly will issue an ukase charging an admission fee. A government can pass what laws they please regarding parliament or any other institution, and the Thorburn Government, having done so many foolish things in the past, may do this in the near future. Just imagine an exciting debate on to-morrow. Subject—"Prohibition"; McNeilly to speak against it, after which there will be a farce, by Mr. Carty, the member for St. George's, attacking Mr. Morine. Admission 50 cents; children half price. Don't fail to come! Then, instead of the debates, we would have a column or two in the government organ explaining the noble patriotism of the government gladiators who wretched in the "political arena" the night before. If this plan were brought forward at a "party-meeting," and a promise of benefit nights at the close of the session, made to the needy members of the Government, no doubt a majority vote might be secured. But a truce to this jesting. There is no act of Mr. McNeilly's political life, outside of the few attempts that he made from time to time to suppress or curtail the freedom of the press, that has brought him so much into ridicule and public contempt as this last despotic act with reference to tickets for admission to the Assembly. It is no doubt a pleasant pastime for a business man who is desirous of getting admitted to hear the debates on the policy and politics of his country, to go chasing a member of the Assembly around all day for the purpose of securing a ticket. They scarcely have the time to spare. If the object of the Government, in this ticket business, be to pack the House with their own supporters, however unjust it would be, we would be inclined to forgive them, for then there would be a shadow of reason for their insane conduct. This, up to the present, has not been assigned as a reason. Mr. McNeilly will be doing queer things, and the public must draw from some quarter a supply of merriment, and the Speaker has furnished them with all they may require for a time.

Two important real estate transactions have just been concluded. One is the sale of Mr. George Gear's residence, formerly the old Barnes' homestead, Barnes' Road, for the sum of fifteen hundred pounds (£1,500). Sheriff Carter was the purchaser. The successful manager of the negotiation was John T. Gillard, Esq. The other was the sale by auction yesterday morning of the dwelling, once the property of H. M. Gibb, adjoining the above, which was knocked down to Mr. Stephen Knight for one thousand and fifteen pounds (£1,015), Robert Prowse & Sons being the auctioneers.

Widow Rachael Green, and two small children, equally destitute; neither family had either flour, tea, or molasses. There are a number of orphans depending upon the charity of people who took them, on the death of their parents, entertaining the hope that, with the small amount received towards their support from the Government, they would manage to pull through and keep the poor children from perishing. That aid has now been taken from them. The guardians say: "We can't keep ourselves." These children have no parents living. Government will not assist to maintain them. What's to be done?

There are other instances—a few of which will suffice for the present. I must mention John Hindy, a poor cripple man—paralyzed—more than 70 years of age—is now informed that he is to receive no further aid from Government. In the next settlement to this, Turk's Cove, lives an old and infirm woman, a Mrs. Dean, whose age is over 80 years; also a very aged man named Patrick Moores, so crippled that two crutches supply his means of locomotion. In both these extreme cases the Government have erased their names from the poor list and stoutly refused to grant them further assistance. There are other cases which I shall draw your attention to later on, Mr. Editor. Let the Government call this "Retrenchment and Reformation" if they will; but the people of all classes and denominations term such conduct high-handed dealings, cruelty, injustice, oppression, wrong and robbery. Our members, or representatives, have been referred to and consulted in this matter, but say "they are unable to do anything in it. It is an order of the Government and cannot be revoked." Would the investigators of this measure turn their attention for a few moments to Exodus 22nd ch., 22nd, 23rd and 24th verses. Read there of the doom awaiting those who afflict the widow and fatherless. Mr. Editor, have these starving widows and fatherless children, these aged and crippled men and women, to yield up their Government mite to help pay for that \$8,000 Jubilee Ball held in the Colonial Building last summer? Some of us thought as much at the time. Oh! when will this reign of oppression and injustice have an end!

Yours very truly,
JUSTICE AND TRUTH.
Scilly Cove, T.B., Feb. 18, '88.

FROM OUR BURIN CORRESPONDENT.

He Dilates on the Coastal Boats,

AND THINKS ONE SHOULD BE NAMED "HUMBAG," THE OTHER "FRAUD."

Some Remarks About the Bait Act.

A MEASURE CALCULATED TO DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

Editor Evening Telegram.
DEAR SIR,—We see a great deal in print concerning the names to be given the new coastal mail boats. Why is there nothing mentioned regarding passenger, fares, &c., all of which is but a system of extortion as at present practised? On what waters of the civilized world will you find vessels taking freight and doing as they like with it?—charging twice the usual fare for passage, and giving no equivalent in accommodation,—nothing to eat with, or to lie on, in steerage, and often so in cabin, and getting a larger subsidy from Government than any boat or boats of equal size in America?

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If the coming boats are to be conducted on the same principle as the present, I would suggest that one be named "Humbag," the other "Fraud."

There is another matter now occupying considerable public attention, particularly on the southwest coast, which coast it only interests. That is, prohibition of the sale of bait to French fishermen. What is that for? It can't be to protect the little bait fishes, as they are well protected already, by a business manager something ahead of ours, being plentier at present than ever. By bait fishes I suppose is meant caplin, squid and herring. These fish require no laws to protect them; they multiply in numbers far beyond the means man can bring to bear in their destruction, and one good sized whale would and does destroy more caplin in a year than all the Frenchmen, guano factories and cabbage gardens of the coast.

If there were any sense in the report of the French fish being in our way in the markets, this very bill would serve to increase that difficulty by compelling shop-keepers and others at St. Pierre to go into banking for a living, and such is really the intention, twenty-seven (27) new vessels being added to the St. Pierre fleet this fall, of from 80 to 150 tons. Next year it is thought that about fifty (50) more will be added. The change of denomination of money to dollars and cents, and the reduction of foreign silver, no one seems to heed, these changes being quite in keeping with other proceedings of the present dishonest and bungling Government.

Yours truly,
BAIT FISHES.
Burin, Feb. 9, 1888.

"Retrenchment and Reformation."

PROMISES THEY DID NOT INTEND TO REDEEM.

Petty Acts of Political Tyranny.

DEAR SIR,—These were two of the principal planks in the platform of the Reform Party and immediately succeeding that now notorious tissue-paper plank—"No Amalgamation with the so-called Liberal Party." How anxiously have we waited, and with what eager eyes have we scanned the political horizon, endeavoring to peer through the gloom to behold the fulfilment of either the one or the other of these promises. But, alas! the horizon has become so obscured by reason of the political turpitude of those who now wield the sceptre, that one must be gifted with supernatural powers of vision to discern through the "blackness of darkness" the least sign of either "retrenchment" or "reformation" in any act or department of the present Government.

If by retrenchment was meant a curtailing of public expenses, I fail to recognize a single instance where it has been applied. Do not departmental officers and Government officials generally still receive the same enormous salaries? Is not the same reckless extravagance continued, for which this Government, ever since its inception, has been characterized? Do you call it retrenchment to pay a man for sporting about the city of Washington, posing as the Newfoundland representative at the Fishery Commission, but mute, as he himself asserts, with "sealed lips." When, by-and-by, the Hon. J. S. Winter unrolls his long list of expenses and submits the same to the Government for immediate payment, and the poor starving fishermen of this country have got to foot the bill, I will then ask, is this retrenchment?

How have such astounding figures been set down as expenses, and how incurred? asks some one. Why, simply by living in the highest style and moving in the most fashionable circles to be found in the capital of the United States. Expenses occasioned by holiday trips to Canada, &c. Expenses in the shape of a fabulous salary as Attorney General for Newfoundland. Add to this the payment of an Acting Attorney General occupying the triple position of Speaker, Solicitor General and Acting Attorney General, drawing the salaries attached to each of the three offices, to say nothing of all the fat pickings.

Mr. Editor, is this "Retrenchment?" Alas! poor Terra Nova! Oh! for a saviour to deliver us from money-grabbers and spendthrifts, who are fast depleting our treasury.

Was it "retrenchment," when last winter the Government scattered broadcast, in this and other districts, provisions of all kinds, and even tobacco, many recipients of the same being men with money in the Bank and having a balance to their credit with their merchant? for which "relief," as 'twas called, little or no returns were made.

But, sir, it has come at last! Retrenchment and Reform have visited us with a vengeance! But in what form? That poor, helpless, starving widows and orphans, aged and crippled men and women, have had the miserable pittance hitherto allowed them by Government suddenly stopped. The small allowance which has been for years granted these poor and wretched people is now at this season of the year, by order of the Government, withheld. Can any act of tyranny and oppression be more cruel?

About the end of November the Government sent a police officer, Sergeant O'Reilly, through this and adjacent settlements, who, without due enquiry, or without interviewing the people or knowing aught of their circumstances, indiscriminately struck their names off the poor list.

The consequence of this rash and inhuman act on the part of the Government, is that several families in this place are STARVING!

This assertion is not made on mere "hearsay" evidence. The writer has visited the wretched abodes of the people referred to, and found destitution, misery, wretchedness, poverty—in a word—starvation, real and existing. (This is no cry, out of which to make "political capital," a compliment which your Prescott Street contemporary has been pleased to pay to writers who have disclosed the poverty of people residing in more northern parts of the island.) Mr. Editor, it is truly heart-rending to witness the distress and suffering. In some cases the small sum of \$4, in some cases \$6, per quarter, constituted the sole dependence of a widow and several small children.

I will give you a case in point—Widow Amelia Green, with four small children. The condition of this family is most wretched. The mother is crippled in her right arm. She has no means of support whatever. She, poor woman, remarked to me, with tears and sighs: "That relief is all my support, and if the Government keeps it from me, myself and children must starve." Another family,

Widow Rachael Green, and two small children, equally destitute; neither family had either flour, tea, or molasses. There are a number of orphans depending upon the charity of people who took them, on the death of their parents, entertaining the hope that, with the small amount received towards their support from the Government, they would manage to pull through and keep the poor children from perishing. That aid has now been taken from them. The guardians say: "We can't keep ourselves." These children have no parents living. Government will not assist to maintain them. What's to be done?

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LOCAL VARIETIES.

THE S.S. Hercules starts for Bay ports this evening and is getting full freights.

THERE will be no practice for the choir of Cochrane Street Methodist Church to-night.

WHAT medical man is assisting in the Hospital during the absence of the Hon. Doctor Crowley?

THAT notable event of gay and happy circles—the Irish Ball—will take place on Tuesday of Easter week.

A DEBATE on the volunteer question takes place in the Academia this evening, commencing at 8 o'clock.

THE catch of the current Norwegian cod fishery to last Saturday, the 18th, is 7,000,000, as against 3,000,000 to the same date of last year's take.

CAPTAIN GUY takes charge of the Polynia to the ice this spring, and Captain Milne of the Esquimaux. These ships are now being outfitted on the South Side.

THE Legislative Council is shorn of some of its best debaters by the absence from the colony of the following members: Honorables Dr. Crowley, A. W. Harvey, Captain Philip Cleary, John Syme, James McLoughlin. The number available to carry on the business of the Council is eight. The full number of members is fifteen according to law; the full number of incumbents at present is thirteen. The number necessary for a quorum is eight.

OLD fishing salts say to each other that "the backbone of the winter is broken." Why shouldn't it be broken when the swollers are getting to rights? Snow we shall have yet, and frost in abundance, but with the 1st of March spring begins in Newfoundland, so the sealers say. The farmers don't endorse this opinion. "Wait till you hear the whistle of the first blackbird," they will tell you, "on the 12th of April, six weeks afterwards, before you talk about spring; and for a month after that the spirit of ethereal mildness will be coy in making up her mind to stay for good—the horrible jade!"

THE House of Assembly yesterday—the first day of its assembling for the practical transaction of business—was counted out for the want of a quorum, a creditable way of attending to the business of the country. We are on the eve of spring, with the 1st of March close at hand, yet the debate proper on the address in reply hasn't yet begun. Formerly at this time, the Money Bills, Ways and Means, and Supply were either passed or very nearly so. Yet at this late period we find that the public business is backward from neglect or procrastination, and that many of the leading supporters of the Government, including the Premier, are absent from their posts.

THE Foreign Missionary Services in connection with the George Street Circuit of the Methodist Church, which commenced on Sunday last, will be continued to-night in George Street Church. A very interesting programme has been prepared, and the following topics will be spoken to, interspersed with anthems by the choir:—(1) "The Mission Field—Its Vast Extent"—Rev. J. Pratt. (2) "The Mission Field—Its Terrible Need"—Robert Barnes, Esq. (3) "The Macedonian Cry"—Rev. W. Graham. (4) "The Duty of the Home—Pray ye the Lord of the Harvest that He would send forth Laborers"—Rev. G. Boyd. (5) "The Duty of the Hour—Go or Give"—J. B. Woods, Esq. It is earnestly hoped that there will be a good gathering, as it is certain that not only will the speeches be a treat, but the singing of the choir, from the efforts made by its members, will be a rich feast of spiritual song.

RESCUE OF THE 'HUNTLEY'S' CREW.

Note of Thanks From Capt. Ashburne.

DEAR SIR,—I wish, through the columns of your widely-circulated paper, to thank Captain W. Jeans, of the steamer Oxford, and his mate, Mr. Burrell, for their extreme kindness and untiring attention to myself and crew, of the schr. D. A. Huntley. Captain Jeans saw our signal of distress, and, like a whole-souled man that he is, with humanity in his heart, he came promptly to the rescue of our lives. We were taken from the wreck on Jan. 29th, and from that date till we landed, captain, mate and crew showed their untiring zeal to add to our comfort. Captain Jeans and mate have my heartfelt thanks, and it will be long ere his kindness to myself and crew will be erased from my memory. Thanking you for space.

I am, etc.,
CAPT. ASHBURNE.
St. John's, Feb. 20, 1888.

MARRIED.

On 1st December, 1887, at Montrose, Scotland, Alexander Ashton Murray, eldest son of the late Captain Murray, to Annie Webster Hughes, by the Rev. Robert Duncan, assisted by the Rev. W. Fairweather, Free Church Manse, Maryton.

DIED.

At Play-house hill, this morning, Mr. John Walsh, aged 56 years.

By THE An Ag LARG Quest PRESID The F shows were con sanction years. A and New for a licen ton, the bait and right to the Unite fish, lice sends a proving F A Sav On Mo dom, wor by fire at rigging o der repai were des inflicted o last night A fre northwes steamer J went we LO The fi to-day. THE S this mor The c omers" former b At the Governo Professio program of the B was plea admirati selection AN ONE "an amuse evening Street M place in will be the fest wanting enjoyme however plete, a may be fragranc gods," v after wh and inst ed by m member young, s sure to t wh The SU In th Justice last term the plain the defe a rule fo during t Justice charging the jury his brot ing with discharg ments v Greene General