

POLITICAL REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

DOMINION.—Wednesday, April 14th.—In answer White said four members of the Staff of the Geological Survey had been sent to England with the Colonial and Indian exhibition.

Chapleau said the government had received no official communication from the Imperial government in relation to the non-fulfillment of the terms of the union with P. E. Island.

Vail moved for a return of correspondence respecting the treaty between Spain and the United States, and complained that no steps had been taken to secure similar privileges for Canada, as those obtained by the latter country.

Stairs pointed out that England had nothing to give in return for concessions from Spain, and therefore could not secure what the United States had reaped under a different fiscal policy.

The act to amend the law of evidence in criminal cases was defeated at the second reading.

Thursday, April 15th.—Orton introduced a bill to amend the Canada Temperance Act, by exempting wine and cider from its operations.

The bill to amend the Post Office Act of 1875, passed a third reading.

After some routine matters the house went into committee on the senate bill to make further provisions respecting summary proceedings before justices. Some difficulties having been raised, the committee on motion reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Friday, April 16th.—Chapleau introduced a bill to amend the act regulating Chinese immigration. He explained that the amendments proposed were to have compulsory registration of Chinese deaths, births, and marriages, and movements into and out of the country; to place the enforcement of the act under the customs department.

Costigan moved the house into committee of the whole to consider the expediency of amending the weights and measures act of 1879, and to empower the governor in council to define what weights, measures and weighing machines should be admitted to verification. The object of the bill was to remove doubts and verify weights and measures.

The government has decided to prohibit, under penalty, the importation of oleomargarine and butterine.

Monday, April 19.—Foster in answer to a question stated that the government had taken steps to ascertain the correctness of the statement that depredations had been committed by American fishermen at Clark's Harbor, Shelburne County.

Charlton moved a resolution for the adoption of certain specified rules to be applied in future to the mode of conducting debates.

Langevin moved in amendment that all after the first paragraph be struck out. The first paragraph affirms the advisability of condemning long speeches, long extracts, and verbose comments.

The amendment was carried without division.

The government promised to give a statement in detail of the additions, repairs, and alterations to Rideau hall.

Blake and Langevin previous to adjournment referred to the death of Mr. Thomson (Haldiman).

Tuesday, April 20.—The act respecting the transfer of the lighthouse at Cape Race to Canada, passed a third reading.

Sir John A. entered the House and was greeted with prolonged applause.

On motion to go into supply, Laurier spoke on the half-breed grievances as to the titles of land. He said they did not receive as much consideration as the Indians. He entered at great length into the history of the half-breeds. The inaction of the government was wilful and designed, and said it was their intention not to give the half-breeds outside of Manitoba the same recognition given to the half-breeds of that Province. He moved in amendment that it was the duty of the government to proceed with diligence to settle the claims of the half-breeds of the North-West, and that the government is to be censured for neglect, delay, and mismanagement, prejudicial to the peace and good government of Canada.

White (interior) said the further the opposition went in the investigation of the causes of the rebellion, the less they would find for which to censure the government. Riel did not for the first time last year attempt to raise a revolt. The opposition did not like Mr. Pierce's report, which completely exonerated the government. He (Riel) had gone to the Fenian centre in New York in 1878 to obtain aid to get up a rebellion in 1879. He defended the action of the government at length, and claimed that the Indians and half-breeds had been liberally dealt with. He quoted from Jackson to show that the real object of the rebellion was to reconquer the whole North West from Canada.

Davis followed in a lengthy speech. He charged the government with incapacity and neglect, and said that the issue raised by Laurier had not been met by White in his reply.

PROVINCIAL.—Wednesday, April 14th.—Dr. Haley presented a bill to amend chap. 59, R. S., of public instruction.

Mr. Church moved the adoption of the report of the special committee appointed to consider the better terms question. He stated that the dominion government had refused the demands of the local government, though the statement of facts is admittedly correct. The salient points of the proposed memorial are, rebuttal of the contention made in the reply of the federal government. He believed that if success is to crown the efforts of Nova Scotia to obtain better terms, the battle must be fought out on the floor of the Dominion house by the members from Nova Scotia. The argument used in the reply to the former memorial regarding customs duties was not a fair one. This government was told that had we spent less on railways we would have had money for local purposes. It was true that subsidies had been granted for railways, but the amount so expended was

less than the sums of money granted for railways by the older provinces of Canada. New Brunswick had spent one million dollars more than Nova Scotia in subsidies.

Mr. Bell seconded the motion. He deemed the replies to the contention of the dominion government quite satisfactory. It has been always claimed that Nova Scotia paid more per capita than any other province, and in view of the special pursuits of its inhabitants he believed it did pay more. The strong point of our case, he thought, is that the dominion government admit that no province should be placed at a disadvantage, in so far as the subsidy is concerned. It is impossible to controvert the contention that we are at a disadvantage in comparison with New Brunswick. That province has grant of \$160,000 a year in lieu of their timber revenue, which year by year would, in the nature of the case decline in value. He would heartily support the demand for return of the subsidy used in constructing the Eastern Extension railway.

Messrs. Fraser and Weeks believed that the memorial would be ineffectual, and stated that before the house adjourned a motion for repeal would be made.

Mr. Fielding had no hope that the memorial would effect a favorable result. The government of Nova Scotia had not received fair treatment at the hands of either the grit or the tory party in the Dominion. If the memorial was not successful, the province would be compelled to resort to direct taxation, and that would be a conclusive argument for repeal.

Mr. Spence wished the house to vote unanimously for the memorial. The legislature should speak as if it expected that the claims of this Province would receive attention.

After some further discussion a vote was taken and the memorial passed unanimously.

Thursday, April 15th.—Two bills were reported up by Mr. Mack, the Chairman of the committee on private and local bills. The first was to amend chap. 62 of the Acts of 1884, an act to incorporate the Halifax City Railway Company, by allowing an extension of time to the company to complete the road, and that it be allowed to substitute electric for horse power. The second bill proposed to incorporate another company, giving it exclusive rights to operate a street railway, provided that the company incorporated under chap. 62 of the Acts of 1884, did not finish its railway and commence operations, as stipulated in the charter, prior to April 1887.

It was decided by the house to grant an extension of six months to the first company, provided the sum of \$20,000 is expended on the work by April next. With amendments to this effect, both bills passed.

The bill to amend chap. 56 R. S., of impounding of cattle, rendering a wire fence illegal, was read clause by clause, and passed in committee.

Friday, April 16th.—Mr. Cameron introduced a bill to legalize the proceedings of the Warden and Councillors of the town of Sydney; Mr. Whidden, a bill to amend chap. 66 of the Acts of 1884, incorporating the Book and Tract Society; Mr. Harrington, a bill to incorporate the Opeleka remedy company; Dr. Haley, a bill to amend chap. 42 R. S., of commissioners of sewers and dyked and marsh lands; Mr. Harris, a bill relating to school lands in Cornwallis; Mr. Fielding, a bill to alter the boundary lines of certain polling districts in Inverness Co., and also bills to amend the city assessment act of 1883, and to enable the City of Halifax to purchase the Dalhousie college building; Mr. Longley, a bill to repeal chap. 36 of Acts of 1885, which provides for the appointment of a tax-g-master.

Mr. Fielding introduced a bill respecting corrupt practices and election of members to the House of Assembly.

A motion that the petition of the medical men of the province in reference to the hospital grievance be referred to the committee on humane institutions, brought on quite a lengthy debate. The resolution finally passed.

Monday, April 19.—Mr. Fielding moved the second reading of the bill respecting public charities. He said the board of charities was established to effect a unity of management and to remove the charitable institutions to some extent from government control. Experience had shown that the worst feature of a management was irresponsibility. This bill provides for the abolition of the board. Some time ago the City Council objected to the relations of the city and government in respect to the public institutions. Objections to the partnership arose also in the house, many of the members considering that Halifax was getting the best of the bargain, and so it seemed best that either the city or the government should have full control over the hospital. He was perfectly willing that it should pass out of the hands of the government, but did not think that the city would take it over. He had no doubt that the hospital would be retained by the government eventually and controlled by the provisions of this bill.

Mr. Bell said that the hospital is now, unfortunately, of no use to the Province outside of Halifax by reason of the action of the board of Charities. Confidence in the institution had been shaken by the policy of the board, alleged to be in direct opposition to that of the government. If their action could not be prevented, some change should certainly be made, and if the bill proposed to abolish that board, and establish an unpaid and responsible board, it would be for the benefit of the Province and would receive his support. He did not deem it in the interest of the province to give up the hospital to the city, for the province would soon be compelled to erect a new building. He desired to see the old medical board restored to the positions from which they should never have been ejected.

Mr. Church considered that the board of charities was responsible for the trouble in the first place, but believed that they were actuated by the desire to fulfill their duties carefully and well.

Speeches were also made by Messrs. Fraser, Corning, MacCoy, Hockin, Munro, and Longley.

The debate was then adjourned.

Mr. Fielding introduced a bill to change the name of the "Nova Scotia