

THE EVENING GAZETTE, SAINT JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1899.

THE EVENING GAZETTE

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAR. 18, 1899

THE FRANCHISE BILL

The franchise bill of the Gazette on the misleading summary of the franchise bill, as published in the editorial columns of the Telegraph on Saturday morning, led to a total misconception of its scope and meaning, and consequently to comments upon it, which being based on false premises, were wholly incorrect. Had the government, instead of inserting the bill to a single leading organ, whose editor had not wit enough to describe its meaning in language that could be understood, placed the bill at the disposal of the press generally, there would have been no misapprehension as to its terms in the minds of the public. We must confess that we fail to understand an act which the government has proceeded in the matter. It is evident that the man who wrote the Telegraph article on Saturday, or who formulated the misleading summary which was embodied in the article, had the bill before him, but lacked the brain power to disentangle its meaning from the mass of words in which it is embodied. The Telegraph therefore had the bill in its possession on Friday night, yet Mr. McEwen, who is the author of the article, did not get a copy of the bill until Saturday morning. He is a man of no ordinary intelligence, and it is not possible to suppose that he would not have been able to get a copy of the bill, had he so desired. The question now arises why was the bill furnished to the Telegraph on Friday night, and why did Mr. McEwen not get a copy of the bill until Saturday morning? We think that the answer is to be found in the fact that the bill was not intended to be published in the Telegraph, but in the Evening Gazette. The bill was furnished to the Telegraph as a means of getting it into the hands of the public, and it is not possible to suppose that the government would have done this had it not been its intention to have the bill published in the Evening Gazette. The bill was furnished to the Telegraph on Friday night, and it is not possible to suppose that the government would have done this had it not been its intention to have the bill published in the Evening Gazette. The bill was furnished to the Telegraph on Friday night, and it is not possible to suppose that the government would have done this had it not been its intention to have the bill published in the Evening Gazette.

NOTE AND COMMENT

The Toronto Globe, which until recently has been ridiculing the agitation against the Quebec Jesuit Estates Act, now declares that the act must be allowed. It says: "The Law Times must, we think, remove from the mind of all the impression that the Jesuit Estates act is within the exclusive powers of property and civil rights, and must be exercised in accordance with the common law of the realm. No power to confer 'exclusive powers' can be exercised by provincial legislatures, and the right to ask permission from a foreign authority to legislate, or with the right to assert the consent and co-operation of foreign authority to be requisite to the validity and operation of a provincial act. The allowance of the Jesuit Estates act by the governor general and council would involve the recognition of a foreign authority to legislate, and it is highly probable that the act would be disallowed." The Globe's own argument is that the act is not a provincial act, and that it is not within the exclusive powers of property and civil rights. It is a provincial act, and it is within the exclusive powers of property and civil rights. The Globe's argument is that the act is not a provincial act, and that it is not within the exclusive powers of property and civil rights. It is a provincial act, and it is within the exclusive powers of property and civil rights. The Globe's argument is that the act is not a provincial act, and that it is not within the exclusive powers of property and civil rights. It is a provincial act, and it is within the exclusive powers of property and civil rights.

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NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL

What our Ottawa Legislature are doing and why.

Ottawa, March 16.—There is no change in Hon. Mr. Pope's condition, which is very critical. He made his will on Friday. It is said to dispose of over a million dollars.

There seems to be little doubt about the Federal and Provincial Railway for the Cape Breton railway bridge at the Cape Breton. The contract price is a little over half a million. The bridge is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The railway mail clerks have sent a delegation here to ask for consideration of their case. They are asking for a 10 per cent increase in salary. The government has refused to grant their demand.

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