

# THE BULLFROG.

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## NOTICE.

We wish to inform our readers, once and for all, that the **BULLFROG**, although printed at the **HALIFAX INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL**, is in no way connected with that Institution. We think it due to the printing establishment of the Industrial School, to state that our first number was struck off by the steam printing press.

## PUBLIC MEN.

We have already stated that our Public men, taken en masse, find little favour in the eyes of those whose opinions must necessarily influence a stranger anxious to estimate our political condition aright. We might indeed go further, and say that those highest in the social scale recoil from any undertaking which can, directly or indirectly, be associated with politics. This was plainly noticeable in connection with the late Canadian visitors. If we except the public dinner, there was no public occasion which brought our guests face to face with the upper rank of society. The Canadians were publicly received by a few local politicians, backed up by a parcel of people having for the most part no social status whatever. But it is not only among our wealthier citizens that Office holders are out of favour; a similar opinion exists among men of all ranks, creeds, and professions. Men differing most widely in temper, in political sympathies, and in mode of life, are yet agreed in their estimate of public men. To men of almost every class and calling we have put the plain question—Are those at the head of affairs, men who have the honour and welfare of the Province at heart? And from men of all classes we have received the answer—They care nothing for the Province, so long as they can make money out of political life. This admission is, to say the least, somewhat humiliating, and but ill calculated to impress a stranger with exalted notions regarding the practical working of Responsible Government in Nova Scotia. But is such an admission justifiable? It may not be so, albeit conceded by a multitude of tongues. Giving our politicians the benefit of the doubt, let us for the time being ignore opinions thus desultorily expressed, and turn to opinions deliberately put for public consideration in the columns of the Press. A man—nay, even a number of men—may at times speak unadvisedly with their lips, but few men write unadvisedly for public perusal. Yet we fear that the Press likewise estimates public men at a standard the reverse of honorable. One journal, while commenting upon a politician, asks the Nova Scotians—“What they think of the man who attempted to pass off this garbled statement before the public, for the sake of getting into office and fattening on a salary? Would he, or would he not, walk up to your counter with a forged check? Will you not then put him down as a public deceiver?” Another paper tells us that certain men had faithfully adhered to a distinguished politician,—“until he practised upon them these intolerable acts of deception and perfidious treachery.” Again—“the day of **LOWDEN'S** prestige is over, and the despicable system of swindling so suspiciously inaugurated by **JOHNSON**, is not

likely to be successfully carried out by his insignificant disciple.” The following vigorous paragraph from the leading journal next claims attention. “What the public understand is this—that the leading men in power now, are the veriest impostors the world ever witnessed. They duped the country, deluded honest men, cheated their own supporters, made promises they never intended to fulfil, broke their pledges, forfeited their engagements.” This is a sad picture, but it is ratified by an evening paper in the following words—“The public, as is now confessed, has been duped, intentionally deceived, by those hypocritical professors of patriotism. Will that public be duped again? Will it again put confidence in the men who have not only deceived them, but who thus boast of the deception as a rather praiseworthy and clever dodge to accomplish their own private ends?” So far, the Press would seem to be no bad exponent of public opinion, and the following paragraph (taken from a journal usually prone to note our doings in the most congratulatory tone) thus sums up the opinions commonly in vogue regarding those to whom the interests of the Province have been confided—“a state of society where the people are so familiarized with the fact of a leading man being charged with infamy, that it has come to excite neither surprise nor indignation.” It would seem therefore that the spoken opinions of the community and the published opinions of the Press coincide as regards political life. Where can our stranger turn now,—where look for a redeeming feature in our politics as at present conducted? Have our people and our Press combined to misrepresent the political world, and to cast a slur upon the leaders of an Assembly elected by the people themselves? Such a combination for such a purpose is possible, but highly improbable. Arguing upon the “possibility,” let us, as a last resource, turn to the public acts of public men, in order to ascertain whether they justify, or even excuse, the unqualified censure of the people and the Press. Let us turn to the case of Mr. **HENRY B. LOWDEN**, whose treatment at the hands of those now holding office is yet fresh in the minds of our readers. The case is a curious one, inasmuch as Mr. **LOWDEN'S** dismissal from Government employ was the result of the charge upon which he was indicted having broken down. Mr. **LOWDEN** was accused of having voted for a certain party in 1859, and in proof of this charge a poll book was produced, wherein was written **HENRY LOWDEN**. Upon the strength of this evidence Mr. **LOWDEN** was temporarily convicted, and the fat went forth that he should be ousted from public employ. But when it had been shown that such evidence was in reality no evidence at all, Mr. **LOWDEN** was temporarily reinstated. His respite was however somewhat brief, inasmuch as having proved the executive body capable of error, was deemed a crime far greater than that with which he had been originally charged viz., voting in 1859. Now what opinions would our stranger form regarding this transaction? He would see those to whom the interests of the Province have been confided in a light somewhat curious, and would be forced to admit that there is in the politics of Nova Scotia something more than is dream't of in the philosophy of the mother country. He