

## Maritime Farmer.

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 3, 1886.

### PARLIAMENT.

Sir John A. Macdonald has met Parliament, and yet there are no signs of his political dissolution. The speech with which the Session was opened on Thursday mentions a number of good things for the country, and notwithstanding the bluster of the Grit party for the past few months, Sir John and his party are apparently as powerful as ever. Mr. Everett of St. John, who moved the Address in reply to the Speech, seems to have acquitted himself well. Mr. Blair criticized the Government in reply, and was followed by Sir John, who in a few dashing sentences was able to destroy the force of a two hours speech from the Grit leader. Sir Richard Cartwright replied to Sir John, and the debate was continued by Hon. Thomas White, one of the most fluent and best informed speakers in the Commons, and then Mr. Davies of Charlottetown, took up the cudgels for the Opposition. The discussion was closed by Hon. Peter Mitchell, who alternately blows hot and blows cold for the Government. The address then passed without amendment or division, and the Government, which during the Everett election, in St. John, was said by the Telegraph to be "tottering to its fall," breathed freely once more. It was noticeable that during the whole debate, no mention was made of the Riot matter by either side.

The session will doubtless be a lively one, but there can be no doubt of the Government being sustained throughout by a handsome majority.

### The Legislature.

Readers of the Speech put in His Honor the Lieutenant Governor's mouth, by Mr. Blair, at the opening of the Legislature, will wonder if this is the same Mr. Blair, who announced the famous policy of Reform and Economy in the Assembly in 1881. There is not a single paragraph in the Speech, that would indicate that Mr. Blair retains his ideas of retrenchment or reform. He promised to abolish the Legislative Council, but now he retracts his proposal of last year, to make it elective. He was going to reduce the number of the Executive to seven, and eventually to five, but the number still remains at nine. He was to have reduced the expenses of education, and lessened the cost of administering the Government, but all these things remain as they were, and will remain. When, at the opening of the Legislature, Mr. Blair replied that all these matters were dead issues, mere relics of the past, and he was understood to scold Mr. Wetmore for bringing them up again. It may be very convenient for Mr. Blair to forget them, but the people will not. The Province was led to expect great things from Mr. Blair's advent to power, but they have seen in him, only the grasping politician, disregarding his promises, and trampling under foot his most solemn declarations. Mr. Blair may be all his friends claim him to be, a clever debater, a shrewd politician, and clear headed lawyer, but a more glaring example of insincerity and political dishonesty, has not been furnished to the people of New Brunswick, in these latter days.

### Drawing the Lines.

The action of the Local Government, is most determinedly opposing the Federal administration, and the Conservative party generally, quite justified Mr. Wetmore in moving his amendment to the address, censuring the Executive. We do not understand, how any loyal Nova Scotian can support a Government that has done its level best to weaken and destroy the prestige and influence of the Macdonald administration. There was no excuse for mixing Local and Dominion questions, and drawing party lines on those issues, but Mr. Blair and his colleagues having adopted the principle of opposing the Conservative party, must take the consequences of their acts. If they punish Conservatives on every possible occasion; if they dismiss from office only Conservatives, and appoint only Grits, they can expect no consideration from the Conservative party throughout the Province, and they ought to receive none. How absurd for Mr. Blair to deny that the patronage and influence of his Government, have been exerted against the Conservative party. Does he anticipate that anybody will believe that? What do the people of York think of his denial. Do they not know that in the Temple-Gregory election, Mr. Temple's friends had to contend against the whole power and patronage of the Local Government, as exercised by Mr. Blair and Mr. Mitchell? Were not these two gentlemen on the stump late and early, pleading for support for Mr. Gregory, on the ground that the Local Government was to be weighed in the contest? And what about St. John. Why—Messrs. McLeod and Ritchie went around that constituency on their knees, almost, begging support in the Everett-McLeod election, not so much for Mr. McLeod and save us in our position in the Local Government, was the canny cry of these gentlemen, and yet Mr. Blair in the Assembly, has the effrontery to insist, that the Local Government has not interfered in Dominion contests!

He is a very poor Conservative who can support the Local Government with these facts in his mind. Remember we do not counsel running local elections on Dominion lines, although the adoption of such a course would result satisfactorily to the present Opposition in the Local Legislature, but we do say this, that if the principles, and policy, and exponents of the Liberal Conservative party, are to be trampled upon by the Local Government; if Liberal Conservatives are to be sacrificed by this Government, which when accused of such improper acts, attempts to shelter itself behind the unsupported assertion, then it is a coalition administration, then the time has come when the Conservative of New Brunswick must protect themselves.

## The Northumberland Ticket.

The friends of the Local Government regard the formation of the solid opposition ticket in Northumberland, with the most gloomy apprehension. They have ceased to joke about it; they have begun to realize that it is not a "dream," but a stern reality. The *Advocate* publishes the requisition that has been signed by a large majority of the electors, and presented to Messrs. Adams, Park, Tweedie and Hutchinson, asking them to accept a nomination in opposition to the Local Government, and our information is, that all four gentlemen have accepted.

Among other things the requisition sets forth that:

"The change of Government has not been found such a panacea for the 'people's ills' as its leaders and supporters led us to suppose its advent to power would prove. The platform of the present Government. While in opposition, the policy then formulated, together with the reforms promised, have not been carried into effect. No reduction has been made in the number of the Executive, and no measure has been adopted for the abolition of the Legislative Council. While the cost of Executive and Legislative Government has not been reduced, the bonded indebtedness of the Province and the interest in consequence thereof, have largely increased. The cost of Executive and Legislative Government, for carrying out the School Law, and the rate-payers of the Province are still unnecessarily taxed to promote a system of unprincipled electioneering in the higher branches. Important questions such as the 'Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt,' (with the necessary provisions and safeguards to protect creditors in the collection of their claims), a practical 'Land Law' to secure the laborer security for his day's labor, have been entirely overlooked and neglected. The Government, in short, has been an expression of public opinion, when in opposition.

The Regulations regarding our Crown Lands and our Lumber from 80 cts. to \$1.25 per M., and on our back industry from 50 cts. to \$1.25, and in some instances as high as \$2.00 per cord, as well as the passing away for a period of ten years our lumber lands to a giant monopoly of a few, thereby preventing further capital from being invested in this industry—these with many other matters, call for an expression of public opinion.

With these objects in view, and to remedy them as far as possible, and to have such a representation as can at all times be considered favorable to our Country and her interests, we request that you, gentlemen, whose names are mentioned in this requisition, will accept the nomination, and we, the signers, pledge you, severally and collectively, our individual support for the election of the above named ticket in opposition to the present Local Government."

It is admitted on all hands, that the four gentlemen named, form a very strong ticket, and that they will carry the constituency. As we have said before, Messrs. Tweedie and Hutchinson, up to a recent date, were in full sympathy with Mr. Blair, but they have been convinced by their own observation, that his pledges were insincere, and that his policy has been corrupt, vicious and extravagant, and that the sooner the Province rid itself of his Government, the better for her interests.

### The Sunbury Convention.

The opponents of the Local Government in Sunbury, met at Burton to-day, to nominate candidates for the Assembly. We hope their deliberations may be attended with unity and a determination to place the strongest possible candidates in the field. The Government party have already placed Messrs. Blair and Harrison in the field, and are openly boasting that they will sweep the constituency. That sounds very well, but we shall see what we shall see. The result of the contest depends entirely upon the character of the candidates selected to-day. We do not believe that Sunbury is entirely wedded to the Burpee-Harrison combination. It is about time that machine rule was discontinued in Sunbury, and the nomination of two strong men by to-day's convention, will go far to ward that end. Mr. Glazier is confessedly weak in the county; his only strength proceeds from the Government patronage he is able to scatter, but even in this, we have heard he has not succeeded as he might have succeeded. Mr. Harrison is a new man, and a very respectable man, but the auspices under which he enters the contest, ought to handicap him severely. If the right men are selected to-day, we may reasonably expect to carry at least one, and perhaps both seats for the Assembly in Sunbury.

Mr. Blair proposes to reintroduce that abortion on legislation, the bill to make the Legislative Council elective. He might as well save himself the trouble. It will never pass; neither should it. Mr. Blair promised to abolish the Council on the score of economy, but economy with him is now "a relic of the past," a "dead issue," and he desires to retain the Council and make it elective, which would make that body more expensive than at present constituted. There never was an expedition desired in the country for the abolition of the Council. There never will be a strong public sentiment favoring its being made elective.

The snow storm that commenced last Thursday night, and continued almost unintermittently till yesterday morning, is the greatest known in New Brunswick for many years. It has simply paralyzed business. The railways are blocked, and the highways are simply impassable. No mails, or newspapers have been received here since Saturday. The storm extended over a very wide area, and the losses occasioned by delay, in the transport of mails and freight over the railways, and the cost of digging them out, will be very great.

Mr. Pugsley has undertaken to champion the cause of the ladies in the Legislature. He has introduced a bill to make them eligible to serve as school trustees and to vote for the same. Woman's sphere is elsewhere than in the public arena, and we do not believe the Women's Rights movement will ever obtain a foothold in New Brunswick, notwithstanding the fact that it is championed by such a handsome fascinating gentleman as Mr. Pugsley.

Mr. J. A. Vanwart, Revising Barrister for York under the Dominion Franchise Act, and His Honor Judge Steadman, Revising Barrister for Sunbury, have finished their first revision of the Electoral lists, and persons desirous of having their names added will find information relating thereto in our advertising columns.

## SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Sir John Alexander Macdonald was born January 11th, 1815. He was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Kingston, Ontario, and in 1835 was admitted to the Bar. In 1844, he was sent to Parliament from Kingston, being elected as a Conservative. He was appointed a member of the Executive Council and Receiver-General in May, and Commissioner of Crown Lands in December, 1847. The cabinet of which he was a member, resigned in March, 1850, and the reformers, under the lead of Messrs. Lafontaine, Baldwin and Hinkley, held the reins of power in Canada until September, 1854. Difficulties connected with the lands reserved for a Protestant clergy, and other questions, led to a coalition in 1854, Mr. Macdonald joining the Government as a Conservative. He was in the cabinet of Sir E. P. Tache. But the Government was unable to command a sufficient majority and the proposition to federate British America, having been reported by a committee of the Legislature, a conference took place between the leaders of the two parties, which resulted in a coalition, with the view of maturing and carrying a measure to unite in one government Canada and the Maritime Provinces. On the 22nd of July, 1871, when the new Constitution came into force, Mr. Macdonald was called upon to form the first Government for the Dominion, and was sworn of the Privy Council and appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Canada, an office he continued to fill until his death. He was re-elected in the Pacific Railway campaign, November, 1873. 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