

NEW BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE!
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

At 7 o'clock Mr. Willis resumed the debate. He said if he should utter anything harsh he hoped honorable gentlemen would forgive him, for in the heat of debate he might not be able to control himself. Referring to the School Debentures he thought they should be registered, so that they could be traced from holder to holder. He did not approve of the proposed system of inspection. The inspectors would be too much under the thumb of the Chief Superintendent [True for Mr. Willis.—Ed.], nor did he see why they should be professional [not so good an idea.—Ed.].

He censured the management of the Agricultural Department, which he characterized as headless. There was no system about it, and the negligence needs but mention.

He had much to say on the GREAT ROADS SERVICE.

It was impossible to know what might be considered under this term; for wharves, bridges, &c., are put there. Why disguise these expenditures under that head? Why not each have an independent showing? The Government accounts for its over expenditure by speaking of special works. If there are to be special works let there be special amounts set apart.

[Suppose a heavy flood came six weeks after the general grant and carried away Suspension Bridge, of course, if Mr. Willis were in the Government he would have foretold this disaster and set apart a special amount exactly sufficient to build said bridge.—Ed.]

He shortly after this enunciated the doubtful theory that "in this world everything is possible—at least this has been my experience." [Except to upset the Government.—Ed.] He would next, he said, refer to the CHATHAM BRANCH RAILWAY.

The Attorney General had said it were better that this case been left in the courts of law. He (Mr. W.) thought this would certainly have been better for the Government—not for the people. It had occurred to him, among other matters on this question, whether the Government intended to make the \$10,000 stockholders pay up. He would next refer to the FAMOUS RECONSTRUCTION.

In this he hoped he could command his temper. One of the first principles of Responsible Government was violated; the good faith and principle of members were thrown to the winds. He saw before him, the Government members who said they could not support any party in which Mr. Willis and Covert were; for they had supported the School Bill; but now he found those very men in the Government, essentially the Free School Government.

He then read extracts of speeches representing Mr. Landry as having promised his opposition to the Government, and similar extracts from Mr. Hannington's speeches. He ridiculed their consistency, and said it was not something at which the House might laugh, but which they should seriously bemoan. After making a very long speech the hon. gentleman took his seat.

On Mr. Willis taking his seat Mr. Landry arose. He said he would like to refer to the political immorality charged against the Government by the hon. gentlemen who had just sat down. While some members might have found the remarks of the Hon. gentleman interesting, and been provoked to laughter by them he could not say so much. It was neither instructive nor amusing to him. The object of the Hon. gentleman's speech was two-fold—and aimed at nothing else. It was to wound the feelings of two or three members who had joined the Government; and to try to prove to the country that the Hon. gentleman himself was not the most abandoned of politicians—the most thoroughly inconsistent, fickle and unreliable. This was the object of the speech which he would send before the country. And it was right. Any man feeling a load of odium upon his head; feeling that he is despised by his countrymen, acts but right, no matter how frantic the effort, to retrieve his fallen fame. For this he would forgive the Hon. gentlemen.

But as the other part of his rambling discourse was aimed at himself, he would explain briefly. He has charged me with inconsistency. Now before refuting this statement Mr. Speaker, allow me to remark that, of all the members in the House that charge coming from the Hon. gentleman sounds the strangest. He who was an actor in the political drama of 1871, to censure the formation of July last! But enough of that; the House and the country knew it. It was old and broadcast and before refuting the statement he would just refer to the attempt of the Hon. gentleman to raise a breeze on the Free School question. The time is past now Mr. Speaker when that question can be made to do duty. With the passage of the act in 1872 the matter was settled, and has since been buried. It was then a burning question and divided parties within and without the House while giving rise to better and acrimonious strife. But like the litigant in court who strives to get a verdict in his favour while the same was pending, he strove in the same way in the school matter; but when the judge decides, the matter ends. It is useless to kick against the goad. And this Mr. Speaker leads me to the question of CONSISTENCY.

There are times when questions of great moment, involving principles arise. Such was the Free School question. When I was in the House before this question was before it, and upon this question the House divided. I was then Mr. Speaker offered the position I occupied but had I accepted it I should have been bound to my honor

and to my principles. But that question had ceased to be many years ago; therefore in July last there was no political question on which I had pronounced one way or the other before the country. But the Hon. gentleman quotes me as saying I promised my opposition in July to the present Government. This is not correct. I did say I could make no promises till I saw what sort the construction would be. I feared the Hon. gentlemen who had just sat down and his friend might be in the Government, which was probably the greatest reason why I did not then pronounce in favor of the Government. Mr. Speaker, I have made these statements just to show that I do not, in reviewing my conduct and my motives find or see the inconsistency with which the Hon. gentleman charges me.

AFTERNOON

Half-past two being named for the order of the day, Mr. Landry arose and continued the debate.

Hon. gentlemen from the Opposition who had preceded him had referred to the manner in which clerks salaries were shown in the Public Accounts. For 1877 they appeared as follows:—Salaries \$500 &c.

This Hon. gentleman claimed to be wrong, holding each charge should be under a proper heading. Let them turn to the estimates brought down for this year and they will find them so.

Now Sir, with regard to the system of giving vouchers complained of. I have only to say that since I came into office I never signed but one cheque; they have been signed by the Chief Clerk, and when said cheques are returned from the banks they are vouchers. He said he would refer to the statement of our finances as put by Mr. Blair. That gentleman had said in 1874 we fell back \$146,000; but he could show Hon. gentlemen of the House this statement was inaccurate and misleading. The fact was Mr. Speaker in that year there was but a few hundred dollars over expenditure: upon the School Grant \$60,000 had not been expended.

Blair.—That amount was granted and I counted it in with the expenditures. Landry.—Then I understand the Hon. gentleman to put money down as expended, which has not been expended but which remains in the public coffers. This was how the gentleman for the five years made out the Province had over-expended \$375,000 instead of \$54,000. He (Mr. B.) complained of the over-expenditure on principle; but to this he would say that always, as far as in his power, he would try to keep within the expenditure; but if wants urgent, and indispensable in their nature arose, he would not hesitate in making special application of sums not granted but given by the authority of statute. There were a number of independent members in the House tied to no party; but since May last, new members have joined the Government, and it was but fair that they should have a fair trial at the hands of said members. He paid a high tribute to the ability and assiduity of the Secretary and took his seat.

BUTLER AROSE.

He spoke at some length, referring to a bridge built over Salmon River, and censured the Government because it did not consult him in the matter. Mr. Woods followed him in a very nice speech. As he took his seat

COVERT AROSE.

He said as the Chief Commissioner had given much attention to him, he would pay him back the compliment. He then went on to relate all in connection with his desertion of the party in the past. He then turned on the government and described their course as vacillating and deceptive; and for proof see how they were bamboozling members in the Kent & Richibucto Railway matter. They had never taken the House into their confidence; their course has been one of intrigue and extravagance; Mr. Landry had been discourteous,—never as much as consulting him on the public works in his county. [He then sprinkled a little salt on the tail of Hon. Mr. Davidson.] The Attorney General had got in by the skin of his teeth, and extraordinary means had been resorted to to get Dr. Dow out of the way—bribing the Doctor. He then went on to ridicule the action of the Government in the Chatham Branch investigation and took his seat, when the SURVEYOR GENERAL AROSE.

He said, Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain many points here, first perhaps the circumstances which lead to my joining the Government. But before doing this, Sir, allow me to brand some of the statements of the hon. gentleman who has just sat down as mere fabrications. He charges me with saying I was in New York, while I never went further than McAdam. This Sir is false; but by it the hon. gentleman would imply I was arranging to enter the Gov't. No overtures were ever held out to me till I arrived in St. John after my return from New York. I then met Mr. Crawford, and in reply to him said I would consult my colleagues. This I did, and they endorsed my course. But I was bound in no way to one party or to another. On the hustings I had declared myself independent, and was at liberty to join what party I pleased. The question which I had fought on and which our party had fallen was then no more—it was numbered with the dead past.

The charges against the Government going into supply were the Grand Southern; the Chatham Branch; the Albert, and the inducement held out by the Government to certain members. In addition to this he was constrained to refer to the financial statement made by the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition had stated that the Budget of

the Secretary was full and minute, and gave him credit therefor; but shortly afterwards said this resolution had been passed two years before in the House. The speakers on the Opposition side had charged the Government with doing nothing when the delegation went to Chatham. The Government did not go there for the purpose of summoning witnesses; but they did do all that could be done—putting it into the courts of the land.

It astounded him not a little that a man holding the high position that Mr. Blair does as a leader of the opposition, should charge the province with falling back \$375,000 in five years. The hon. gentleman made this extraordinary statement for the purpose of blinding the eyes of members of the house and making the Government to appear recklessly extravagant. But he would read a statement for the years mentioned and show the fallacy of Mr. Blair's figures. [He then began to read the detailed statement of expenditures and receipts when Mr. Blair interrupted.]

Blair.—I did not include some of these statements.

Adams.—Where then does the hon. gentleman get his figures? He can't make up \$375,000 without counting them. But instead of \$75,000, the real state is \$94,000, or something short of \$11,000 a year, instead of \$75,000, as Mr. Blair puts it. But the most consistent part of the opposition member's statement is that Mr. Willis stated that during his term in office from '74 to '76, the province laid out \$47,000; while Mr. Blair states that for the same two years it fell back \$146,000 and \$68,000; making a terrible total of \$209,000. Not content with disfigured statements, they must drag into the question the passing by, by the Government of those who befriended them, and make a worse plaint that the Government passed themselves.

Among other meagre arguments by the honorable gentlemen from the Opposition it was said the office of Surveyor General should not go to the North Shore because there the largest lumber tracts were; and insinuated, for sooth, that he would not administer the office fairly to the rest of the province. To this staff he would not reply no more than he would to the calumny that for the sake of the office he had deserted his party. Was it an offence now to give an office to the North and no office in days gone by? It was wrong to have so many lawyers in the Government; but the old Opposition Leader immediately chose a lawyer for their head. They must either, in this case, acknowledge their inability, their incompetency to lead their party, or accord the palm to the lawyers; for Blair was a parliamentarian of little or no experience. He would then, he said draw his remarks to a close. Looking at the arguments of the Opposition and boiling down the froth and sensation, nothing was left but a lot of cant about the Chatham Branch and Kent Railways, which was merely a discontented white—a mere shadow of substance. The Government had shown that all could be done had been done, and that to do more than this was to go outside the power vested in the them, and to adopt an alternative unwise and ill-adviced. The next part of the charge was that certain members had been induced to join the Government. This he had shown to be base coin passed off for true. He had shown that the time had passed when there was either party to stand with or principle to strive for, and that the formation was a fair and wise construction. He thanked the House for its attention.

KILLAM AROSE

And replied in a quiet but very decisive way, and at some length, to the charges made against him by the Opposition.

HUTCHINSON THEN AROSE

And said he thought had Hon. members confined themselves to the points in the Budget seven hours instead of seven days should have finished the discussion. He thought personalities should not have been indulged in, and went on to censure the Surveyor General for taking office, [all in a personal strain.] He said some called this a new, some an old Government. Like the old woman who made a pair of stockings do her seven years. When the vamp wore off she revamped it, when the leg wore out she put on a new one, claiming it was the same pair all the while.

HANNINGTON ROSE.

He said he was not a little amused to hear the Hon. gentleman who had just sat down deprecate personalities in debate, while his own speech was a continued effort at personality. Much as it pained him to do so he felt that part of his remarks should in defense of charges made, deal with himself,—the motives inducing him to join the Government party, &c. Early along in this session Mr. Speaker, on the debate on the address Mr. Blair set out with his immoral picture,—the immoral aspect of the Government. He dealt in generalities and it was not till later on, individuals who had joined the Government had been directly attacked. It was not then, Mr. Speaker, a fitting time for me to reply to this general charge. But some one since had said I meant Hannington, let him or his party mean Hannington, let paltry cliques try to blast my name and my reputation Mr. Speaker, Yes, and let their hircling press too catch up the refrain to blackguard Hannington, but still I stand defiant of their slander and calumny, and above and beyond their opprobrium and mis-

representation. Their slander of him was a fitting course for such a party, it was their stock in trade; but when the time arrives that they want to reap the fruit of their labors, they will find they have been making ropes of sand. Falshood and slander falls back on the head of those who throw it, and injures not him who doesn't deserve it.

Mr. Willis in his paper, he said, had misconstrued, perhaps wilfully his utterances last summer on the Hustings. [We are obliged to hold over the conclusion of this debate till our next.]

WEDNESDAY April 2.

At 11 o'clock the House took up the further discussion of the debate, Gillespie leading in a very humorous speech, Mr. F. P. Thompson following in a very fair one.

To Mr. Thompson Mr. Crawford replied in a searching and intelligent speech, and he again was succeeded by Mr. White of Carleton, who concluded the discussion.

After this the motion was put and carried to read the estimates section by section. Davidson in the chair. We shall give the items in our next.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Alderman Elections took place in St. John Tuesday.

Hon. W. E. Perley introduced his annual bill on Bear Bounty yesterday.

A rain storm came up Monday and continued till Tuesday night, when the wind chopped round to a frosty point.

A number of our Fredericton young men will start in a few weeks, some for the West, some for Boston and New York.

It is too bad that the Reporters Gallery is in such a condition that the Chignecto Post man cannot bring himself to take up a position there.

We have some letters on hand which for press of space we are obliged to hold over for some time. We cannot use "St. John notes" without the name of the sender in good faith.

Our enterprising citizen, Mr. A. Whitehead, intends forming a Cane Sugar Society Saturday. We wish the enterprise success.

We regret to learn that the Most Rev. Dr. Medley has been confined to his house for several days past, in consequence of a cold.

We have received a copy of Grip enlarged to 8 pages and otherwise improved. Grip is a humorous paper and has few superiors. It is published by Bengough Bros., Toronto.

Mr. Hanny writes a lengthy review of his History of Acadia in the Telegraph. It is too long as the author represents it in this paper, and no doubt it is, it is an excellent work.

Mr. Speaker has forbidden members to read newspapers or books during debate. This is an excellent order. For a member to read a book or paper while another member speaks is to show his ill-breeding, and wound the feeling of the Gentleman speaking—if he have any feeling.

At a meeting of St. Dunstan's T. A. S., held on last Tuesday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term:—

Frank McPeake, President, James Howard, 1st Vice-President, E. H. Elliott, 2nd do do Chas. E. Perks, Recording Sec. P. Barry, Financial Secretary, P. H. McGrath, Treasurer, Geo. R. Perks, Librarian, Wm. Shennick, Sergeant-at-Arms.

A Daring Act of Bravery.

At the fire on Sunday morning, in the dwelling house of Adolphus Beckwith, Esq., a young woman, a domestic of the house, came near losing her life. The building at one time seemed doomed to destruction; rumors rapidly spread that a female was in the room, or an adjoining one; in which the fire originated. The excitement became intense; no one seemed to know how to reach the room in which the unconscious girl slept. All seemed anxious to rescue; but their anxiety did not seem to result in anything practical, until a young man from Halifax, named John Heffron, a painter, working on Sharkey's building taking in the situation at a glance, seeing a ladder, and shouting loudly for help, stood it up against the building, and running up to the eave quickly clambered half way to the ridge-pole. He started through a window on the roof; and entering the apartment found the unconscious girl, either asleep, or what is more probable partially suffocated. He caught her up and carried her through the dense smoke to a place of safety. She soon returned to consciousness. A warm pressure of the hand, a tiny stream from each eye spoke her thanks with more eloquence than the most impassioned words of a Winnet or a Webster. Such a daring act of bravery on the part of a young man, an entire stranger among us deserves more than a passing notice from our columns.—Com.

Our Speakers.

In the discussion considerable debating ability has been shown in the house. Mr. Fraser is well known to be no great orator, as his Brutus—beside him is. But his figures are reliable, and in his plain, clear, honest statements he leaves no doubt on the mind.

Mr. Blair is dashing and forcible, but equally as reckless as both. He seems to have brought the peculiarity of the lawyer into the house, which is to make very "much ado about nothing." He is not scrupulous in statement, and so far has been seldom correct; but

through all his faults and defects he shows much evidence of natural ability. In speaking he seldom hesitates, but often gets choked up and ends his periods as does a ventriloquist.

Mr. Landry has shown himself to be a capital debator. He commences by making his ground clear, and by dealing with the point unrobed of circumlocution and parenthesis. But in doing this he goes too far sometimes, and as a consequence repeats himself, his style is clear, unhesitating and decisive. He is very quick to seize on analogies, with which he always strengthens his statement. He made a very able speech in defence of his action in joining the Government, and a very stinging and very conclusive retort to Mr. Willis.

Mr. Willis made a very lengthy speech, but it was too long. It is a fault of Mr. Willis to repeat a good thing two or three times, and it is the fault of too many speakers to do this. Mr. Willis has not much feeling, and this is why so many of his sentences are cold and awake no feeling in his hearers. Mr. Willis has much confidence, and is not easily abashed.

Mr. Adams is yet a speaker of not very much experience. But he has that frank, dashing way about him that fully amends a deficiency from inexperience. He is impulsive, and every sentence he speaks he feels. His whole attention gathers perhaps much about one point, which added to a nervousness not yet overcome by experience, makes him to overlook many points which with advantage he could use. But the material he employs is always to a purpose; and his forte seems to be in striking the heads of contradictory statements together and showing them up before the house. Experience is all that Mr. A. requires to make him one of the most brilliant speakers in the House. In his defense of the coalition, his justification was strongly put, and very well defended.

Mr. Hannington's speech was perhaps what might be called the heaviest of the lot. We in estimating the speaking talent of the House before through some unaccountable means passed by Mr. Hannington, but the present opportunity will serve our purpose. We begin with his faults. Mr. H. attaches too much importance to everything that is said, and often crosses swords with men quite unworthy of his steel. His powers are highly controversial. He is very impulsive, quick in thought, and speech; rapid in grasping analogies, and happy in applying them. His judgment is seldom if ever at fault in case, though it is likely to be often swayed by his feelings. His language is natural and there is no attempt at artifice or polish; and it is always fresh. [We shall in future issues resume this subject.]

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