# THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1893

## TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The P. E. I. Legislature is wrestling with a measure which proposes to do away with the Legislative council and create two classes of voters, one with a property qualification to elect one-half of the Legislative assembly, and the second under a general suffrage to elect the other half. The latter part of the bill does not even have novelty to recommend it. Montreal's City council tried the plan for a while and discarded it, and Montreal's City council is a larger body, with greater revenues and interests under its care than Prince Edward Island's Legislature. The distinction has nothing to commend it. Judging from the specimens that come west Prince Edward Islanders are good enough men to warrant the Liberal Legislature in applying the Liberal principal of one man one vote to its situation.—Montreal Gazette.

The Halifax Critic, independent has the following relative to the amalgamation bill introduced by the Government of this Province: The double-barreled Franchise Act, which the Legislature of Prince Edward Island is now considering, is a compromise between modern Liberalism and old-time Toryism. The main object of the Bill is to abolish the Legislative Council of the Island; but in doing so provision is made that one-half of the members of the House of Assembly are to be elected by voters who hold their Franchise on the strength of property qualifications, while the balance of the members are to be elected by the people, who are entitled to vote when they reach twenty-one years of age. This double-barreled Franchise is intended to please both parties, but as is generally the case in any such attempt, it pleases neither of them. To cap this legislation, a clause has been inserted making it unconstitutional to repeal the Act without two thirds of the members of the House be in favor of so doing.

The British House of Commons was thronged on Thursday last, when Mr. Gladstone in a powerful speech of nearly two hours, moved the second reading of the Home Rule Bill. The vetern Premier in conclusion spoke as follows: During the last 60 years, 12 votes of want of confidence in the government have been given; four by the Irish people, none by the purely British. As to the English-Irish finances, I will not enter into that question; I admit that it is not easy work to settle the finances between two countries that have been closely associated for 90 years. I apologize to the house for making such large demands upon its time. In conclusion let me say that it is an indubitable historical fact that until a very recent period, nay until the year 1832, the question between Great Britain and Ireland was a question between a class and a nation. It is not so now; it is a question between nation and nation. There can be no more melancholy or degrading spectacle on earth than oppression and wrong in whatever form inflicted by one nation upon another. On the other hand, there can be nothing nobler than a nation liberated, setting itself to remove an injustice, not through fear, not hastily, but under the sole influence of duty, of honor, determined to break with whatever remains of evil tradition and pay the debt of justice, and consult by hold, wise and good acts its own interests, its own honor.

The large, orderly, influential and deeply interested audience assembled in the Market Hall on Friday evening last proved most conclusively the falsity of the Government's contention, that the people are not particularly concerned regarding the outrageous attack made upon the Dominion officials, by disfranchising them and depriving them of the rights and privileges of British freemen. By this action of the Government these officials are reduced to the position of slaves and serfs. The meanest citizen, the rudest and most ignorant man, no matter whether black, white or copper-colored, if he pays his city taxes or works his statute labor, has a vote; but these officials, necessarily intelligent and educated, no matter what interest they may have at stake; no matter what property they may possess, can have no voice in choosing the law makers of the Province. The Patriot critised the conduct of Mayor Haviland in calling the meeting; but he, in his remarks at the opening disposed in short order of the objections raised against him. Mr. Haviland manifested his interest in the cause of liberty and his sympathy with those disfranchised, by coming out after night to open the meeting at great risk to his impaired health. It is not the first time Mr. Haviland showed his interest in maintaining the rights of our people. When the franchise rights of our young men were in jeopardy, in the House of Commons, at the hands of Hon. David Laird, the friend of the present Local Government, Mr. Haviland, then in the Senate, assisted by Senators Howlan, Montgomery and Haythorne, repelled the attack and averted the blow aimed at them. As will be seen by the report, vigorous and pointed speeches were made by the different men who addressed the meeting. Surely those disfranchised have friends who, on election day, will resent the insult offered the officials by this bill. Let all remember this when the time of voting comes, and the Government will likely find the disfranchising of the officials will have an effect directly contrary to what they hope for.

## SESSIONAL NOTES.

The session still drags its slow length along. At the rate business is progressing, it is very doubtful whether or not prorogation will take place this week.

With the exception of the advancement of a few private bills and matters of routine, the time of the House, since our last issue, has been occupied with the budget debate. On Friday night the committee stage was reached, Mr. Robertson in the chair. After passing a few items progress was reported, when the House adjourned and did not meet again till Monday evening.

As will be seen by the report of proceedings, the amalgamation bill, as well as the bill to disfranchise the Dominion officials passed through the last stages in the House of Assembly during the past week. The Opposition contested their passage and in both cases moved a six month's hoist; but the Government succeeded by force of numbers. It would be too much to expect that the majority in the Legislative Council would not confirm the actions of the Government in the House of Assembly.

On Friday evening there was a large attendance of ladies in the House of Assembly. Nothing of an extraordinary nature was expected to come up, and many wondered why they were attracted thither. It was the opinion of some that Mr. Bell intended to deliver himself on the budget. He had been absent from the House for a day or two during the week, and it was surmised that he had been in retirement, marshalling figures and preparing philippics that would, in his opinion, knock the Opposition into smithers. Mr. Underhay was discussing the financial situation and had the floor when the Speaker left the chair at six o'clock. After recess he resumed the debate and quoted an array of figures to prove how the present Government were mismanaging the finances of the Province. He was frequently interrupted by members on the Government side. This made it necessary for him to repeat some of his statements, for the benefit of those Government supporters who did not seem to understand. It was about half-past ten in the evening when he finished. By that time the ladies had started for home. Mr. Bell did not speak and the House resolved itself into committee of supply.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson has given notice of a lengthy resolution regarding a reduction of the tariff imposed by the Dominion; regretting that the Federal Government failed last year to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with the United States, and asking for a committee of both Houses to prepare a memorial to the authorities at Ottawa embodying the views set forth in the resolution. The introduction of resolutions of this nature is a hobby of the member for West River. He never allows a session to pass without bringing one forward. It is most extraordinary that he should take up the time of the Legislature discussing a question so useless and so foreign to the purposes of our Provincial Parliament. Mr. Farquharson knows very well, or should know, that the Dominion Government are anxious to enter into reciprocal trade relations with the United States; but the last named country has, thus far, refused to entertain any proposal which Canada could accept, without placing herself at the mercy of the Republic, so far as the tariff is concerned. This Canada has no intention of doing, and no man or party of men desirous of our country's true welfare and future greatness, should ask her to do so. Not only has the United States Government refused all reasonable overtures from Canada on this question; but the State Legislatures have done the very same thing. Only a few weeks ago, the Massachusetts Legislature refused to endorse the recommendations of Governor Russell in favor of reciprocity with this country. The Boston Herald, one of the leading papers in the country, takes the Legislature severely to task for the course pursued in the matter, and points out how advantageous reciprocity with this country would be to the New England States, and particularly Massachusetts. And in face of these refusals on the part of the Government of the United States, and of the State Legislatures to discuss a fair and reasonable reciprocity treaty with Canada, Mr. Farquharson wishes to take up the time of our Legislature, talking about improved trade relations with that country. Could anything be more illogical?

The House was in committee of supply till midnight on Monday, and a number of items were passed. In the discussion evoked, some interesting facts were brought to light. While on the item of printing, the Government tried to make it appear that the Davies Administration should be credited with having reduced the expenditure in this particular, and with having dispensed with the Queen's Printer, and putting up the work formerly done by him, to public tender. The fallacy of this contention was demonstrated by the Opposition when they showed from the public accounts that the printing cost upwards of $11,000 in 1877, and more than $10,000 in 1878, while in 1880 the first full year of the Sullivan Government, the expenditure for the same service was only about $5,000. Another item on which there was considerable debate was the thousand dollars for Paris Green. After considerable inquiry on the part of the Opposition, as to how this ingredient was to be disposed of, the Leader of the Government said the intention was to place the Paris Green in the hands of responsible persons, in localities infested by the potato bug, who were to sell it to those requiring the same, at a profit sufficient to cover costs and charges. It was pointed out by the Opposition that by this means the Government was entering into competion with the traders throughout the Province, who, under ordinary circumstances would have the article for sale, which, in itself would be an injustice. During the discussion Hon. Mr. Farquharson said that in his district there were large sections where the potatoes were entirely distroyed last year. In view of this fact, Mr. Shaw took occasion to remark that it was quite possible most of the Paris Green to be imported by the Government would be distributed in the West River district.

# PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

(Continued from 1st page.)

WEDNESDAY, April 6.

Mr. Shaw resumed the debate on the budget. Continuing his criticism of the Land Office management, he pointed out that in the matter of discounts unfair and gross discrimination was made in favor of supporters of the present Government in 1891, and stated that when the returns for 1892 were brought down he thought he would be able to show even greater favoritism in this regard. Then he took up the charge that the late Government should not have used the proceeds of the Land Office as ordinary revenue, pointing out that when the Davies Government was in power they used this money as ordinary revenue, and, in a general way, this was the course pursued in the other Maritime Provinces. He contended that the capital used by the Peters Administration has been greatly in excess of that used by the Sullivan and McLeod Administrations. He showed that the amount of Land Office capital received and used as ordinary revenue from 1880 to 1890 inclusive—eleven years—was $224,254 98, an average per year of $20,386 81; and that the Peters administration in the two years they have been in office have reduced that capital by $103,144, 70—an average of $51,572 35 per year, or $31,155 54 more per year than was withdrawn by their predecessors. The bad system of book-keeping in the Land Office had been condemned by Messrs. Carvell and Arsand, and had been continued by the Government. The bad system of book keeping in the Public Works Office had been condemned by Chalmers and Davison, but had been maintained by the Government. The same bad systems still prevail in both Offices. Mr. Shaw then referred to the strong and persistent opposition of the Grits and the Patriot to our pier claims upon the Dominion Government, and showed that in spite of all the Sullivan-Ferguson Administrations had obtained the following refunds

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|---|---|
| 1879 | $39,700 52 |
| 1880 | 17,657.78 |
| 1881 | 4,436.78 |
| 1882 | 5 050.20 |
| 1884 | 53.229.19 |
| 1885 | 24,240.00 |
| 1888 | 6,471.15 |
| 1890 | 1,367 00 |

A number of the refunds involved no reduction whatever in the amount of our capital. Of these were penitentiary claims amounting to about $22,000; press claims amounting to about $75,000; pension claims amounting to $6,124.36. These refunds, involving no reduction of capital, but obtained by the energy and ability of the Sullivan-Ferguson Administration, amounted to $105,361.75—not to speak of $20 000 a year, equal to a capital sum of $500,000 obtained by their exertions.

House took recess.

After recess, Mr. Bentley asked the Commissioner of Public Works to lay on the table a detailed statement of all the copies of tenders with the names of the respective tenderers for the Packet Service between Charlottetown, Belle Creek and Wood Islands and the name of the tender accepted. Also, if any payments were made to any person or persons for running the Packet service between the above places previous to the acceptance of the tender; if so, to whom and what amount? What amounts were paid for Packet Service between the above places, and to whom?

Hon. Mr. McLean said the statement asked for would be made out at as early a date as possible.

Mr. Bentley asked the Commissioner of Public Works what steps have been taken by the Government towards opening a road from Sea Cow Head Road towards Hurd's Point Wharf, Lot 26, whether the right of way has been secured, what sum or sums have been paid for it or promised to be paid, and to whom paid or promised.

Hon. Mr. McLean promised the information as soon as possible.

Mr. Bentley repeated his question concerning the debentures.

Hon. Mr. Peters said the question had been answered before.

Mr. Shaw resumed the debate on the budget. He referred to the extreme reluctance of the Government to bring down information demanded by the Opposition. Questions in regard to the sale of debentures and other matters remain unanswered though the Legislature has been in session for four weeks. The statement brought down of matriculation fees paid by pupils at the Prince of Wales College is "fishy." At least fifteen dollars paid by the pupils have been unaccounted for. It is easy to infer from this small matter the reason why information in respect to larger matters is withheld. Mr. Shaw proceeded to review the report of Messrs Chalmers and Davison, contending that it was grossly unfair to the late Government. The public accounts prove conclusively that the financial statements of the Government are largely erroneous. If we owed $171,000 on the 26th of April, 1891, how would it be possible for them to meet that debt, with their own deficits added, by the issue of debentures to the amount of $150,000! When the Debenture bill was passed I was promised that the Provincial Building would be thoroughly repaired. But it is still unrepaired. The wharves are not as well attended to as they were by the McLeod administration. No prospectus was issued by the Government which they sold their debentures and the result was that they sold at a discount of 6 per cent. though the City debentures sold at a premium and at par. They have prostituted our capital in our Land Office for political purposes. Their party keep the "Star Printer, and "groaning and groaning." Mr. Shaw concluded by eloquently denouncing the conduct of the Government as set forth in the public records.

Mr. D. C. Macdonald followed, and finished his defence of the Government at the evening session.

Mr. Rogers was the next speaker. He thought there was very little left for him to say on the subject, as all the points had been pretty well threshed out by previous speakers. He twitted the hon. member from Belfast upon his agricultural knowledge, and said it was surprising that he had kept his light so long hidden under a bushel. He criticised the budget speech, and pointed out that it contained 50 per cent. Donald Ferguson, 25 per cent. Neil McLeod, 10 per cent. Dominion politics and the rest—budget. He then moved the adjournment of the debate.

THURSDAY, April 6.

House met at 11.30.

Mr. Matheson introduced an Act to amend the Act relating to accidents by fire in Alberton, and the removal of nuisances from the streets thereof. It was read a first and second time, committed and agreed to.

Mr. Sullivan asked the C. P. W. to lay on the table a statement showing in detail the amount paid for cutting ice etc. on Morell Bridge and for all labor performed in connection with the said Bridge since the 1st of January 1893 till 1st of April, and to whom paid.

Hon. Mr. McLean said no account for such work had been presented and no amount had been paid.

Mr. Rogers resumed the debate on the budget, and closed his speech in the afternoon. The debate was continued by Hon. Mr. McMillan and Mr. McKay.

FRIDAY, April 7.

House met at 12 o'clock.

Mr. McKay resumed the debate on the budget.

At the afternoon session the Act relating to accidents by fire in Alberton, etc., was read a third time and passed; and the Act to incorporate the Kingston Hall Co. was read a second time

Mr Warburton introduced a bill to incorporate the Crapaud Dairying Co.

The debate on the budget was resumed by Mr. Warburton. He was followed by Mr. Underhay, after which the House went into committee of supply.

# THE CITIZENS' MEETING.

## Disfranchisement Denounced.

### AN INFLUENTIAL AND UNANIMOUS PROTEST.

### The Secretary's Report.

The meeting of the citizens of Charlottetown in the Market Hall Friday evening to protest against the Bill before the Legislature to disfranchise the employes of the Dominion Government was largely attended by electors of the city irrespective of politics. Before the meeting was called to order every available seat was taken up, and standing room was at a premium. Between seven and eight hundred people were present.

His Worship Mayor Haviland stated that the meeting was in compliance with a largely signed requisition from the citizens. He referred to the fact that it was the first occasion on which he had come out during the night since the advent of the new year. His health prevented him from doing so. His action in calling this meeting was criticised in the Patriot newspaper as an improper proceeding, but he had a duty to perform, and he had acted as his conscience dictated. He was glad to have been in a position to do so, and would do the same thing to-morrow if it were necessary. The rights and liberties of our citizens—rights of which we boast as British freemen—were being trampled upon, and he was proud to be able to raise his voice in opposition to the outrage. He then requested the meeting to appoint a chairman and secretary, as he wished to return to his home and could not, therefore, fill the first named position.

On motion of Mr. Alexander Horne, Patrick Blake, Esq, was called to the chair and the undersigned appointed secretary.

Dr. Jenkins, M. P. P., Donald McKay, M. P. P., David Rogers, M. P. P., William Campbell, M. L. C., James Nicholson, M. L. C., and Mr. Ferguson, being present, were invited to seats upon the platform.

The Chairman in opening the meeting referred to its object and questioned the right of the Patriot to censure the Mayor for performing a duty which he had been called upon to do by citizens of both shades of politics. The bill before the Legislature to disfranchise the Dominion officials was an outrageous and tyrannical measure. To pass such a bill at this time was a retrograde movement. The pure and simple reason for passing this bill was because the majority of the Dominion officials choose to vote Conservative. It was natural for them to do so. A greater insult could not be offered the citizens of Charlottetown, and he was sure that when the time arrived they would resent it. He was in a position to refute some of the arguments advanced in support of the measure. It was said that these men at election times were like sheep driven to the slaughter, and were compelled to vote as dictated—pressure was brought to bear upon them. He and his colleague, Hon Neil McLeod, who has now been promoted to the judiciary, had occasion several times to solicit the votes of these officials, both Liberal and conservatives. They had always given them a free vote, and no pressure was brought to bear upon the men. He threw out the broad challenge to show that at any time any undue influence or pressure had been exercised in order to make those men vote a certain way. When he asked some of them for their vote and they said they were Liberals and belonged to the other side, he thanked them and nothing more was heard of the matter. It was always thus, and no undue influence had been exercised. He called upon Mr. J. P. Tanton to address the meeting.

Mr. Tanton said it must certainly be a question of a great importance that would call forth such a large audience and make all take such an active interest in the matter. The question to be discussed to-night had already been thoroughly analyzed in the Legislature. He wished to discuss the matter free from politics. We were here as men and as citizens to assert our rights, and to lift up our voices in defence of the rights of our fellow citizens, who were to be deprived of an inestimable privilege. A century had passed since an injustice similar to the present one had been attempted. The feudal system had long since passed away, and as the years rolled by the franchise was extended. Every man was given the right of citizenship, and all had certain privileges. Every country had not these privileges, but we boast of them as a British right. Some five hundred men would be disfranchised by the measure. These men had been born here, had been reared up with us and had been imbued with British freedom. They were owners of property and this local parliament might tax them. But yet they had no voice in affairs. When these men raised their voices and appealed to the Legislature not to pass this measure the feelings of their fellow citizens were aroused. He liked no undue influence at elections, but the utmost freedom of conscience. Had these men committed any crime or misdemeanor that they should be thus treated? Was it in accordance with the spirit of justice and fair play that because some of these officials might have overstepped their bounds at election times, the great majority should be shackled for their sins? Were there any tender feelings for the rights of their fellowmen in the bosoms of those who wished to pass this measure? There were two classes of politicians, the politicians and the upright politician. The former thought only of self while the latter legislated for the benefit of the country. This measure was the work of politicians of the former stamp. It was unjust and unfair. Injustice might triumph for a time, but the reaction would surely set in. The men who wished to pass this measure could not view it with complacency, and moreover it would not stand the test of time. He closed by moving the following resolution:

"That this meeting expresses, in the strongest terms, disapproval of the Bill now before the Legislature to disfranchise Dominion officials as being tyrannical in its nature, most unjust to the officials concerned, and unworthy of a free and self respecting people."

Mr. W. S. Stewart seconded the resolution. Any citizen might well ask why these men were to be disfranchised. What was the reason? It was argued in the United States that the negro should not be allowed to vote because he was uneducated and unintelligent. But such a contention could not be used against these officials whose rights were about to be ruthlessly swept away. He characterized as ridiculous the arguments used both in the press and Legislature to show why the officials should be disfranchised. Some fifty years ago the right had been given to every man to say who should make his laws, and why now take away this right? If the government could take this right from over eight hundred men, they could go further and disfranchise the employes of all the firms in this city who might not be in accord with their principles. They could finally by this principle disfranchise all the Conservatives. The question should now be met on the threshhold. We had an interest in each other's welfare, and thus this matter concerned all of us. Precedents should not govern us in this matter. If in Ontario and Nova Scotia such injustices had been perpetrated, it was no reason why the same should be done here. Mr. L. H. Davies in the House of Commons was continually condoling with these men and citing how unfairly they were treated. But now the party to which he belonged was about to place a stigma upon them, and he raised not his voice in their behalf. Mr. Davies was also loud in denouncing the exodus of our young men, but the measures of the present Government were enough to make them take up their bag and baggage and go instantly. The only reason for this measure was because the party in power was aware of its insecurity, and wished to steal a march upon the people and regain the treasury benches. They were afraid to give the people a free expression of opinion on their acts. This infamous legislation should be condemned. He had heard that Mr. Davies was ashamed of it. His father, Hon. Benjamin Davies, was opposed to it. It would merit the condign punishment it deserved.

Dr. Jenkins, M. P. P., denounced the measure as the most illiberal one yet proposed. He knew these officials had always polled their votes with liberty and good will no matter to which side of politics they belonged. He knew of no Dominion official who had ever been dismissed from office for voting. There was no reason for the measure. The act had no claims or justification. He of course could see the cause why it was enacted. These men were in the way and must be got rid of. These men were to be degraded as serfs. He looked upon the measure as the most illiberal and unjust one ever passed. He had offered all the opposition possible to it. Although a black cloud now hung over us, in a few months he believed the sun of freedom would rise and drive it away.

Mr. Donald Ferguson was the next speaker. In looking at the packed meeting he was surprised at what wonders he could achieve if, as the Patriot asserted he was the cause of all the indignation meetings recently held. The Leader of the Government said when he introduced this disfranchisement measure that it was done at the request of the officials. Last year, however, it was also before the Legislature, and was discussed with closed doors so that these men might be ignorant of the wrong that was being done them. Last year the idea emanated with the Legislative Council and was not asked for The Patriot asserted that he was the means of having the petition presented to the Legislature, but he could truthfully say he had nothing to do with it. The Leader of the Government placed great weight upon the fact that the officials had not asked to be allowed to vote; but when their petition was presented the Government said the fact of such a memorial being prepared and so largely signed in a few hours was in itself a good and sufficient reason why their political heads should be taken off. These officials had been selected to perform their work because of their intelligence. It was possible yet for the Government to repeal the measure, and did they heed the voice of the people they would do so. When a right is taken away from a man he is so placed that he cannot get it back, no matter what his eloquence may be. He can only rely on his friends to aid him. All these officials had friends and they should solicit their aid. The number disfranchised could be increased in the future. On this question men should sink party feelings. If Mr. Davies held such strong feelings against the measure his place should be on this platform. The large meeting showed that it was not the act of one man, but the just indignation of all, over the disfranchisement of these men who were being robbed of a right by men no better than themselves.

The resolution was then put and carried without a dissenting voice.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. George Peake. Mr. Peake was amused at the outcry of the Patriot in characterizing the use of this hall for this purpose as an outrage." Much had been said about men being driven to vote like sheep to the slaughter. But the real slaughter house was the Legislature. There the young men were deprived of one of their dearest rights He related an incident of a laboring man who was to be deprived of the means of earning his daily bread by the introduction of a steam engine, but who consoled himself over the loss with the fact that though the engine could puff and snort and do his work it could not vote. This man, although deprived of earning his bread, was satisfied that he could not be deprived of this greater right. The incident served to show how much importance one attached to this right. He closed by moving the following resolution:

"Whereas, since the calling of this meeting the bill to disfranchise Dominion officials has passed both branches of the Legislature,

Therefore Resolved, That this meeting requests the Legislature to pass at its present session an act repealing the provisions of the said bill."

Mr. M. P. Hogan seconded the resolution. He said a man enjoyed no greater liberty than his right to vote. The measure had for its object the keeping of the present Government in power. All men should be allowed to vote as their consciences dictated. It was the duty of all who loved liberty to oppose this measure and to help their fellowmen to get their rights.

Hon. Wm. Campbell, M. L. C., remarked that the citizens met to-night not as Liberals or Conservatives, but as British freemen, to protest against a measure to curtail the rights of our fellow men. This measure was but the first link in the chain that was to circumscribe the Province in order to keep the present party in power. These men were to be disfranchised although liable to be taxed. Such a thing caused the American revolution. If the men of to-day did not oppose this measure, acts to further curtail their liberty might be passed. He was glad the officials had petitioned the Legislature. It strengthened his hands and those of his friends to fight their battle. If the resolutions were not sufficient to prevent the Bill from becoming law, we should send a memorial to the Governor-General protesting against the infringement upon our rights. Such a memorial would be signed by thousands of men of both parties.

David Rogers, M. P. P., came forward in response to repeated calls. He opposed this measure at every stage, because it was the greatest injustice and outrage ever perpetrated upon a free people. He referred to the smoking measure which the Government attempted to have this and other measures become law last session. The reason there was were being disfranchised was because the acts of the Prince Government were not view it with complacency, and moreover it would not stand the test of time. He closed by moving the following resolution:

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Mr. Donald Ferguson was the next speaker. In looking at the packed meeting he was surprised at what wonders he could achieve if, as the Patriot asserted he was the cause of all the indignation meetings recently held. The Leader of the Government said when he introduced this disfranchisement measure that it was done at the request of the officials. Last year, however, it was also before the Legislature, and was discussed with closed doors so that these men might be ignorant of the wrong that was being done them. Last year the idea emanated with the Legislative Council and was not asked for The Patriot asserted that he was the means of having the petition presented to the Legislature, but he could truthfully say he had nothing to do with it. The Leader of the Government placed great weight upon the fact that the officials had not asked to be allowed to vote; but when their petition was presented the Government said the fact of such a memorial being prepared and so largely signed in a few hours was in itself a good and sufficient reason why their political heads should be taken off. These officials had been selected to perform their work because of their intelligence. It was possible yet for the Government to repeal the measure, and did they heed the voice of the people they would do so. When a right is taken away from a man he is so placed that he cannot get it back, no matter what his eloquence may be. He can only rely on his friends to aid him. All these officials had friends and they should solicit their aid. The number disfranchised could be increased in the future. On this question men should sink party feelings. If Mr. Davies held such strong feelings against the measure his place should be on this platform. The large meeting showed that it was not the act of one man, but the just indignation of all, over the disfranchisement of these men who were being robbed of a right by men no better than themselves.

The resolution was then put and carried without a dissenting voice.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. George Peake. Mr. Peake was amused at the outcry of the Patriot in characterizing the use of this hall for this purpose as an outrage." Much had been said about men being driven to vote like sheep to the slaughter. But the real slaughter house was the Legislature. There the young men were deprived of one of their dearest rights He related an incident of a laboring man who was to be deprived of the means of earning his daily bread by the introduction of a steam engine, but who consoled himself over the loss with the fact that though the engine could puff and snort and do his work it could not vote. This man, although deprived of earning his bread, was satisfied that he could not be deprived of this greater right. The incident served to show how much importance one attached to this right. He closed by moving the following resolution:

"Whereas, since the calling of this meeting the bill to disfranchise Dominion officials has passed both branches of the Legislature,

Therefore Resolved, That this meeting requests the Legislature to pass at its present session an act repealing the provisions of the said bill."

Mr. M. P. Hogan seconded the resolution. He said a man enjoyed no greater liberty than his right to vote. The measure had for its object the keeping of the present Government in power. All men should be allowed to vote as their consciences dictated. It was the duty of all who loved liberty to oppose this measure and to help their fellowmen to get their rights.

Hon. Wm. Campbell, M. L. C., remarked that the citizens met to-night not as Liberals or Conservatives, but as British freemen, to protest against a measure to curtail the rights of our fellow men. This measure was but the first link in the chain that was to circumscribe the Province in order to keep the present party in power. These men were to be disfranchised although liable to be taxed. Such a thing caused the American revolution. If the men of to-day did not oppose this measure, acts to further curtail their liberty might be passed. He was glad the officials had petitioned the Legislature. It strengthened his hands and those of his friends to fight their battle. If the resolutions were not sufficient to prevent the Bill from becoming law, we should send a memorial to the Governor-General protesting against the infringement upon our rights. Such a memorial would be signed by thousands of men of both parties.

David Rogers, M. P. P., came forward in response to repeated calls. He opposed this measure at every stage, because it was the greatest injustice and outrage ever perpetrated upon a free people. He referred to the smoking measure which the Government attempted to have this and other measures become law last session. The reason there was were being disfranchised was because the acts of the Prince Government were enough to damn any government. This they knew and were afraid to let the people give free expression on their acts. To prevent the free voice of the electors they had also practically disfranchised the young men and gerrymandered King's County. He doubted if L. H. Davies was opposed to the measure. His quibbling last year when the Bill was in the hands of the Minister of Justice showed that he was in favor of it. If Mr. Davies were opposed to it he should be here to-night. In the dying days of the 19th century it was amusing to hear this Government calling itself Liberal—these men who posed to wear the mantles of the Liberals of old—enacting measures against which those self same old Liberals had bitterly fought. If this were liberal by he never wanted to be a Liberal. He was always ready to fight for liberty and did not care who knew it. These men they were to disfranchise were to be placed lower than the Indian of the Northwest, who can exercise his franchise. They had fought hard against the bill in the Legislature, and if not successful, they had done their best to avert its passage.

Donald McKay M.P.P. considered the action of the Government in this matter one of the most tyrannical and outrageous acts ever perpetrated upon the people of this Province. He believed in the idea of once a voter always a voter, and referred to the action of the Dominion Government to have this idea carried into effect when the election law was changed. The Liberal Conservatives of to-day were the ones who emulated the Liberals of old. This act would be resented by the whole country. He referred to the fact that the present government did not hold the reins of power by the voice of the people, and were consequently enacting these iniquitous laws without their consent. But whenever the general election occurred the free voice of the people would be heard, and those men who attempted to pass such unjust measures would be told they were no longer wanted.

Hon. James Nicholson, M. L. C., had a feeling for his fellow man who was being unjustly dealt with, and thought he was justified in raising his voice against such an outrage. It was worthy of note that all acts to curtail the rights of the people were enacted by so-called Liberals. The McKenzie Government attempted a similar measure, but it was killed in the Senate. This measure might become law, but there was yet another course which the people might pursue. When the election came round they could hurl the framers of such outrageous and unjust measures back to the narrow sphere, which by their actions they showed themselves only worthy to fill.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr Alex. Horne then moved the following resolution:

"That copies of the resolutions passed at this meeting be forthwith transmitted to the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly."

Mr. J.T. Mellish seconded the resolution. He remarked that for ages it had been held in the Old Country that with great landholders rightfully lay the claim to chief power in affairs of state. Happily we live in a more enlightened day. John Stuart Mill conclusively shows what has been fully proved by test that the great and chief safeguard of the state is the enlightened intelligence of the electors. This is especially true in America, and is so fully recognized in some of the states as in Massachusetts that no one is allowed to vote unless he is able to read and write. The better educated a man is the better he is qualified to exercise the right of voting. The proposed bill would disfranchise 800 or 1000 men in our small province, all of whom are singularly well fitted by their habits of good conduct, their special skill and education and their wide general knowledge to exercise their right to vote in the most intelligent and independent manner. To pass such an act would be retrograde legislation—would be a crime against the plainest teachings of political philosophy. Besides it may be gravely doubted whether our provincial legislature are within their powers in this case legislation. The duties and powers of the Provincial and Federal Governments as between themselves are better understood now than for some years after Confederation. The rights, privileges and franchises enjoyed and exercised in the provinces in regard to the classes of subjects reserved for provincial legislation were not abridged or taken away by the British North America Act; nor was it ever contemplated or intended by the Imperial Parliament in passing that Act that persons appointed to Federal offices should for that reason in anywise suffer disability as regards their provincial rights and franchises.

The resolution was then carried unanimously.

After Joseph Wise had received some enlightenment from the chairman concerning the propriety of using the Market Hall for a citizens meeting, a vote of thanks was tendered the Mayor for calling the meeting and to the chairman for so ably presiding, after which the meeting adjourned.

J. M. SULLIVAN,
Secretary.

## Sporting Notes.

The International cricket match this year between Canada and the United States takes place in Canada on Monday and Tuesday, September 11 and 12.

Captain Ives, of the Yale crew, has stated that Oxford had declined to row the American champions owing to their inability to keep their foresmen together.

At present there are a half dozen rivals for the world's championship sculling race, including Pullman, Ill.; Winnipeg, Man.; St. Joe, Mo.; Minneapolis, Wis., and Austin, Texas. Like the prize fighters, the highest bidder will get the attraction.

Skating and cycling seem to go together with northwestern experts. J. K. McCulloch of Winnipeg, the champion amateur skater of Canada, is also the cycling champion of Manitoba. McCulloch is also a capital boxer, swimmer, hockeyist and curler.

Maud S., who has been worked all winter on the covered track at Tarrytown, is moving with a great deal of power and elasticity She seems to be recovering the form which made her queen of the oval track in the old fashioned sulky. Mr. Bonner is very much pleased with her condition, but she will never approach the records of to-day.

The great stallion race for $10,000, which was annually a feature of the fall meeting at Mystic park, Boston, until Wesley P. Balch's death in 1890, is to be renewed this season. E. H. Blanchard, of that city, announces a race for stallions eligible to the 2,12 class. This limit will exclude Stamboul, 2,07¾; Kremlin, 2,07¾; Allerton, 2,09¾; Moquette, 2,10; Nutwood, 2,10; Arion, 2,10¼, and Lobanoo, 2,10¼, but there are plenty of others such as Dictatorch, 2,11¼; Truman, 2,12; Meshara, 2,11¾; Charlistoe, 2,12¾; Cheyenne, 2,24¾; Dandy 2,14¾, etc., to make up a good field. The purse is $11,000, divided in six money, the winner to get $5,000.

## Meeting at Five Houses.

A large and enthusiastic meeting, called by the residents of the district, was held in Five Houses Schoolhouse, on the 6th inst. It was attended by the representatives of the district in the House of Assembly. Also, Messrs. Kickham and Sentmgeour in the Legislative Council. After appointing Mr. George Burge chairman and the undersigned secretary, speeches were delivered by Messrs. Underhay, Sullivan, Kickham, Sentmgeour and McLauchlin. After a lively discussion lasting over three hours, a resolution was submitted by Anthony McLauchlin, expressive of confidence in the Government in this the following amendment was proposed and declared carried by the chairman:—

Resolved, That this meeting disapproves of the gerrymandering and disfranchisement measures of the present Government, also, of the shameful mismanagement of the financial business of the Province, and that the Peters Administration do not possess our confidence.

JOSEPH MALLARD,
Secretary.

S. Dunstan's College Dramatic Club play in Souris to-morrow night in aid of the B. I. Society's new hall.

THE Controller of Customs has decided that coal oil and tobacco may be classed as ship's stores and entered free of duty ex warehouse.

Our Stock of Ready-made clothing and hats is now complete, and we can say that there has never been a finer or larger assortment shown in this city. We invite inspection, and you will see for yourself that for quality, quantity and make our display has never been surpassed.

MERAY WOOLEN CO.

Not a shadow of a doubt

but that we are fair dealers in first class goods.

STANLEY BROS.,
Brown's Block.

Not a shadow of a doubt

but that we give every day Big bargains to satisfied customers.

STANLEY BROS.,
Brown's Block

We want to Save you money in all staple goods. Six cases of new goods—New Flannelettes, New Ginghams, New Tickings, New White Cottons New Grey Cottons.

STANLEY BROS,
Brown's Block.

THE BEST TESTIMONY.

GREAT interest is being manifested by farmers throughout the Island over the success of our Northwest Fife Wheat. No new introduction has attracted so much attention since we first imported White Russian Wheat from Ontario, ten years ago. A variety that will yield as well or better than White Russian and mature fully as early, besides possessing immensely superior milling qualities ought to attract attention. This is the record our Northwest Red Fife made for itself last year. THE TEST OF GROWTH IS THE BEST TEST, AND THE TESTIMONY OF THE FARMERS WHO GREW IT IS THE BEST TESTIMONY.

Here are a few of the yields reported:

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| Wm. Heard Esq., Ch'town, | raised 70 | bush. | on 2 | acres. |
| Hon. D. Ferguson, Marshfield, | " 240 | " | " 8 | " |
| F. Bain, Esq., North River, | " 200 | " | " 7 | " |
| Chas. Palmer, Esq., Ch'town, | " 60 | " | " 2 | " |
| John Richards, Esq. Bideford, | " 28 | " | " 1 | " |
| S. F. Drake, Esq