willing to grant any reasonable request. Owing to the season of the year the sooner the business was despatched the better, and the reasons given by Mr. Wetmore for delay were insufficent to justify a postponement. The Government, he said, wished the public business to be conducted with despatch and economy. It was, therefore, most fitting that they should begin at once to carry out what they had promised. In the Imperial Parliament, as well as in the Canadian Commons, important subjects were taken up and discussed on short notice. He thought, therefore, that it was only right that consideration of the address should go on.

MR. WETMORE

said he felt that the Government was not treating the Opposition with courtesy. He believed they were urging this matter because they were afraid to postpone it. The fact of there being a new Government was a good reason why the Opposition should have time. He then took up the address in Reply, section by section, claiming a part as belonging to the Opposition and condemning other parts, some of which he said he could not understand.

MR. LANDRY

said he could not help expressing regret that the Leader of the Government had refused the request of the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Blair had said that they had entered on a new regime; but that was the only way they had of telling it. He (Landry) knew one reason for refusing the postponement asked for; namely that some of the gentlemen in Opposition were away. It was unprecedented that an address should be taken up in this way. He claimed there were no indications in the speech of what the Government proposed to do. If there was any credit to be derived from this Speech, nine-tenths of it was due to the late administration. After some observations concerning the financial statement to be made, he compared the Speech of to-day with that of the last session and concluded by saying that the Government had been making empty boasting to gain the reins of power. They had no other object. However, he said, if the Government introduced measures which commended themselves to the Opposition the latter would not be factious.

MR. ADAMS

traced, in his usual erratic and florid style, the past political history of Messrs. Blair and Elder, down to the time of what he pleased to term their "unholy alliance." He alleged that the address was sterile, etc., and made several attempts to be witty, for the purpose of concealing the fact that he was merely talking against time.

MR. PARK

followed in a brief but well delivered speech, in which he charged the Government with having adopted a policy of silence. He justified his vote in favor of the late Government on the ground that he would condemn no party untried and unheard. He was disappointed at the barrenness of the speech after all he had heard about great reforms to come, characterizing it as a lamentable evidence of want of pluck and warning the Government that the country would appreciate well matured and courageous statesmanship.

MR. M'LEOD.

Mr. McLeod followed, reiterating what had already been said.

At six o'clock, Hon. Mr. Blair moved that the debate be adjourned until to-morrow at 12 o'clock. He said he would like to remain and finish the debate now and thought the House would believe him when he told them that the course adopted was resolved upon a few days ago, when they did not even know that all their own supporters would be present.

The House then adjourned.

FREDERICTON, April 13.

The House opened at 10 o'clock. After routine a bill entitled An Act to incorporate the Natural History Society of St. John, was read a second time.

Mr. McLellan presented the report of the contingent committee, which was laid on the table.

The Speaker then left the chair till 12 o'clock. At 12 the Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. Humphrey introduced a bill entitled An Act to confirm the incorporation of the Moncton Cotton Manufacturing Company and to authorize the said company to issue debentures, accompanied by a petition. The bill was read for a first time.

On motion a committee of five was appointed to appoint all standing committees.

The debate on the address was resumed.

MR. M'LEOD

said that at six o'clock last evening, when the House adjourned, he was saying he thought he had a right to charge the Government with inconsistency. In looking over the Speech there were some sections which were in the last Speech and some that were not in it and should not be in any speech. In reference to the paragraph about the finances, he believed it emanated from the Attorney General. Its tendency was to convey a wrong idea—that the finances of the country were in a bad condition, which was not the case. He complained that there was no section in the Speech in reference to the important interest of railways. That no mention of them was made is something remarkable and quite singular. Mr. McLeod said he regretted he had not sufficient time to consider the address.

MR. HANINGTON

(who arrived when Mr. McLeod was speaking) said he was sorry that he was not present yesterday afternoon. He could not see why a delay of one day could not be given; the despatch of business does not demand that the House should proceed hurriedly. The Government have a right to adopt such a course but he did not believe the country would accept as correct the reasons given by them for so doing. He was charged with addressing the House and attacking the Government when there were no members of the Government to reply, but now they were here and when an opportunity offered they declined to say anything It was due to the House and the country that some member of the Government at least should be heard on this occasion. He felt that, judging from the sentiment of the different counties where he has been, that the Government will be short lived. Prematurely and unexpectedly brought into existence, it lacked the essentials of long life. When the exigencies of the party were so great that they were unable to consider those gentlemen who had served in opposition faithfully for years, and they were left in the cold it was evident that something was wrong and that the country will shortly put their hands on them and serve them as they deserve.

The address was then taken up section by section and the first three sections passed. On the fourth Mr. Landry rose and said he did not propose to move an amendment, but he would like to know if the Government would furnish information on this section. If there are any that can be given as to the reduction of the cost of legislation he thought they should know what they were. He said they were told the Government would have a strict care about cutting down the expenditure, but they had not started that way. There was no law compelling them to fill the different offices. They could have left the number of the Executive at six, seven or eight. If they were so strong in favor of reducing the Executive they could have done it. He did not find fault with their having filled the office of Solicitor General, but from their point of view he did find fault with their filling the Executive. The country had heard about the great platform which was proclaimed to the country and he could not understand why they did not raise their voice in the matter. Some men in the ranks of the Government had voted against the resolutions on which the platform was defined, but, for some reason had joined Mr. Blair. He quoted Hon. Mr. Blair's speech when the resolutions were introduced, and said that he (Blair) must admit he was insincere or mistaken when he moved those resolutions.

The House took recess until 2 30.

After recess

MR. LANDRY

said there had been a giving way of opinion of part of some members of the Government, but which it was impossible to tell, unless it be the leader of the Government. They might be led to infer that some of the Government had in mind that at no future time they might wish and intend moving the Law Courts to St. John. He referred to the fact that some members of the late Opposition had not received office in the new Government, and said the Government had been charged with taking a new man as the leading member of the Executive, but the same thing was done by the present Government, who have taken a gentleman with no political experience, and put him in a prominent office.

In looking over the Speech he could see no indications of those reforms which were to be made. He said that it was all very well to save the time of the House, but it would have been better for the Government to have taken the House into its confidence and placed matters before them in such a way that they could have been discussed.

The fourth paragraph then passed, as did the six following.

When, the last section was read,

HON. MR. ELDER

referring to the reiterated personal allusions made to him, said that before the Address was finally passed he would say a few words in reply. Beginning with a humorous allusion to Mr. Morton and eulogizing the moderation of Mr. Landry's speech and bantering Mr. Adams for giving aid and comfort to Mr. Landry in promoting opposition to Hon. Mr. Ryan, he proceeded to pay his respects to Messrs. Wetmore and McLeod, making the longest and most racy speech addressed to the House this session. He said those gentlemen had the courage of their convictions, for though both now entered the Legislature for the first time, they signalized themselves by an attack on one whose acts had been before the country for some time. Mr. McLeod's first words addressed to the Chair embodied an attack on him. Mr. Wetmore's chief speech had the same feature. Who were these gentlemen, politically speaking? Mr. Wetmore's political history contained just two main facts. First he was a party to the decapitation of his leader, Mr. Hanington, immediately after that gentleman's Government had had its fatal Waterloo; and next in his effort to kill Hon. Mr. Blair, politically, he had not only committed suicide but had annihilated his friend, Mr. Colter and got a stern rebuke from his county. That was a nice gentleman to assail him. Then as to Mr. McLeod, what was his record? He had said that the (Elder) went to bed one night a friend of the Local Government and rose the next morning its enemy, having experienced a very sudden conversion. The gentleman perhaps knew how it was himself. Mr. Elder then went on to describe what an ardent liberal Mr. McLeod was even in 1878, and how in consequence he was appointed Official Assignee in Insolvency under Mr. Mackenzie's administration. Mr. Elder, amid roars of laughter, described how Mr. McLeod went to bed one night a Liberal and rose next morning a Tory or a Liberal-Conservative. How also one night Mr. McLeod went to bed a non-temperance man, but next morning was converted to temperance; yet no one would assert that the suddenness of his conversion ever interfered with his advance in the temperance ranks, or affected the manner or consistency with which, as Grand Worthy Patriarch, he adorned that high position. Sudden conversions were known to sacred and profane history and he (Elder) saw no reason to question the reality of the conversion of his honorable friend on that ground. His honorable friend bore the name of an Old Testament Saint and he saw no reason to doubt that the conversion of Saint Ezekiel was not thorough because it was sudden. (Roars of laughter and cheers.) Mr. Elder went on to trace his relation to Dominion and local political parties; making a speech that was greatly enjoyed by the House and most heartily applauded. He asked why, if he (Elder) was such a political renegade as had been described, he retained the confidence of the House and the constituency of St. John? He asked why, after Mr. McLeod's pilgrimage to Charlotte was ended, he did not bring out opposition to Messrs. Elder and Ritchie in St. John and consign the former, at least, to political oblivion? (Great cheering.) The speech, of which this is a very slight notice, was delivered with telling effect.

MR. WETMORE

followed. He said he felt pleased that at last the party, which seemed likely to earn the title of the silent party, had found voice. Yet, notwithstanding one of them had spoken nothing was said of the different means about to be employed in the decrease expenditure. After repeating Mr. Landry's idea about the similarity of the Speech with the previous one, he said his only reason in speaking was to answer the charge of ingratitude. He presumed that the Provincial Secretary expected him to forsake his party and political views simply because he (Mr. Elder) had supported his partner as Leader of the late Administration. He (Mr. Wetmore) had been informed, however, that the Provincial Secretary had been a most troublesome supporter of the late Government and was only retained by some gentlemen holding his coat-tail.

Mr. Elder—"Not one member of the Government will say so."

Mr. Wetmore said perhaps they would not. He was not told so by any of the late Government, but why was he (Elder) to-day associated with the members for York, Kings, Northumberland and Gloucester who had always done what they could to politically cut his (Wetmore) partner's throat? Besides this for weeks every issue of the *Telegraph* contained a political attack on him. Where then was the gratitude the Provincial Secretary spoke of? As to the election in York he did what he believed was in the interest of the country and found his authority for so doing in the law of the country. He said he did not desire any of those reforms proposed by the Leader of the Government and only spoke to their omission from the speech because they showed the insincerity of the Government.

Mr. Wetmore was followed by

MR. M'LEOD,

who said he was glad the silence was broken. The Government had heard every section read but maintained silence till the last, when this was reached the Provincial Secretary made certain charges against him which he considered he could answer. It was true that he was appointed official assignee by the Mackenzie Government but he had not asked for that place. He was opposed to that part of the present Dominion Government policy known as the N. P., but as to the railway policy he had always believed in it. This had nothing to do with local issues. He said he had always supported Mr. Elder, even when he supported the late Government; but when he (Mr. Elder) withdrew his support he was not willing to stand by him any longer. He denied that a Government ticket had been formed in St. John before Messrs. Elder and Ritchie had joined hands.

MR. ADAMS

followed, claiming that the member for Gloucester had been the first person to strike a blow at the Roman Catholics. He (Adams) was called before the House to answer a charge made by that member, but the House had declared him not guilty. He then spoke about the formation of the Government and mournfully regretted that Restigouche was not represented in it. He quoted and commented upon speeches delivered by Mr. Blair, and closed by saying that taking into consideration the manner in which the present Government had come into existence he felt no member of the House was under any obligation to give them support.

The paragraph then passed.

Mr. Burchill moved, seconded by Mr. Hibbard that the address be engrossed, signed by the Speaker, and sent to the Lieutenant Governor. Carried.

The following bills were read a first time: by Mr. McManus, A bill to amend chap. 99 Consolidated Statutes, Municipalities; by Mr. McLellan, a bill to authorize the City of Portland to exempt the N. B. Cordage Works from taxation for twenty years; also a bill to authorize the Portland City Council to raise money by way of loan for the equipment of an engine house in Ward 4, accompanied by a petition, also a bill in amendment of chap. 54 Consolidated Statutes, relating to the City of Portland; by Mr. Tibbits, a bill to amend chap. 59 Consolidated Statutes, relating to Parish Courts in Victoria County, accompanied by a petition, also a bill to authorize the Victoria County Council to exempt starch and cheese factories and woollen mills from taxation, with a petition; by Mr. Quinton, a bill to amend chap. 99 Consolidated Statutes, the Municipality, City and County of St. John.

The House adjourned until to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

April 14th.—Reports of Agriculture, Auditor General, Schools and Board of Works were submitted, together with statements of Municipalities' indebtedness.

Mr. Adams wanted the journals of the House submitted more promptly than heretofore.

April 15th.—A number of bills were introduced including one to incorporate the Chatham Skating Rink Co., and Mr. Wetmore gave notice of the following resolution for Wednesday next at 12 o'clock.

Resolved, That the present advisors of His Honor the Lieut. Governor do not possess the confidence of this House.

Bills for reduction of the number of the executive to seven members and for the reduction of the salaries of the Attorney General, Provincial Secretary, Chief Commissioner and Surveyor General to the extent of their regular sessional allowance—or $300 each—to abolish the office of Clerk of the Crown and to reduce the salaries of the Speaker and President of the Legislative Council, were introduced by Hon Mr. Blair.

Mr. Gillespie gave notice of a bill for Friday next, to amend Chatham Railway Act.

Bill to revive and continue the Northwest Boom Co. was received from Legislative Council and read a first time.

Mr. Wheten presented the petition of the Kent Municipal Council in favor of the bill to authorise the issue of debentures to raise funds to pay for repairing the court house in the said county.

Mr. Leblanc introduced a bill to alter the parish lines between St. Mary's and Harcourt, Kent County; and a petition of ratepayers in favor of the same.

LATER.

Special to the "Miramichi Advance."

Fredericton, April 17th.

Fredericton is greatly agitated over the action of the Opposition in bringing forth a resolution of want of confidence before the Government is given a shadow of a trial—the weakness of the Opposition a day or two ago was manifest from the fact that although the big men of the party exercised all their oratory against the Governor's address they dared not test the voice of the house by an amendment. People have watched with interest the means by which recruits are sought to be drawn to the Opposition and the lob-nobbing of a prominent displaced official of large means with some of the pivots of which the fate of parties would be likely to turn has excited considerable indignation. The voice of the citizens here who are in a position to see what is going on is loud against the wiles of the Opposition, who, it is said, had a big row at their caucus on Monday evening on account of half a dozen or more of their supporters insisting that no vote of want of confidence should be brought on until after supply. These six or more gentlemen felt the constitutional course would be for the Governor to grant a dissolution in case it should so happen that Hon. Mr. Blair would require it and therefore protested. Fortunately for public morality the effrontery of attempting to oust a reform Government elected by members fresh from the people in order, by the most questionable means, to reinstate a regime that the representatives were elected by the people to vote out of power, is meeting with that rather slim amount of success which it deserves. The want of confidence motion is to come up for discussion to-morrow as the order of the day. The streets have been full of rumors since notice of it was given.

Both parties are said to claim a following sufficient to ensure their success, but it was the subject of general remark yesterday that while the Government men looked exceedingly pleasant all day, the Opposition men looked very glum. Friends of the Government say that a dissolution is certain if the "cold shades" party should press its motion. This seems to be the general opinion, although one or two active partisans favorable to the outs make statements to the contrary.

Rumors of a coalition are not credited, as such a course on the part of both parties would alienate all the true men on both sides that are worth having.

LATEST.

AN IGNOMINIOUS BACK DOWN.

MR. ADAMS' BLUNDER!

"WHAT A SILENT PARTY!!"

Special to the "Miramichi Advance."

FREDERICTON, Apl. 18.

The order of the day—the Want of Confidence motion of Mr. Wetmore—was called to-day at a little after 12 o'clock. There was quite a large attendance in the Assembly room, so a lively debate was expected.

Mr. Wetmore did not put in an appearance until some time after 12 and the Speaker had to wait for him. When called he arose and said—"Mr. Speaker'—and was interrupted by Messrs. Landry and McLeod, who both whispered to him.

He then said he rose to inform the House that he was not yet prepared to go on with the resolution and, therefore, he would ask his opponents for an adjournment till half past two.

The hon. leader of the Government said that he was disposed to meet his opponents with all kindness, but he did not wish to have the business of the country retarded. He would be willing, and he hoped the Government generally were ready, to accede to the request of the Leader of the Opposition; at the same time he would expect, in the interests of the country, that the Opposition would be prepared, at the hour named by Mr. Wetmore, either to withdraw their resolution (laughter) or deal with dispatch with the business of the country.

The House then, at the suggestion of Hon. Mr. Blair, took a recess till half past two.

At half past two the Assembly room was crowded, people expecting to hear some discussion, at all events. The ladies were present in a very large body.

Mr. Wetmore arose and stated, to the surprise of those who were not in the circle of the knowing ones, that he had felt he was justified in bringing on the resolution, but had, subsequently, concluded to withdraw it. He gave as a reason therefor that his act might occasion a dissolution, but he did not believe this, and, secondly, that the farming interests of the country would be injured by the step—although he could not tell why. He therefore, withdrew the Resolution.

Hon. Mr. Blair said he was not surprised at the course of the leader of the Opposition and he advised him never again to move a want of Confidence resolution against the Government, without consulting his friends.

The feeling among the attendance in the Assembly was that the Opposition suffered political suicide by the act of their leader in putting forth such a resolution and then withdrawing it. The act covered the Opposition with ignominy and the pretence that some of them refused to back the resolution, fearing a dissolution, is well known to be a sham.

Messrs. Landry, Elder, McLeod and Ritchie spoke to the matter in regular succession.

In anwer to a hint of Mr. Adams that certain members of the Government had suggested a coalition to some of the Opposition, the Leader of the Government challenged, in terms of the greatest indignation, any one man in either the Government or Opposition to verify such a statement.

There was a prolonged silence, which was at length broken by Hon. Mr. Ritchie exclaiming—"what a very silent party!"

The remark of the ex-Surveyor General was even as bad a blunder as that of the leader of the Opposition.

The House is now considering some private bills.

The fourth of April is always a trying day with the merchants. A good deal of paper usually matures on that date, and the bankers and the traders are often pretty nervous until the day has passed. In Montreal on the 4th, no fewer than three thousand notes fell due in the leading bank, and out of that goodly number only 18 went to protest. This looks well for Montreal, and we hope as good a shewing will be exhibited soon again.

Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM. - - - - - - APRIL 19, 1883.

It seems a difficult thing for our Opposition friends at Fredericton to content themselves in the position to which their mismanagement has brought them. They, no doubt, realise that power has slipped from their grasp and is not to be recovered by them again, but they have been working, as such men only will condescend to work, upon those whom they deem weakest on the Government side with the hope of winning them to their party and, thereby, leaving the Government too weak to work out its policy. The tactics employed have been chiefly in the direction of promoting jealousies in the minds of the more impressionable members of the Government party. In the formation of the new Government there were seats for about one in every three members on the victorious side, and it is not improbable that some who expected or hoped for office failed in their anticipations. Among those whom Mr. Wetmore, and his associates believed to be the meanest-spirited and most unprincipled, they have been at work and their friends were led by them to believe they had succeeded. They name the men they had purchased, but we will not do the reputation of our public men such injustice as to seriously entertain the reports we have heard nor will we cast what may be an undeserved stigma upon the members alleged to have been secured by the Opposition in the way indicated, by naming them. We prefer to wait and learn for a certainty whether they are so weak and contemptible as they are claimed to be by those who boast of having purchased them.

It may be that the defeated combination, who made such a desperate attempt to cling to office after being voted out last month, are prepared to do anything possible to prevent their successors from entering upon the system of reform in provincial administration which they know to be their policy. These men, who had splendid opportunities to win the country's respect and support, had they but possessed the will and moral strength to do so, have learned—like all other wrong-doers—when too late what the neglect of those opportunities has cost them. But they cared not for anything but power and patronage; they lost sight of everything else in their blind pursuit and enjoyment of them; and their successors, having displayed before them a partial record of their sins of omission and rattled the bones of the skeleton of their financial crookedness and concealments, they determined upon a final effort to prevent the full *expose* of their unworthiness which an uninterrupted session must develop. They hoped, by the employment of bribes, promises, threats and the use of political influences which ought to be kept apart from our provincial affairs, to secure a reorganization of the Executive which would embrace a sufficient element of the defeated combination to prevent the disclosures and reforms contemplated by the Blair Government. Succeeding in this they hope, by the means so familiar to themselves, to gradually restore their former prestige—their former rule of recklessness, concealment, intrigue and petty corruption.

That the Government is in earnest about introducing its system of reform is indicated in the Speech with which the Lieut. Governor opened the Session on Thursday last. Let the reader turn to it and compare it with the ambiguous paragraphs of former productions under the defunct administration. It is specific in its promises and a sufficient answer to the declamatory charges of cowardice and inconsistency with which the Haningtons, Adamses, Landries and other demagogues distinguished the closing hours of their Waterloo Session. The House was opened on Thursday and the Address was at once moved, pushed through and passed on Friday to the great mortification of the Opposition who, when they controlled the House, generally wasted the first week of the Session in what was thus accomplished within twenty four hours. Bills of different kinds were taken up and dealt with in a businesslike way, the Government showing a determination to allow no time to be wasted. The Departmental reports were next submitted and Government measures of reform prepared. This would never do. The jealous leaders of the defeated combination saw that the Government were carrying out their promises to the letter. They determined to check them. They would give them something besides perfecting their promised measures to do. They were amazed that two or three bills providing for the reduction of public expenditure were to be introduced on Monday and they realised that if this kind of thing was to go on unchecked the people would soon learn that men of character, ability and patriotism were at last guiding the affairs of the province. No time was to be lost, so on Monday Mr. Wetmore, as leader of the Opposition, gave notice that on Wednesday (yesterday) he would move "that the "present advisers of His Honor, the "Lieutenant Governor, do not possess "the confidence of the House."

How Mr. Wetmore proposed to prove his case it is difficult to conjecture. It may be that he and his associates have no confidence in the Executive who have already introduced bills reducing their own number from nine to seven and the salaries of the heads of departments and other governmental and legislative officials—effecting a saving of over $3,000 a year; perhaps they have no confidence in men who have discovered the concealment on the part of their predecessors of a very large floating debt of the Province and won't "keep mum" about it. Then, they have no confidence in their own predictions that Mr. Blair and his associates would allow the Governmental machinery to be run in the accustomed loose and unsatisfactory manner. Worst of all, they realise that if the Government is allowed to go on with the business of the Province for a few weeks, by shaping legislation and getting things in order for the proper working out of their policy, the people will be so rejoiced over the change that they will never again have any confidence in men who composed the Hanington combination, especially with so distinguished and absolute a political failure as Mr. E. L. Wetmore at its head.

That gentleman has, as our despatches show, added another proof of his incompetency as a political leader to those already given and the next thing we shall hear of is that nobody has any confidence in him or his party.

The N. P. bad for Northumberland.

The question as to how far a representative ought to go in supporting what he knows or professes to believe is a correct general principle of policy when he believes it to be a positive injury to his constituency, is forcibly suggested by the utterances of Mr. Mitchell in the House of Commons on Wednesday of last week. It is not now the time for us to remind the hon. gentleman of either the quality or weight of arguments which he and his friends employed in 1878 to convince the people of Northumberland that the National Policy was good for all sections of the country, but we would fail in our duty if we did not state what every intelligent friend of Mr. Mitchell believes, viz.—that if he would only speak his whole mind and do justice to his better judgment, he would say that, as a whole, the National Policy has been a curse rather than a blessing to Canada. When Mr. Snowball spoke in the Commons to the same effect as Mr. Mitchell has now done, his utterances were belittled by the New Brunswick press on the Tory side which is now almost silent with reference to what Mr. Mitchell has said, or garbles it. The truth does not appear to go well with them. We reproduce the remarks of both Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Burns from *Hansard*, and it will be seen that the latter gentleman did not absolutely annihilate our representative as the *Sun*, *Times*, and other Tory journals have intimated.

HON. MR. COSTIGAN.—The Halifax *Chronicle's* Ottawa correspondent says it is rumored that Hon. Mr. Costigan will be appointed Collector of Customs at one of the ports of New Brunswick after the session closes.

OUR SUBSIDIES.—Mr. Weldon moved on Wednesday in the House of Commons, for an order of the House for a Return of any and all moneys advanced to the Government of New Brunswick, on account of and in anticipation of the subsidy, since January 1st, 1882; the date of the several advances, the rate of interest charged and the amount of interest charged.

THOSE LETTERS. — The Toronto *World* boldly affirms, without qualification, that the Macdonnell-Tupper letters were stolen by a brother of Hon. Mr. Chapleau, who was dismissed from the civil service by Tupper for selling information to contractors, and Mr. Chapleau, it is said, will take legal action for libel against the *World* for having stated that he stole said letters.

THE CAUSE OF THE DELAY.—The Inman Steamer, *City of Chester* having broken down and being put under repairs at Halifax, the Allans chartered the *Sardinian* to the Inman Company. They then put the old *Hibernian* on to take the *Sardinian's* place in performing the Dominion mail service between Liverpool and Halifax, the result being the delay of the Canadian English mail which should have reached Halifax on Saturday, 7th inst. But the Dominion Government is not in a position to be very particular with the Allans.

SIR CHARLES.—It appears that Sir Chas Tupper repented of his resignation some days after he tendered it, and wished to withdraw it, but Sir John Macdonald declined to allow him. It is evident Sir Charles has been sacrificed—forced to retire. The circumstances, however, are only an indication of the bitter dissensions that have been going on in the Cabinet for some time. Other not less startling changes may be made public perhaps before the session closes.—Halifax *Chronicle*.

I. C. R. CLAIMS.—It appears, from a return brought down in Parliament the other day, that among the Railway claims submitted to the Intercolonial Railway Claims Commissioners is the $150,000 claimed by the New Brunswick Government on Eastern Extension. This was sent to the Commission last November, so that it is clear that the mission of the Government to Ottawa in regard to it was simply useless. Among the other claims is one of H. G. C. Ketchum for $2,180 for overcharge of freightage, one of Hon. Wm. Muirhead $2,651; one of K. F. Burns for $831; and one of Frank Meahan for $810. A claim of S. P. Tuck for $200,000, for loss of contract, was not referred to the Commissioners.—*Globe*.

WIGGINS.—Professor Wiggins was to have lectured in Montreal on Monday evening, but his audience, like his predicted storms, did not arrive. He is an astronomical fraud, a meteorological failure, an atmospheric cheat, a false prophet and a worthy "running mate" of the Finance Minister, whose example seems to have demoralized him. Won't somebody suppress Wiggins, or won't Barnum buy him? He seems to have as little conscience as Guiteau and to have experienced neither remorse nor contrition for the misery, lunacy, and losses of which he has been the diabolical cause. He has given to Canada the unenviable notoriety of having produced the greatest crank of the continent, and if he comes around here threatening to lecture he may depend upon the boys having great fun with him.

Our Steam Service.

R. R. Call, Esq., Newcastle, has purchased a speedy and comfortable steamer to replace the "New Era" on the Newcastle and Chatham route.—*Freeman*.

The local public would like to have a special statement from Mr. Call in reference to the steam service between Chatham and Newcastle. Parties here are now prepared to purchase and place a suitable boat on the route—a propeller with cabin on main deck and an upper promenade deck, licensed to carry two hundred passengers—and to run her at least five times each way per day, asking no subsidy and depending only on the public for support. We make this statement on the best of authority and suggest to Mr. Call that he will do what it is only reasonable to expect of him if he will plainly state what his intentions are in reference to the subject. The parties to whom we refer do not wish to take the business out of his hands, but they desire to see a public service in which large communities are interested, dealt with as it ought to be, instead of on the apparent basis that it is the sole property of any private citizen.

Two years ago the local public were told, in a very circumstantial manner, that Mr. Call was having a splendid new steamer built in Ontario; her dimensions, speed, time of delivery, guarantee, etc., were stated in a manner so positive as to make us all believe that the boat described was under contract. The public need not be told by us that the announcement was evidently made to assist Mr. Call in securing a continuation of the subsidies, which he had said ten years before he would only require for five years. Of course no boat, whatever, was under contract, and the old *New Era* was again put on the route and received the subsidy.

It is now rumored that Mr. Call has not actually purchased a steamer, as the *Freeman* and some other papers have been led to state, but that he has found a suitable one for sale in St. John's or some other place in Quebec Province which he intends to purchase if he secures a continuation of his subsidies from the Government. If he does not, he proposes, it is said, to put the *Andover* on the route between Chatham and Newcastle. It is hardly to be expected that the *Andover* subsidy—much less that for the other route—will be continued, for these boats have been now too long allowed to absorb the public moneys, while the roads leading up-river have gone from bad to worse. It is paying far too much for any advantages which the *Andover* may offer. If she had been run to points above Indiantown, or even to Indiantown all summer, as promised when the subsidies were first granted, it might be different, but ten years of indifferently performed if not absolutely broken promises have been, and are a poor return for the free public gift of the steamer and some ten thousand dollars besides which have gone out of the Provincial Treasury towards this one object. The continuation of the subsidy to the steamer plying between Chatham, Newcastle, Nelson and Douglastown—a service that has been eminently self-sustaining—can only be looked upon as a piece of personal favoritism and not justified by any public necessity.

Mr. Call having received twice the amount of public support which he at first said would be required in running his steamers, now owes it to those who have heretofore given him a patronage which ought to guarantee the service, to at once let the public know directly and honestly what he intends to do. If he is waiting to have his subsidy matter decided and will plainly state that unless he obtains the subsidy he will put only the *Andover* on the Chatham and Newcastle route, it is probable that others will step in and provide a proper boat. He ought not, therefore, to play with the matter until the time comes when the public will have only an inadequate service and another set of broken promises to console them selves with.

Those Who Should be Dismissed.

It seems very difficult for a certain class of papers to restrain their tendency to misrepresent others which do not approve of their policy or that of the politicians they profess to endorse. In a recent article we said—

"It is a recognised rule with the better class of politicians that good officials who hold their positions at the will of the party in power, shall be continued in office as long as they attend exclusively to their official duties, while those who take sides with a particular party shall be required to follow the fortunes of those for whom they display their preferences."

We followed the above by approving of the course of the new Provincial Government in removing certain notoriously active partizans of the late administration from office in York, and by advising that the principle be applied in other counties. Our remarks have been misrepresented quite generally by the papers supporting the Opposition. The *Capital* will do for an illustration. It says,—

"The work has begun, and the air is thick with rumors which indicate that what has been done is only a beginning. Blood has been drawn, and the whole hungry pack is in full cry on the trail, eager to be in first at the death. Foremost of all is an old acquaintance from Northumberland—the editor of the Miramichi *Advance*—full of the "vengeance blood alone can quell."

It is not worth while for us to refer at any length to such ranting as the above, because sensible people, no doubt, understand what we said and what we meant. It was to the class of officials who are and were the tools of corrupt politicians that we referred—men who care little whether they serve the public or not, but who, by being the creatures of other men, have succeeded in retaining offices which honest administrators would not allow to be disgraced by them. We desire to see non-political public positions filled by men who recognise no party, but rely upon their faithful services to the public as the only guarantee of their tenure of office. So far as the ADVANCE is concerned it will support no politician, in the Government or out of it, who does not also subscribe to this doctrine.

We observe that a local paper makes our article of 5th inst. a pretext for an attack upon a number of gentlemen who are in the Customs and other services and who, so far as we know, have never displayed even personal party preferences, to say nothing of their exerting their influence in party work. If the proprietors of that paper imagine the people will not detect the malice of these attacks they altogether underrate their intelligence. At all events, they will find that sort of company-correspondence only a non-effective waste of space. An amusing part of the same attack is the charge that a certain competent bridge inspector has been turned out to make room for a certain "quasi Grit" who is "a member of the awful Muirhead clique." We beg to suggest to the paper referred to that its reference to Senator Muirhead in this connection is in very bad taste, for we can hardly believe it has that gentleman's authority for using his name as it has done. Moreover the "quasi Grit" to whom it refers has the best of reasons—since he was so summarily given the right-about face at Nelson on Monday of last week—to believe that he is not yet where the proprietor-correspondent desires to have him. Our Opposition friends, both at home and abroad, will do well to display a little more pluck than they seem to possess just now. As it is, the ears are seen through the lion's skin and the skin of the fox is a poor disguise for the body of the well-developed sheep.

Mr. Elder's Speech.

[St. John Globe]

It is no figure of speech to say that Mr. Elder warmed so in his refutation of the charges against him, and waxed so eloquent that he held his hearers spell bound for an hour. He repudiated the idea of his possessing any power of oratory, but he thereby, like Mark Antony, displayed the more his claim to the possession of the best gifts of oratory; and all told he made the most masterly speech that has been heard in the House for many a day. The assembly does not often hear from Mr. Elder, but when it does, it does so with an attentive ear The rhetorical excellence of his speeches, and especially of such a one as that to-day silences criticism and goes far to diminish the significance of some members who intrepidly attack him. It would be folly to give a mere outline of a speech that needed to be heard in order to be appreciated in any way. Those who were present counted themselves very fortunate indeed, for it was new to most of them to hear such an impassioned self-vindication accompanied with such a severe castigation to a man's assailants. When referring to Mr. Wetmore's charge of inconsistency in Dominion Politics Mr. Elder said he never was a member of the present Conservative party. The only remote connection that he had with the present Conservatives was through the party (composed both of Liberals and Conservatives) comprising such men as the late George Brown and John H. Gray, as well as Sir John MacDonald and Sir Leonard Tilley, when they were trying to carry Confederation. But after the famous Pacific Scandal he (Mr. Elder) like all true men of the party was forced to withdraw his allegiance. His retaliation on Mr. Morton ("who quotes poetry with variation, and uses English in a manner unknown to the lexicographers of the age;") on the Surveyor General who could not support him for failing to accord his allegiance to certain Irish Roman Catholics, whereas, Mr. Adams himself was lately seeking to defeat his compatriot and co-religionist Mr. Ryan; on Mr. Wetmore, who, in the late election in New York, instead of committing murder, succeeded in committing political suicide; and on Mr McLeod who was one day a strong supporter of the McKenzie government that appointed him official Assignee in Insolvency, and the next day a strong supporter of the Government of Sir John—all was told in such a way as, while delighting the House, excited great laughter. For an address doing such political execution this speech was as scholarly and dignified as could be well imagined. It was followed by prolonged applause from the members who generally declare it a magnificent effort.

Ottawa News.

April 10.—Sir John moved that as Ross (of Middlesex), Blake, Burpee (of St. John.) Laurier, Casgrain and Robertson (of Shelburne) have declared that they decline to sit on the select committee on the paragraph of the speech from the throne regarding the Canada Temperance Act, that Shakespear, Bowell, Burns, Gigault, Landry and Allison be appointed members of the same, and that the 78th rule of the House be suspended for that purpose.—Carried.

Hon. Mr. McLelan moved the House into committee to consider a resolution that it is expedient to amend the Fisheries Act by making better provisions for the issue of fishery leases and licenses, and with respect to the use of nets and other apparatus for the capture of salmon, by providing for a definition of the tidal boundary of estuary fishing, by making more stringent provision with regard to the service and the confiscation of materials, implements and appliances used in contravention of the act, by giving the prosecutor (not being a fishery officer) a share of the fine or forfeitures incurred by offenders prosecuted by him, and by making provision with respect to appeals from convictions under the act. In committee Mr. McLelan explained that an amendment of the act had been made necessary by the recent decision of the Supreme Court regarding riparian rights. The Government now proposed to take under control the time and mode of fishing and define the boundaries of tidal estuaries for fishing. It is also proposed to abolish the right of the fishery officers to a share of fines imposed on persons violating the fisheries regulations, which he felt would be a step in the right direction. The resolutions were reported and a bill founded on them introduced and read a first time.

On motion of Mr. Costigan the House went into committee to consider the resolution that it is expedient to amend the General Inspection Act of 1874—Resolutions reported and bill introduced.

A bill to consolidate and amend the militia laws was discussed at length. Hon. Mr. Caron explained the proposed changes. In answer to Mr. Mitchell he said the increase of the militia service, under the new act, would be $150,000 a year.

Mr. Vail criticized the administration of militia service and contended that the proposed enormous increase in the expense of the service was injudicious and unnecessary

Messrs. Ives, Lister, Scriver and Hesson spoke against the bill, pointing out that it was designed to create an army of officers while the rank and file were to be neglected.

Messrs. Dawson and Bergin defended the Government.

In reply to Mr. Blake, Mr. Caron refused to give explanations regarding the cost of the details of his scheme.

Several clauses were passed and progress was reported.

Sir John Macdonald has given notice of his general franchise bill.

The Dominion Lands Bill and a bill in amendment of the Customs Laws passed their second reading and the House adjourned at 11.40 p. m.

April 11th.—In the Commons, Mr. Blake moved for copies of letters, memorials or representations asking for an increase in the tariff on any of the articles on which the proposed tariff resolution alters the rates of duty.

Mr. Bowell said the Government intended to refuse the motion on the ground that it was not in the public interest to bring down such correspondence, some of it being of a private nature.

Mr. Blake. I make a distinction. If the Government obtained, either from manufacturers, importers or other persons having cognizance of the facts, information for their purpose, confidentially, and agreed that the answer should be confidential, of course such confidential information as the Government so obtained ought not to be brought down, because otherwise, as the hon. gentleman has said, if they make an application in confidence and the answer is given in confidence, and then brought down and laid on the Table, they would not be very likely to obtain replies to future applications of the same kind. That is one thing; but there is a great deal, or may be a great deal, of correspondence not of that character and such correspondence ought to be submitted.

Mr. Bowell again reiterated his refusal to bring down the correspondence and Mr. Blake still pressed his motion.

Mr. Mitchell said—I am a little surprised at the hon. Minister of Customs not bringing down correspondence, in which the public is so seriously interested. I think that if there is one thing above another on which the House is entitled to information, it is in relation either to increases or decreases in the taxes imposed on the people. The mover of the motion does not ask—he at once concedes this point—for any correspondence or any information given to the Department, or the Government, of a private nature; but there must be a vast amount of information upon which increases or recessions of duties are granted, which this House ought to have; and I must say, coming as I do from a country which suffers under the National Policy—I am free to admit it—that I regret this refusal. I was one of those who stood in the breach, because I thought that the National Policy was in the interests of the whole country of Canada; and I believe so now. I accepted the consequences of it, and went down and defended that policy and suffered for it; but the people, feeling that they had taught me a lesson, said to me: "Mr. Mitchell, while the National Policy may be for the good of Canada, we expect you, when you go back to Ottawa, to endeavor to see that the