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POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING GAZETTE

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JOHN A. JOWES, Editor and Publisher

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY FEB. 19, 1890.

For the Latest Telegraphic News look on the First Page.

A FOOLISH COMPLAINT.

The following editorial paragraph appears in the Telegraph of this morning:—

The dominion franchise act costs the country some $300,000 a year. One year it cost $424,000. But taking the smaller figure and New Brunswick's share of the cost would be above $20,000 a year. The effect of it is to prevent some thousands, mostly young men, from voting, who would have a vote if the provincial lists were used, as they were before the dominion act was passed. Under Tory rule these citizens pay burdensome taxes, not only without representation, but to exclude themselves from being represented!

It is very surprising to find a paper which professes to have some regard for its reputation, giving utterance to such opinions as the above. The impression which the words used would convey to a reader who had no other means of arriving at the facts would be that before the Dominion law came into operation we had a very liberal provincial franchise, and that thousands of young men who had votes under our provincial law were prevented from voting under the Dominion act. This we say is the impression which any man would gather from the paragraph we have quoted. Would such a view of the matter be a true one? Our readers know that so far from being a true statement of the case it is utterly false. In this Province the Dominion act, under which an election was first held in 1887, instead of reducing the number of voters as the Telegraph seeks to make its readers believe, greatly increased them. Under it the St. John city vote increased from 4,100 to 5,632, and the county list from 7,710 to 10,029. That the increase was not much greater was not the fault of the law, but of the people themselves many of whom neglected to have their names placed on the list. These people had been so long accustomed to the old restricted franchise under which they were taxed but not allowed to vote, that it was difficult to make many of them believe that under the Dominion Act this right had been granted to them. The revision of last year has added about 2,000 to the St. John county vote so that there is now little difference between the Dominion list and the Provincial under the act of last year, which came as a tardy gift to the young men of this province. If the Telegraph was so anxious that no man in New Brunswick should be taxed without representation why did it sit silent all these years while the young men of this province were disfranchised. The Telegraph was a supporter of the King government and of the Fraser government from 1872 down to 1882 and of the Blair government since the present Attorney General took office, yet so far as we remember it never evinced any anxiety to have the franchise enlarged, although it well knew that our franchise, especially as applied to the city of St. John was a rank absurdity, utterly incapable of being defended and that it was the means of disfranchising thousands of our most active and meritorious citizens. The Dominion franchise act came as a seasonable relief to these people and gave them at all events a voice in Dominion affairs. More than this it shamed the provincial government into action, for we greatly doubt whether any change in our Provincial franchise would have been attempted to this day if it had not been for the passing of the Dominion Act.

THE FRENCH QUESTION.

Last evening Mr. Beausoleil's amendment to Dalton McCarthy's dual language bill was defeated by a vote of 117 to 63. This amendment was as follows:—

Resolved that the official use of the French and English languages in the Legislature and the Courts of the North West Territories was established by this Parliament in the well understood interests of the people of the said Territories, in order to promote the good understanding and the harmony which should exist between the different races, and with a view, by a liberal policy to promote the colonization and settlement of these vast domains:—

That nothing has happened since to justify the withdrawal of the privileges granted only a few years ago:—

That the result of the proposed legislation would be to create uneasiness and discontent throughout the Dominion and to put in doubt the stability of our institutions, and thereby to hinder and delay for a long time the development of the immense resources of the Canadian North West.

All the French members present in the House when the vote was taken, with the exception of Hon. Mr. Chapleau, voted for the above resolution. The minority was made up of 9 Protestants and 54 Catholics, six of the former being Liberals and three Conservatives. The weak point in Mr. Beausoleil's amendment was his declaration that the continued use of the French language in the North West Territories was necessary to the stability of our institutions, a proposition which the majority of our people are by no means prepared to accept. When the official use of the French language was established by act of parliament in the North West the French-speaking people formed a full half of the population, and it was thought they would increase, but the latter expectation has not been realized. At the census of the territories which was taken in 1885, the population was found to be 48,362, of whom about 22,000 were Indians. Of the Whites very few were of French origin or spoke the French language. Since then there has been no French immigration into the Territories, and the proportion of French speaking people to the whole population has greatly diminished. This of itself is a sufficient reason for the change contemplated, seeing that the attempt to colonize the Territories with French from Quebec has proved a complete failure.

The amendment moved by Sir John Thompson, which will be found elsewhere in our columns, while holding to the old covenants with regard to the use of the French language in Quebec, declares that it is not inconsistent with these covenants that the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, after the next election, should regulate the proceedings of the Assembly and the manner of recording and publishing such proceedings. This is simply Mr. Davin's motion in another form and certainly cannot be objected to, by any reasonable person, for it leaves the power to regulate the dual language question with the people of the Northwest, to whom it properly belongs.

THE EXTRADITION TREATY.

The Senate yesterday ratified the Extradition Treaty with some unimportant amendments. The amendments are understood to be in the paragraph relating to obtaining money under false pretences, and are probably intended to prevent cases of debt being treated as if they were cases of larceny. The changes will not be objected to if they make more clear than the draft of the treaty did the distinction between civil and criminal cases. When so much care has been taken to exclude political offences of all kinds from the operation of the laws it would be absurdly wrong to allow a vindictive creditor to treat an absconding debtor as a criminal and imprison him for his failure to pay the liabilities he had incurred. The treaty is a great improvement on the existing treaty and will probably be found to cover all cases proper for extradition. It will not apply to cases prior to its ratification, nor will it be lawful for a person surrendered for one offence to be tried for another. This is a concession of the principle so much insisted on by the British government and so stoutly resisted by the United States. We trust that the Treaty will come into operation without delay in order that Canada may cease to be a place of refuge for American rascals.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It is reported from Montreal that an agreement has been arrived at between the Minister of Finance and the bankers, that the notes of chartered banks shall be accepted by each other in any part of Canada as currency, and that a clause to that effect will be embodied in the government's bill. This announcement may be correct, but it is probably premature. We are disposed to think that the Minister of Finance will not so readily yield to the pressure of the bankers.

The Ottawa Free Press referring to Mr. Blake's recent speech on the dual language question says:—

Mr. Blake showed that his great powers of oratory and argument are unimpaired, and his speech last night will remain upon record as a standing rebuke to those who, for purely partizan and selfish purposes, seek to stir up race and creed strife in Canada.

The Free Press seems to have a very short memory. Who was it but Mr. Blake that sought to make Louis Riel a means of getting into power, or who used the race and religious prejudices which his death excited for political ends?

The Moncton Times says:—

Many of the friends of the Hon. Michael Adams are very sorry to hear that he is throwing himself out of line with the great majority of the liberal conservative party in the province by giving his sympathy if not his aid to Tweedie in this election. As representative of the party in dominion politics he has held the patronage of the county—an influence that may operate to some extent, though of course Mr. Adams is too honorable to use it directly.

The Times seems to have learned that there are some Liberal Conservatives in this Province outside the Times office in Moncton and the Sun office here.

It is stated that the sneering remark made by Sir Edward Clarke, Q. C., solicitor-general, characterizing the London county council as a "body of fools," is calculated to seriously hurt the government in the coming election in St. Pancras, at which a number of councillors are to be elected. The ill-considered utterance will, it is said, be used against the government in the contest in St. Pancras to fill the Parliamentary seat vacated by Mr. Charles W. Cochrane-Baillie, who succeeds to the peerage by the death of his father, Lord Lamington. That seat was only won at the last election by a majority of 261 on a register of 5,447. Now there are 6,439 voters in the district and it is anybody's battle.

It is well that a contradiction has been given by the Adjutant General of the U. S. army to the statement of Governor Foraker of Ohio that in 1887, when the fisheries question was the topic of the day, the war department wrote to him and other governors asking him how many soldiers he could rush to the Canadian frontier. Such a procedure would not be well calculated to promote good relations between Canada and the United States. The Ohio militia at present numbers 5,694 officers and men, of which 49 are cavalry, 539 artillery and 5,099 infantry. Ohio is a bi State with a population in 1880 of 3,198,062, but the Maritime Provinces could easily give a good account of the Ohio militia, for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have 396 cavalry, 1,299 artillery and 4,954 infantry.

Ice Items.

[From the Bangor Commercial]

There are now about 800,000 tons of ice in the Kennebec ice-houses, besides about 100,000 tons of old ice. This is perhaps one-half or more of the entire product that will be housed. A larger amount than ever before will be stacked, probably not less than 150,000 tons on the river.

The Knickerbocker company, of Philadelphia, are the heaviest on the river. At Iceboro they worked all night running in the ice. Sales of ice are reported at $2.25 per ton. Freight rates are from $1.25 to $1.40 per ton to New York and Southern ports. Vessels are scarce for shipment along the coast.

Offers for ice at $3,50 are now being refused by the Bangor operators and one of the most conservative of them says that he firmly believes that it will strike $5.00 per ton before the season is over. A number of the concerns have sold enough at $3,00 to cover their season's expenses and all they make above that sum is clear profit. L. J. Morse, F. H. Clergue and others are to put a great stack of ice on the Maine Central wharf to make about 6000 tons. Other concerns are getting their stacks about ready to commence harvesting. The warm weather of yesterday and today has been a tough one on the operators and it is said that one firm last evening was obliged to guy its field for so much had been cut below it that it was feared the rain would take it out. There are many buyers from away in the city and if reports from the Kennebec are true they are offering more for ice here than at Augusta. Men are now commencing to talk about cutting ice above the Water Works' dam and bringing down to tide water on the cars and stacking it.

AT THE CAPITAL.

The Work of Parliament Yesterday.

OTTAWA, Feb. 18.—Mr. Jones, of Halifax, asked, if in view of the fact that another fishery season was about to commence, the government could give any information respecting the modus vivendi.

Sir John Macdonald said the whole question is considered to be open between the United States and Canada, are now the subject of communication between Her Majesty's minister and Mr. Blaine, United States secretary of state. The subject more particularly engaging their attention just now is the Behring sea dispute, but all will be dealt with in due time, and he trusted this question regarding the modus vivendi would not be pressed just now.

Peter Mitchell said he had been informed that this matter, now being dealt with at the court of St. James, was now practically settled against Canada's contention.

Sir John Macdonald said this statement was wholly inaccurate. The matter had been referred to Washington and was being dealt with there.

Hon. Mr. Chapleau resumed the debate on McCarthy's bill for the abolition of the official use of the French language in the Northwest. He controverted, by the authorities quoted, the theory that there could not be unity in a nation without community of language. He held that the argument for one language in a country might just as well be used for one language in the whole world. McCarthy's action was looked upon by the French as an unprovoked insult to their nationality. Hon. Mr. Chapleau said we must respect in the Northwest as well as in the other parts of Canada the covenants which guarantee that the laws shall be promulgated to the minority in language that they understand. McCarthy and his equal rights association knew that if they prevented the ordinances being published in French in the Northwest they would prevent the French settling there, and that was what they wanted.

After recess, Hon. Mr. Chapleau, continuing; held it would be an injustice to the French in the Northwest who did not understand English to deprive them of an opportunity of reading the laws in their own tongue. He quoted from Sir Charles Dilke's recent work to show that in England it was fully realized that the loyalty of the French in Canada was unquestioned, and that the privileges they enjoyed here were far from being regarded as a menace to the confederation. He spoke here not as a French Canadian, but simply as a Canadian, and he and his fellow countrymen intended to remain truly Canadian. In conclusion he quoted the words of Principal Grant at a St. Andrew's society gathering in Montreal, in which he said there could be but one Canadian nation, and if the true intent and purpose of this bill as was stated, if the mover really intended to do as he had said in this house and outside, he would tell him this, that if he wanted to deface the French language he should begin higher up—he should deface it from the arms of the dominion.

After recess Sir Richard Cartwright continued the debate. He said he had little faith in the new-found zeal of the Tory party for provincial rights. Their conversion was too sudden and too recent. He condemned the introduction of McCarthy's bill as an effort to promote discord, but the question having been raised it was the duty of parliament to deal with it. The preamble of the bill was made purposely offensive to French Canadians and he did not blame them for resenting such an insult. The true way to build up a nationality in Canada was to teach every class of the population that they could rely for justice and fair treatment upon every other class. (Cheers). What Mr. McCarthy was attempting was an utter impossibility. French Canadians could not be dragooned into giving up their language. If Mr. McCarthy's bill was offensive, the speech with which it had been introduced was far more so and he (Cartwright) was surprised to find that the minister of public works had followed his example and delivered a speech which would furnish Mr. McCarthy with ammunition for future mischievous operations. He was prepared to give the Northwest control of its own affairs, but he was not prepared to declare that the present Northwest assembly represented the views of the populace. Let the people of the Northwest decide upon the question at the polls and parliament would carry that decision into effect. He advised that Beausoleil's amendment be withdrawn, but that the bill be rejected, and the settlement of the question be left to the electors of the Northwest.

Dalton McCarthy then followed. He said he stood here almost alone, doing what he believed to be his duty and he intended to maintain his stand, supported or unsupported, and he criticized Cartwright's speech as the product of a mere party machine, that of a man without one shred of reputation as a statesman which he would fain enjoy. He scorned the accusation that he had taken up this movement for selfish ends and asked what personal object he could have in separating himself from the chieftain he had served so long and from the party who would gladly have seen him advanced in their ranks. He had not originated this agitation. It had its origin in the action of the French lieutenant-governor, who had been sent to govern that country, and had inaugurated his career by offending the legislative assembly with a speech in French. This was his first knowledge that he had of the fact that the French language was permissable in the territories, and it was in this very chamber at that time that he had gathered a number of his friends about him and had announced his intention of doing his utmost to have removed from the Northwest act what he did not hesitate to say had been surreptitiously introduced into it, he believed, with the connivance of the member for Bothwell. He denied that there had been any connivance with the first minister on the subject. He had carefully avoided consulting him on the subject, knowing that as leader of a party he would not countenance the movement, but he was not ashamed to state here that on general subjects he was still a supporter of his old friend the right honorable leader of the house. He charged that Mills had misled the house when he had in 1877 introduced the Northwest act as amended in the senate. The objectionable clause was there inserted at the instance of Hon. Mr. Scott, leader of the government at that time.

[At this stage Mr. McCarthy was frequently interrupted by Mills and Chapleau, who denied that such was the case.]

After denying that the cases of Switzerland, Austro-Hungary and Bohemia were applicable to the Northwest territories, he proceeded to castigate Laurier for his connection with and profit by the Riel agitation. In eloquent language he pictured the scene on the St. Lawrence on June 24th last, when the Frenchmen of Quebec gathered together under the auspices of Mercier and Laurier and under the tri-color, to proclaim the need of establishing the French nationality on the St. Lawrence. Those sentiments had never been repudiated by Mr. Laurier. Proceeding, he referred to the case of a young Ontario girl, appointed to a Quebec postoffice, who was hounded back by the screams of the French press. He declared that he was prepared to stand by the result of the vote. His political extinction had been prophesied and if it came as result of this debate he would welcome it. He distinctly averred that he had cut his connection with the conservative party on this point, while agreeing with it on others. The effect of Davin's amendment would be to kill the bill and he (Davin) as a Northwest representative should be afraid to face his constituents who were so unanimous in its favor. In conclusion McCarthy asked the house to grant the prayer of the people of the territories and not leave open a festering sore which would cause dissension and disaster in the future. He finished his speech at 11.30, when the division on Beausoliel's amendment to the amendment was taken with the following results:

Sixty-three for the amendment to the amendment and 117 against—majority against, 54.

The minority was made up of nine Protestants and 56 Catholics, 14 English-speaking and 39 French members. Of the nine Protestants six were Liberals and three Conservatives. Hon. Mr. Chapleau was the only French member who voted with the majority.

Sir John Thompson, who voted against the amendment, then made a short speech proposing to give the Northwest assembly power to say in what language the debates should be conducted and in what languages the local statutes should be printed. He denied the right of parliament to change the status of the French language in the courts. He moved as an amendment to Davin's amendment:

That all the words after "resolved" be expunged and the following substituted:

That this house having regard for the long continued use of the French language in old Canada and to the covenants on that subject embodied in the N. B. A. act, cannot agree in the declarations contained in the said bill, as a basis thereof, namely, that it is expedient in the interests of the national unity of the dominion that there should be unity of language amongst the people of Canada:

That on the contrary this house declares its adhesion to the said covenant and its determination to resist any attempt to impair the same:

That at the same time this house deems it expedient and proper and not inconsistent with the covenants that the legislative assembly of the northwest territories should receive from the parliament of Canada power to regulate, after the general election of the assembly, the proceedings of the assembly and the manner of recording and publishing such proceedings.

Peter Mitchell moved adjournment of the debate, which will be resumed on Thursday.

The house adjourned at 12.35.

The February session of the Supreme Court opened to-day, Hon. Justice Strong being absent through illness. Thirty-three appeals are inscribed for hearing this session, viz: 13 from the maritime provinces, 7 from Quebec, 10 from Ontario and the western provinces, and 3 exchequer appeals. To-day the cases of Spinney v. The Ocean Mutual Insurance company, and Kearney v. Oakes were heard. In both cases judgment was reserved.

Dr. F. E. Barker and Hon. E. McLeod, of St. John, are in the city on Supreme Court business.

Mr. Langelier (Montmorency) has given notice of intention of making inquiries whether the government are aware that a number of their employes are members of a branch of the imperial federation association at Ottawa, and if such is the case, is it their intention to allow them to take part in that political movement.

The result of to-night's meeting in Hull was awaited with something akin to anxiety both in Ottawa and Hull, but everything passed off quietly as every precaution was taken with this end in view. Sir John Thompson was approached by the Hull authorities, who asked for a posse of Dominion police which were given, twenty strong, on the understanding that they would go over purely as special constables, the minister of justice holding that they had no right as dominion police to interfere in provincial affairs. Chief Sherwood personally commanded this force; a posse of twenty men from Montreal, under command of Judge Dugas, was also on hand to look after the peace, and with this precaution no disturbance was created, and Miss Wright was allowed to hold her meeting without any disturbance or molestation.

PROVINCIAL POINTS.

Preliminary Examination of Mrs. Weeks—Fire at Port Mulgrave—New Lighthouses—Accident on the W. & A. Railway, &c., &c.

Postmaster McPeake, of Fredericton, is seriously ill with an attack of congestion of the lungs.

William Phillips, of Dartmouth, N. S., was terribly injured by an explosion of dynamite yesterday.

A young woman belonging to Kouchibouguac has been charged with infanticide, and now lies in jail awaiting her trial.

The Peoples' Bank of Halifax, is to increase its paid up capital from $600,000 to $800,000 to meet the requirements of its increasing business.

Influenza is so prevalent in Kingston, Kent Co., that services have been discontinued in St. Andrew's church, at that place, the last two Sundays.

Rose Patroquin of Halifax, if victim of consumption, rose from her bed on Monday night and wandered into the garden where she died from exposure.

Miss Johnston, who recently won the highest scholarship of the Toronto Conservatory of Music, is a daughter of Mr. L. W. Johnston, of Fredericton.

A committee has been appointed by the city council of Fredericton to proceed to Ottawa with a view to the resurrection of the Harvey-Salisbury line.

It is now believed that the woman Ellen Anderson, found dead, near the Halifax citadel on Sunday, was foully murdered. An investigation is demanded.

The Moncton Times says the opinion gains ground that Mrs. Weeks' departure from P. E. I., was planned to shield the person by whom Mrs. Sutherland was poisoned.

Says the Amherst Record: The many friends of Prof. and Mrs. Sterne will sympathize with them in the loss of their little daughter—a bright, amiable and lovely child.

Miner Browne, of Halifax, mining engineer, who is being sued for divorce by his wife, now living at Hopewell, says he will bring a counter suit on the same ground—adultery.

The wife of William Lawson (of Lawson, Harrington and Co.), Halifax, is reported dying. This lady was formerly Miss M. J. Katzman, a poetess of great beauty and sweetness, and her long illness has evoked much sympathy.

The railroad ferry steamer at Port Mulgrave, N. S., was destroyed by fire late Saturday night. When the fire was discovered the steamer was all aflame and apparently all burnt out under the decks before the fire was discovered. She now lies sunk at the wharf and is doubtless a total loss.

The annual meeting of the Grand Loyal Orange Lodge of N. B., opened in Sussex last evening. Grand Master Armstrong delivered his annual address in which the past and present flourishing condition of the order was reviewed, and grand secretary Mosher presented his annual report. The business transacted was of a routine character.

Notice is given in the Canada Gazette of the establishment of lights at the entrance to Pictou harbor; on Ward's point, Rockport, N. B.; at Brighton Beach, in Charlottetown harbor, and at Bellow's point, Bathurst harbor. It is announced that on June 15 next changes will be made in the character of the light on East Beaverland, N. B.

A truck of one of the freight cars attached to the 3 20 W. & A. accommodation, on Saturday afternoon, got off the train above Fernley and smashed the sleepers for about half a mile, when it was flung out. The car was afterwards thrown on the dump to clear the track. Nearly a thousand new sleepers will be required to make good the damage to the road-bed.

Of Mr. William Cummings, who preached in the Tabernacle at Halifax last Sunday, the Mail says:—Mr. Cummings is Truro's largest and most enterprising dry goods merchant From a very small beginning he has built up one of the most extensive and probably the most prosperous dry goods business in the province outside of Halifax. The travellers of his firm cover all parts of the maritime provinces; and the volume of his business, if stated, would surprise the wholesale houses of St. John.

The state of the Loyal Orange order was shown by Grand Secretary Mosher in his report, at Sussex yesterday. In St. John east there were 16 lodges; St. John Co. west, 5; York Co. 11; Charlotte Co., 3; Sunbury Co., 3; Carleton Co., 8. Besides these there are other lodges whose returns had not come to hand. There are about 2,700 members in good standing, but some names have been dropped for various causes. This year the increase has been about 300, larger than any other year since 1849.

The preliminary examination of Mrs. Weeks began yesterday at Charlottetown before stipendiary magistrate Fitzgerald. Mr. F. Peters appeared for the defence and Attorney General Neil McLeod and Malcolm McLeod, Q. C., for the crown. E. J. Hodgson, Q. C., was also present. In view of Mrs. Weeks' delicate health and her fatiguing journey and owing to the fact that her counsel has not yet had an opportunity of conversing with his client the court accepted bail which was furnished by J. D McLeod, of J. D. McLeod & Co., and J. J. Davies, proprietor of the Hotel Davies, for $1,500 each. The examination was then adjourned until 11 o'clock tomorrow.

A Murderer Adjudged Insane.

DEDHAM, Mass., Feb, 18.—Walter H. Pray, of Weymouth, 23, who murdered a three-year-old boy, named Verner M. Fisher, last December, was to-day, in the supreme judicial court, adjudged insane, and ordered to be taken to the Taunton lunatic asylum.

Behring Sea.

VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 17—Justice Drake of the British Columbian supreme court, has just rendered a decision which declares that the government of the United States has no jurisdiction over Behring Sea outside of the marine league limit. The case came before the court in a civil suit brought by Henry Baxter of Seattle, Wash., against Solomon Jacobs of Victoria, for violating a sealing contract. Jacobs is the owner of the schooners Mollie Adams and Webster.

A fatal collision occurred on the Alabama & Great Southern Railroad, near Coaling, between a southbound excursion train consisting of twelve Pullman coaches, carrying over 1,000 passengers, and a northbound accommodation train. Both trains were running at great speed, and the engines and the baggage and several other cars were demolished Engineer Edward Doolittle of the special train was instantly killed, and some ten or fifteen persons on the accommodation train were seriously hurt.

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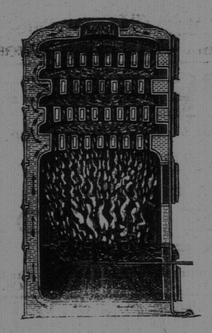

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