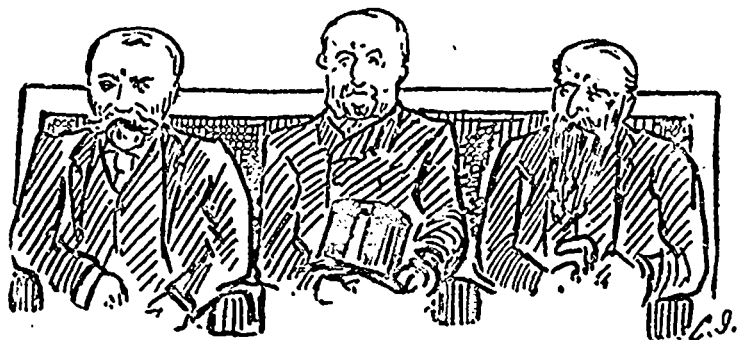


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HALIFAX, N. S.



"FROM THE HOUSE OF PEERS."

On any very important occasion and when any important matter comes up for debate, or on occasions that are not very important, there are generally one or two visitors from the Legislative Council or House of Peers. Usually the sittings of that senate and august assembly are not of long duration, except perhaps, towards the close of the session. Usually they, the Legislative Councillors, can find time to spend the most of the afternoon in the cross benches of the lower house when the proceedings are apt to be more exciting and more interesting. No doubt in a few years the Legislative Council will be a thing of the past, an event which will be much required by some. Will they, however, abolish themselves? that would be an act of self denial. Perhaps they will do, as it has been proposed to do in New Zealand, make the upper house to be composed entirely of women—even the chairman. I fancy what talking, and perhaps fighting there would be if our upper house was composed of the prominent ladies of the Province.

Although Mr. CAHAN, is leader of the opposition, he is ably secured by his two colleagues, the member for Hants, and Mr. Cameron. Mr. Tom Smith is an old hand in parliamentary matters, and is no novice, like his leader—a curious coincidence.

One of the hardest working members of the government is "The man from Lunenburg." He is not often heard in debate.

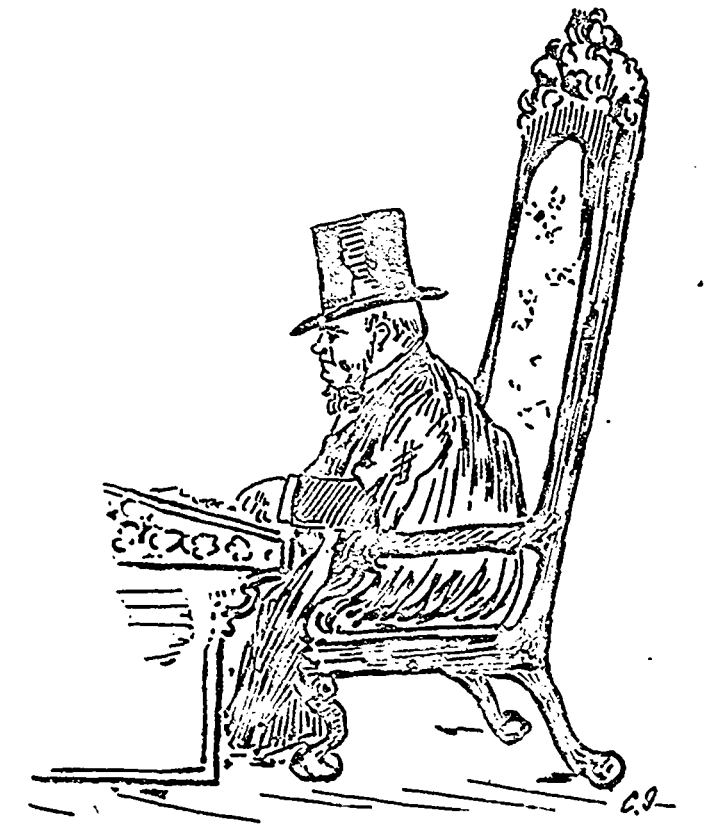
but when he is, he is worth hearing. Sometimes he leads the house in the absence of the Premier and Mr. Longley. But he is more of a worker than a speaker, although it is possible for a man to be both. There are many interesting features to be noticed on a visit to the house. It is astonishing how few people in Halifax or in Nova Scotia have ever been within its sacred precincts. The crowd in the galleries is the same day by day, and in fact year by year. There are some who attend with the utmost regularity and evince the greatest interest in the proceedings. The number of young men is to be especially noticed, particularly young lawyers, who, no doubt, like to come to possession of a seat in the floor of the house, and make the historic walls ring with heaven-sent oratory. But as the session goes on and matters become more dry and uninteresting the crowd falls off—a few of the faithful remain. But there is always room for any person who may think it worth while while to go and



"THE LEADER."

learn a little about how the affairs of this country of ours are administered.

The opening of the Provincial Legislature is a grand and imposing occasion. Usually the weather is impropitious owing to the time of year, but rain or fine, sleet or snow the crowd on Hollis street never fails to gather. The members begin to arrive in good time, the new ones in excess of zeal in very good time, then the general public and distinguished, and otherwise, persons put in an appearance armed with orders for the Council Chambers. Then afar off on the frosty air is heard the stirring music of the guard of honor from Wellington Barracks. Briskly the soldiers step along muffled in their gray over-coats and blue comforters and with a clash of arms draw up in front of the Province Building in the square, the youthful Sub. being nearly overburdened by the weight of the colours that have seen the fight on many a bloody field. Hardly have the regulars stood at ease, when the music of the volunteer band is heard afar off, with a steady soldier like step they march into the building to line the staircase and corridors. Each officer looking his martiallest before the regular critics. In the meantime the Council Chamber is rapidly filling up, ladies in gay dresses and bright bonnets, uniforms of many colours of officers of the regulars and the volunteers, make an exceedingly striking picture in the quaint georgian room of the Council. The portraits of dead and gone celebrators gaze down on the scene with mild expressions of approval, and seem to give their consent to all this show and splendour even in this democratic country. The honorable gentleman of the Legislative Council sit stolidly in their imposing chairs, always with their bright and shiny beaver hats on. These hats by the bye are kept in hat boxes in the ante-room and



"THE SPEAKER."