

POOR DOCUMENT

THE WEEKLY HERALD

CHARLES H. LOGAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
FREDERICTON, N.B., FEBRUARY 25, 1882.

THE MAILS AND THE STORM.

If any person has any control over the contract with the St. John and Maine Railroad for the carriage of mails, it is time he made his influence felt. On Wednesday morning somebody contrived so to bungle matters that the down train from Vaneboro collided with the express train from St. John with the result of blocking the road for two days. Apart from the fact that one would imagine it possible so to manage a small affair like the St. John and Maine so as to avoid collisions, we would like to know why in the name of common sense the mails were not forwarded. There was a clear track to Fredericton Junction on Wednesday. Yet the mails lay in the snow drift less than thirty miles away, and no effort was made to forward them. An ordinary pair of horses would have taken the mail to Fredericton Junction by a little after noon on Wednesday, and by three o'clock it would have been sorted and delivered in this city. Instead of that everyone seemed paralyzed. Rumors of all kinds were afloat; but every particle of information of value was suppressed. The public have put up with a great deal of nonsense from this railway, for the construction of which they paid a large sum of money, and if there is any way of making the manager discharge his duties to the public we should like to see it adopted. That the Capital of New Brunswick should be two days without a mail from St. John while the Legislature is in session is disgraceful.

A mail was received last night and was delivered this morning. It included the afternoon mail from St. John due here on Wednesday night and both of yesterday's St. John mails; a mail from Fredericton Junction and one from the St. John and Amherst Post Car of Wednesday. The mail which was upon the train out of St. John, to which the accident happened, has not yet been received. This certainly requires some explanation. What have the railway people done with the mail matter they took out from St. John on Wednesday morning? Unless they have destroyed it, it should have been delivered here; and no excuse which can be invented ought to be received for such abominable neglect. Then we would like to know what has become of the mails which have been received in St. John from the upper Province since Tuesday. Why are they not forwarded? Somebody should rise and explain, and having done so should give place to some one else who has the executive ability sufficient to ensure the forwarding of mails in the case of an accident occurring whereby the trains are delayed. We do not know who is at fault, but we call upon the Inspector of Post Offices to make a most thorough investigation and to follow it up with such changes as will insure the people of this city against the repetition of such a serious mismanagement. If a mail carrier who drives through seventy miles of snow fails to make his connections in time he is reprehensible and it is fortunate if he escapes without being fined; but this St. John & Maine Railway, which has nothing to do but to manage two or three small trains over a short road, can block the whole business of the city whenever it sees fit and come off scot free. Fredericton has been without a mail from Woodstock since Tuesday night, although the N. B. Railway has been running regularly and on time.

The Wednesday morning mail arrived on Friday at noon. It had been lying at Westfield.

THE VOTE THURSDAY IN ST. JOHN.

At the present writing it is impossible to say whether the Canada Temperance Act was carried Thursday in St. John or not; but the fact that the vote was so close under the circumstances speaks volumes for the strength of the Temperance feeling in that city. There were not many persons in Fredericton who expected that the Act would be carried yesterday. The warmest advocates of prohibitory legislation realized the tremendous odds against it. The attitude of the daily press was such as of itself to be almost enough to secure a negative vote. The uncertainty which exists as to the constitutionality of the Act, and the resulting difficulties in the enforcement of it, and the vast financial interest arrayed against it, seemed to outsiders to present insuperable obstacles. Very many persons distinguished for their temperance principles were for a long time inactive if not in opposition to the adoption of the Act, about which it is well-known that there exists a difference of opinion in temperance circles in St. John. If, under these circumstances, the Act received only the small majority of one, or the vote was a tie, the result must be acknowledged to be surprising.

It may be accepted as definitely settled that the vote was a tie one. Under these circumstances unless a recount shall reduce the vote against the Act, the decision will be held to be in the negative under the 56th section of the Act, which is as follows: "In case one-half or more of all the votes polled are against the petition the same shall be held not to

have been adopted; and the Returning Officer shall make his return to the Governor General in Council accordingly."

For the Act	Against the Act
Kings.....	194
Queens.....	197
Prince.....	194
St. John.....	191
Dukes.....	197
Sydney.....	197
Albert.....	191
Brooks.....	197
Guy.....	191
Non Residents.....	47
Totals.....	1074

We regret the decision of the St. John electors, but have only space now to say that if this Act shall be declared constitutional by the Privy Council the localities in which it is in operation must see to it that the manner in which the law is enforced shall ensure its adoption at the polls when it is again submitted to the St. John electors, and any effort made in this direction will be greatly facilitated by the decision given in the Supreme Court today. The defeat in St. John should incite the temperance people to renewed exertions.

Sir Hector Langevin has introduced a comprehensive civil service Bill. It provides for a board of examiners, and that none but Deputy Heads of Departments shall be appointed without previous examination. The maximum salary of Deputy Heads is put at \$4,000. The minimum at \$2,000. The salaries for clerks range from \$400 to \$2,400. Applications are restricted to persons who are 18 years of age and upwards. There are many other important provisions which we will give when we have in prospect the Bill. It does not affect the present office holders, so far at least as salaries are concerned.

Mr. Colver's bill to legalize the cutting and survey of logs of a diameter of nine inches at the small end, ought to receive careful consideration. As a leading lumberer said, "This is going into the barnyard and killing off the calves for beef." We do not say that such a bill ought not to pass, for we have not had an opportunity to give it much consideration, but we do say that it should not become law until the whole question of our lumber supply has been thoroughly investigated. We shall return to this subject again.

The Bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister was carried yesterday in the House of Commons by an enormous majority, the vote being 137 to 34. Mr. Weldon was the only New Brunswick M. P. who voted in the negative.

Mr. Burpee, of Sunbury, has asked for information about the "Charybdis"; but did not get any.

Notes and Notices.

—There is considerable talk at Ottawa about the probability of a Dominion election being held next summer, and although nothing definite has transpired, there appears to be a growing belief that Parliament will be dissolved shortly after the session. Both sides in Ontario are preparing for the struggle which will be very keen in that Province whenever it is brought on.

—A report comes from Ottawa that there is trouble among the Indians in the North-West and that Edmonton has been attacked by them. Owing to a break in telegraphic communication west of Winnipeg full particulars have not been received.

—The Maritime Farmer has an article on the diffusion of information relative to the settling lands, which takes very little stock in the Government's proposal to induce settlers to come here by disseminating information from the report of the geological survey.

—The Capital is as earnest in its advocacy of the Miramichi Valley Railway as though some one proposed to build such a road.

—Our evening contemporary apologized last night for having mistated the facts in reference to the delivery of mails last Monday week at the Fredericton Post Office. It states that it only learned the facts yesterday, which cannot be correct as they were given over a week ago in the HERALD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PEOPLE'S BANK.—The annual meeting of the shareholders of the People's Bank was held at their Banking House in this city, on Wednesday last. The Manager, A. F. Randolph, presented his report, showing the condition of the Bank to be very satisfactory, and that the year's business had been a profitable one. The following is the statement of assets and liabilities:—

Assets	Liabilities
Specific and Dominion Notes.....	\$21,116 97
Bills of other Banks.....	3,119 00
Balances due from other Banks, 101,620 69	
Notes and Bills discounted.....	628,444 51
Real Estate & Bank furniture.....	11,500 00
	\$765,801 08
Capital Stock.....	\$180,000 00
Circulation.....	322,857 00
Deposits bearing interest.....	189,615 80
Deposits bearing interest.....	40,289 99
Profits on hand.....	53,039 29
	\$765,801 08

A. F. Randolph, James Tibbitts, John McDonald, Thomas Temple, and John Pickard, were re-elected Directors for the ensuing year, and at a subsequent meeting of the Directors A. F. Randolph was re-elected Manager.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to the public to know that the affairs of this Bank are in so flourishing a condition.

Our thanks are due to Mr. John Pickard, M. P., for a number of blue books.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, FEB. 17.

The House met this afternoon at 3 o'clock when some business was transacted.

Mr. Sayre introduced a bill to take the power of trying contested elections of Candidates out of the Country Councils and vesting it in the respective Clerks of the Peace, who shall summon witnesses and here evidence, and whose decision shall be final. The bill further provides that in all disputed contests petitions against the returns must be filed with the Clerk of the Peace within a fixed time after election.

Mr. Barberie introduced a bill to give Resigning Municipal Council power to exempt spool bobbin and starch factories from taxation for 10 years.

Adjourned until 10 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18.

The House met at 10 o'clock.

After routine, Mr. White (Carleton) made an enquiry for copies of the Governor's speech.

The copies were laid before the House by order of the Speaker.

Mr. Fraser moved that 500 copies of the Journals should be published for the use of the Legislature.

Mr. White objected to so many copies of the Journals being published.

Mr. White moved in amendment that only 500 copies be printed.

Mr. Barberie complained that the Government had the power to distribute the Journals among their own friends, while the members of the Opposition were slighted; and that while it had been ordered last year that each member should receive two copies of the Synoptic Report, he only had received one.

If an equitable division of the Journals were made he would not go against the resolution.

Hon. Mr. Fraser said the Government had nothing to do with the matter of the distribution of the Journals, and assured the House that last year's debates had been equally distributed and promptly supplied.

Mr. White thought that the Journals and debates were always in the hands of the Clerk, who attended to their distribution, and probably Mr. White had been overlooked.

Mr. White's amendment was lost and the original motion carried.

Mr. Elder presented the petition of J. W. Lawrence and others in favor of the bill to incorporate the New Brunswick Historical Society.

The bill agreed to with an amendment limiting the value of the real estate that may be possessed by the Society to \$20,000.

Mr. Fraser said the Finance report of the Special Committee on Standing and General Committees of the House as follows:—

On Contingencies—Messrs. Vale, Turner, Leitch, and others.

On Standing Rules—Hon. Mr. Fraser and Messrs. Davidson, Vall, Willis and Hill.

On Agriculture—Hon. Mr. Fraser and Messrs. Blair, Willis, Hill, Sayre and Ritchie.

On the Library—Messrs. Blair, Fraser and Elder.

Historical Society was read a third time and sent to the Legislative Council for concurrence.

The Speaker left the chair at 11.45.

At 12 o'clock the order of the day having been called, the Speaker read the draft of the proposed address in reply to the Speech, when Mr. Lynott moved that the consideration of the address be postponed until 2.30 afternoon.

Some debate followed, in which Messrs. Willis, Ritchie, Gillespie, Hon. Mr. Fraser and Mr. White (Carleton) took part, and the House adjourned until the hour.

The Debate on the Address.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House met again at 2.30, when the Order of the Day, the Address in reply to the Speech, was taken up.

Mr. Lynott, the mover, said that the moving of the address in reply devolved upon him, and he fully appreciated the importance of his position, yet wished the duty had fallen upon some one more capable on this historic occasion, as it was the first time he had performed such a duty.

There were some who seemed to depreciate the forms and ceremonies in connection with the opening of the House. He had frequently heard it spoken of, and writers in the press had dilated upon the subject as if it were a matter to be dispensed with.

He thought differently, as the Speech from the Throne and Address in Reply, afforded the Government an opportunity of laying their policy before the people and the representatives of the people a chance to take exception to it; and while they who hold that such matters of form should be done away with are still moving in the matter, yet some of them individually belong to societies where all is form. It is true that they had not always something sensational to put forward, but if speeches from the throne did not contain anything of this nature it at least showed that things are pursuing "the even tenor of their way."

The country seemed to be in a peaceable state just now, and perhaps it was well it was so. He would take up the Address section by section. It was satisfactory to learn that the affairs of the Province are in a favorable position. A few years ago the 6 per cent. Provincial Debentures were sold with difficulty at par, and some times did not bring that, while now they brought 12 per cent. and in some cases 15 1/2 per cent.; and there were others, the latest issues of debentures, which sold at 4 and 5 per cent. This was a sign of the financial condition of the Province, because the men in the financial centre of the country can judge just as well of the ability to pay of a Province as they can that of a merchant. It was well in the midst of an assembly like this representative of a Christian country, to thank the Supreme Giver of all good for the blessings he has bestowed upon us.

Mr. Lynott said the page 25 of a Supreme Being and his beneficence, and he echoed the sentiment expressed in the second part of this section. The new Legislative Buildings were a fit subject to congratulate His Honor upon. The old House, a mere barn, was not a fit place for the representatives of the people to meet in, but the present building was an honor to the country and the Province. There are some who say that there is no need for such surroundings as we have now around us, but all men are susceptible to their surroundings and influenced by them. Some authors have written that he could describe the principal characteristics of a people if he were but acquainted with the physical features of the country they inhabited, so greatly did the conformation of the natural features of the earth affect the physical and mental parts of man. We had in our natural scenery and natural objects all that tended to give vigor, beauty and strength to both mind and body, and therefore it was necessary that the building should not only contain all that was needful for the requirements of the members, but should also be beautiful. Its influence might perhaps set up a better feeling among the members than had seemed to have existed heretofore. The most important part of the speech was that referring to the agriculture of the Province. In speaking of this section the hon. gentleman said that the young men of our country were too apt to be led away by the spirit of speculation aroused by glowing accounts of the western country, and anything that would keep our young men home to cultivate the soil of our own country, was worthy the consideration of the House. We have a good country here and if young men could be got to understand this they would not leave this Province for the North West. He understood that it was not so good a country as ours, and that the settler labored under many disadvantages of climate and a newly settled country that he would not meet with in New Brunswick, and if anything that the Government could do for the agriculture of the Province would encourage young men to stay here and make every rod of land support his man—in short, stop the exodus—why, it would be a good measure. Another important matter was that of the Stock Farm and improved stock. The Government had taken the mode of adopting the views of the Agricultural Societies and principal agriculturists, and the stock farm had been established. He hoped that it was for the best; it was better to have a little than not do anything at all. In regard to the section following he said

that it might be taken with the section immediately preceding it. It was well that information respecting land for agricultural purposes, timber land, railway and steamboat communications and the minerals of our country should be gathered and made public for the benefit of intending emigrants. He was anxious to induce emigration; he wanted foreigners with their labor and capital; but he was even more anxious to stop the exodus from the Province, for we wanted our own sons of the soil, and daughters too, in our own country. The Government would do well to develop the mineral resources of the country, and to give all the information possible to intending emigrants as to the nature of the country, all information relating to the financial condition of the country should be laid before the House as soon as possible, and he had no doubt that when the estimates came down they would be found commensurate with the demands of the country. The last section, he was sure, would be heartily approved of by all. In concluding he hoped that the session would be the inauguration of an era of peace and good will and would show that they were worthy representatives. On such an occasion as this it was fitter that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was seen where he (the speaker) was. He could remember the time when that gentleman and the Hon. Leader of the Government had clasped hands across the bloody chasm, and he wished that such a scene could take place now as the initial step in an era of peace and good will.

Mr. Lynott sat down amid applause, after having expressed the hope that they would all meet again.

MR. BLAIR.

After a few preliminary remarks, said the Government felt that the ground was slipping from under their feet, and allowances should be made for them. He congratulated his honorable friend on the manner in which he had moved the Address, although he had feared that there should be a lack of harmony on such an occasion as this. It had been said that his honorable friend who moved the address had been a heavy expense to the Government. He did not say so, but that he had been told so. It might not be true, but if it was true, it furnished an evidence of the source of the deep interest his honorable friend took in the welfare of the Government in moving the address today. The Speech he thought was open to much criticism. It showed what had been done, what was going to be done in the future, but says not a word on anything that is being done at present. It looked backward, it looked ahead, but it gave no evidence that anything practical was being done at the present time.

We are told that we are meeting here under auspicious circumstances, and, however they may be otherwise, the Government were able to appreciate these circumstances. One would look for a statement of what these circumstances are, but he cannot find them. The matter of the affairs of the Province is to us an unappealing book until we shall have had an opportunity to judge for ourselves that they are in a favorable position. We should not be asked to give our opinion on such a statement until we have had a fuller knowledge of the facts. The Government did well to say "that the affairs of the Province appear to be in a favorable position," instead of making a plain statement; but if things are as they paint them, why do they not say so? They were asked to congratulate themselves or rather His Honor, upon the new building; he could not say much more in laudation of the building than had been said. The members could see and satisfy the answer upon that score; but the highest and utmost credit was due to Mr. Lawlor, the contractor, for having so successfully carried them to completion. He tendered Mr. Lawlor the highest praise, particularly in regard to that part of the building he had under his own immediate management and control, and said that he regretted that much of the remainder of this work was not of so high a character, and he thought this was inexcusable in view of the fact that the work had been constructed under the supervision of a competent architect who had designed the building and the superintendence of two inspectors. We are told, continued the speaker, that it is our duty to preserve our independent rights, subject, however, to the recognized functions of the Federal authority under the constitution. Has anybody attacked our independent rights under the constitution, or was there any power at work against them? If such be the case the Government should have expressed more explicitly what the danger is, rather than have given vent to such a high sounding declaration; and the only resort left him was to assume that such a power was at work. He well remembered upon one occasion when the Dominion Government had, in gross violation of our independent rights, appropriated some \$2,000 and paid it on some land claims, without the sanction or authority of this house, how the Hon. Provincial Secretary had waxed justly indignant in speaking for our independent rights, which had been so grossly violated, and the threats he used on that occasion. Since that time he (the speaker) had always felt confident that the Provincial Secretary would look out for the safety of their independent rights, and was ready at any time to put himself at the head of an army to march to Ottawa. We are

also told that it is no less our duty, but equally important that we should maintain those institutions that are essential to the efficiency, dignity, and good government of our Province, as well as for our constitutional rights. Are we to understand by this that it is a recantation by the Attorney General of the cry raised by him of "Down with the Legislative Council"? Is the country to understand that the Government are going to abolish the Legislative Council, or that they are not going to the people with the cry, "Down with the Legislative Council," but with the assertion "Let us maintain the dignity of our institutions?" He would say let us maintain the dignity of our institutions, but that can be best done by maintaining our own dignity. The dignity of this country does not consist in whether or not the Lieutenant Governor pays his own house-rent or the people pay it, or whether there are five members or more in the Executive of the Province, or whether the departments are run at full strength or not, regardless of the necessities of the case. The speaker then passed on to the next paragraph, which, he said, contained the valuable information that the Government had been considering the subject of agriculture. He would admit that his hon. friend the Provincial Secretary had done much for the agriculture of our Province. He (the Prov. Secretary) had delivered addresses on agriculture which were unequalled for eloquence, and were abundant in allusions. He had by him a copy of the address delivered by his hon. friend before the Board of Agriculture at its last meeting, which had been published in all the papers. He would only refer to the latter part of it. After having dilated upon the beauties of the apostrophe as a figure of speech, and pointing out that they would see that his hon. friend had conjured up Agriculture and said the nicest things possible to her, he read the final paragraph of the peroration, commencing "O Agriculture!" and put it to the hon. house if any man could do any more for agriculture than that, (laughter) and said that the horny handed farmer in the backwoods coming in from work and reading this, would feel that his day's labor had been lightened. He did not learn with satisfaction that the stock farm had been established. The Government had acted with a disregard of the opinion of the people in taking this step, and the constitutional rights of the House, for they should consult the representatives of the people before taking any measure such as this that involved an expenditure of money. They had had ample time to submit the matter to this House, but had not done so; and the people had a right to say through their representatives, according to constitutional usage, whether or not they would have the stock farm. There was nothing urgent about this step to justify its being taken, and now the representatives of the people are called upon to express their satisfaction with what has been done without their consent and what they cannot undo. When the emergency does not call for it, the Government should not take any step such as this involving the expenditure of money without first consulting the representatives of the people. But we are told by the Government that they consulted everyone but the people's representatives—every one but us! It might possibly have been that, had we been consulted, our approval might have been given, but nevertheless we should have been consulted. Is it true for the Government to say that there is no difference of opinion in regard to the establishment of the stock farm? It is not true. The Board of Agriculture has no right to judge for all the Province, and the societies represent but a small part of each of their respective counties. And have the Government always acted as if the Board of Agriculture carried weight? He showed that it had not, by calling to mind, after outlining the steps leading up to the establishment of the stock farm, how they had thrown out the site recommended by the Board, (the members of which had travelled all over the country in search of a suitable location) and had adopted another in twenty minutes after. They are wrong in saying that the leading agriculturists of this country advised this course of a stock farm; for the Farmer's Parliament had made a distinct recommendation in favor of an agricultural school and model farm, and not in favor of a stock farm. There were many reasons apparent to him why the project of a stock farm was not good. He could not say exactly how much it would cost, but he presumed it would be somewhere in the vicinity of \$8,000 or \$10,000 per annum; a year or two more would show; and the question arose can we get anything out of it commensurate with this expenditure? We know that gentlemen in various parts of this Province have been importing improved stock, and we know by observation that in other places stock farms instead of being a success are a failure. It was an unwise scheme. It was gratifying to know that accurate information in regard to our lands was being disseminated; but it was not stated or made known how much or what had been disseminated. The paragraph now going on in this same connection he stigmatized as unmitigated bombast and said that if there was any parliamentary language or phraseology which conveyed a stronger expression he wished to be understood as using it. He