

POOR DOCUMENT

AGENTS FOR THE HERALD.

TRAVELLING AGENTS.
John True, Charles O'Brien, Thomas Buchanan, S. H. Wortman.
LOCAL AGENTS.
E. Vanwert, St. Mary's Ferry;
J. Gibson, Marysville;
A. Thomson, Sisseton;
H. H. Dykeman, Macgregor;
H. M. Brown, Sisseton, C. C.
Albert Brown, Gary;
Robert Fyfe, Park, C. C.
C. A. Sterling, Upper Magalloway;
C. F. Harrison, Magalloway;
D. McMillin, Stanley;
Rev. Mr. Harrison, Jacksonville.

THE WEEKLY HERALD.

CHARLES H. LOOMIS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
FREDERICTON, N. B., MARCH 26, 1882.

THE BRIDGE.

THE HERALD cannot assent to the views entertained by the promoters of the Bill to incorporate the Fredericton Bridge Company, to the effect that it is desirable to give any company franchise for the erection of a toll bridge between this city and St. Mary's. A toll bridge to be used in common by railway trains and horses is not what Fredericton and York have a right to expect. Toll bridges are out of date in this country and the people of York ought not to submit to the revival of them at their expense. They have a first right to claim that a free highway bridge shall be built and maintained by the Province, and it is a mistake to mix up railway matters with it at all at present. If the people of the County have to pay some thing towards its cost in order to secure it they had better do so in the shape of a bonus to the Government, but let the bridge be free. Before this Act is considered in the House the people of York County have a right to demand that the Government shall show its hand. Are they about to offer a subsidy to aid in building a bridge and if so how much? Does the representative of York, who is leader of the Government, think that the circumstances of his constituents are so distinguishable from those of other counties that they should be compelled to pay for what other localities get for nothing? This incorporating the Company before the subsidy is determined upon, for we believe that the proposed Act of incorporation is introduced with a view of getting a subsidy, is putting the cart before the horse. Fredericton and York County want a bridge and badly want it too; but not sufficiently so to induce them to consent to the erection of a toll bridge largely at the expense of the Province from which certain stockholders may draw handsome dividends. Let the Government announce to us what aid they will give towards a bridge and we venture to say that, if it is a sum sufficiently large to induce a company to construct the work for the sake of the tolls, before the House rises the City and County Councils would make up the balance and give the people a bridge free forever.

We do not wish to be understood as opposing a toll bridge if that is the best thing Mr. Fraser is willing to let his constituents have; but we object most strongly to the subsidizing of a company to build either a railway or highway bridge. The bill before the House authorizes the company to be incorporated to build a bridge for either or both purposes and to sell out to any railway company; that is to say, the corporation may organize and pay ten per cent. of their stock, begin work so as to entitle them to receive the subsidy and then sell out to the N. B. Railway Company, if that body wishes to purchase, and we may lose our highway bridge after all. A valuable franchise such as is proposed to be conferred by the Bill to which we refer should not be handed over to any individuals without the public rights being rigidly guarded.

The people of this locality have good reason to complain of Mr. Fraser's inaction in the matter. We assert on the best of authority that he had no intention of proposing a subsidy for a bridge until after Mr. Blair brought the matter up in the House. The next day or the day after that a company was suggested. How much better would it have been if the Attorney General had been alive to the interests of his constituency and had early in the session intimated that a subsidy would be given, so that the City and County could have taken some concerted action. Late as it is we suggest that the City Council and as many of the County Councillors as possible get together and look after the people's interests in this important matter. These corporations should have the first right to the subsidy, provided they will make the bridge free.

The *Capital* probably has the authority of the Attorney General for saying that "the Government would not be justified" in building a free highway bridge across the river at Fredericton. It tells us that because the Parliament Building and the Normal School had been erected here that the bridge ought not to be erected and maintained at the expense of the Province. This is Mr. Fraser's own argument and it is an extremely hollow one. The Normal School and the Parliament Building had to be built somewhere. It was never claimed even by those who opposed the location of the latter here that there was anything of a local character in the expenditure; but even if Fredericton were stopped from claiming a free bridge because of these buildings, what is to be said of the thousands of

people living upon the eastern side of the river to whom a free bridge will be of such a benefit. Does Mr. Fraser tell his constituents that they are to be taxed to maintain the only toll bridge in the Province because the Parliament buildings were put up in Fredericton? Are we to understand in this city we have to pay a price for the acknowledgment of our rights in the matter of the Capital? We state our position in this bridge matter fairly.

Fredericton and the large tract of country trading with it, have a right to a free highway bridge across the river St. John. If the Government will not erect it, then the people of Fredericton and of the parishes directly interested in the work, have the right to say whether or not they will take what subsidy the Government will give and build a free bridge. But, says the *Capital*, "as neither the Government, the County, nor the City are prepared to unite to build and maintain a bridge, and the only alternative to secure it is a company, it must necessarily be a toll bridge."

Indeed, and pray by what authority is this statement made? When were they asked? Who has ever estimated the cost of a bridge, or told the City and County Councils what amount the Government would give, or attempted to devise a scheme to have the work erected and maintained free by the public? The Government even have not the most vague idea what a bridge will cost. The corporators in the bill now before the Legislature do not know in these \$50,000 how much money it will take, and yet the *Capital* undertakes to say that the City and County "are not prepared to unite to build and maintain a bridge." Now, we speak from a careful consideration of the matter and from a calculation made on data, the reliability of which cannot be called in question, and say that if the opportunity could be afforded the City and County to take even the minimum subsidy proposed, \$50,000, they would unhesitatingly do so. This undue haste to crowd through the House a bill which has never been advertised, which authorizes its promoters to build a bridge exclusively for railway purposes, and which, at the best, proposes to subsidize people to build a highway bridge to make money by the levying of tolls, signifies one of two things, either that the motives of the corporators are not such as will bear the light of day, or, and we believe this is the true explanation, the scheme was conceived and brought forth in twenty-four hours after Mr. Blair's reference to the bridge in the Assembly, and, as its chief promoter asserted, "so that Fraser might have somebody to offer a subsidy to."

We presume the Legislature will pass the act of incorporation, because there can be no great objection to giving authority to any gentleman to build a toll bridge if they want to do so with their own money, and on the face of the bill there is nothing said about a subsidy. Nevertheless we wish to put ourselves fairly on record as being opposed to a toll bridge, and as declaring that it is not necessary to resort to such a means to secure a highway bridge across the river here.

THE SITUATION.

Sir John Macdonald still declines to inform his followers what his intentions are with respect to a dissolution of Parliament after the close of the session. The *Toronto Globe* insists that the dissolution will take place, and as yet none of the Tory organs have been allowed to deny the statement. Indeed, they are evidently not in the secrets of their chief, and are unable to make any definite announcement. It may well be that the Premier himself has not made up his mind what course to take. In the decision of the matter many difficult considerations arise. An appeal to the people before the expiry of the term of Parliament would be understood on all hands as an indication of growing weakness on the part of the Government. No principle is at issue which renders an election next summer necessary, and the only reason why the Premier may send his supporters back to their constituents is, that he feels he will be stronger this year than next. If the taxation policy was gaining in popularity every day, as we are told; if the advantages of the Syndicate contract are shown each week to be greater than was anticipated, as is so often asserted; if the country is hourly growing more and more enamored with toryism, as the Tories tell us, Sir John would find himself stronger in 1883 than he now is. But he is not deceived, if his followers are, by the assertions which are made about these things. He knows as well as any one that, when the Finance Minister claims the revival of times as the outcome of the N. P., he is asserting what events may within a few months show to be a fallacy. An abundant harvest in England and the reduction in the demand for our agricultural produce, which would of necessity follow, or a dropping of the lumber market, would bring upon Canada a depression as great as that felt during

the Mackenzie regime. He knows that the enhanced prosperity which the Dominion has been enjoying is due to causes over which the fiscal policy of the Government has no influence; and he is shrewd enough not to desire to wait until the reaction sets in before asking the constituents for a renewal of their confidence. Other causes are at work. In Ontario, the Province which has received the greatest benefit from the N. P., if any have on the whole been benefited at all, local issues are raising a feeling of indignation against the Dominion Government. The North-West boundary question has aroused public attention to the determination of the Premier to play into the hands of the Quebec Tories; the disallowance of the Act relating to certain streams indicates a determination to centralize power at Ottawa. These, taken with the successful administration of the local Government, which is thoroughly Liberal and has championed the popular cause in the dispute with the Ottawa authorities, render it highly objectionable, from a Tory point of view, to have the Dominion elections in Ontario come on at the same time as those for the local House do, that is in 1883. In Quebec matters are in a sad muddle. M. Chapleau is in difficulty over his railway matters, and he is represented as strenuously objecting to an election next summer. Manitoba is undoubtedly hostile to the Government at present; and New Brunswick will, whenever the elections come on, be prepared to respond as she did in 1878. In Nova Scotia the Tories would probably do better now than they would in twelve months hence, when the absurdity of the policy which proposes to make men richer by adding to their taxes, will be more roughly understood. Many other matters than these have to be thought over by Sir John in determining what course he will adopt. The only thing about it which is certain is, that the Government, or rather the Premier, has the advisability of a dissolution under his consideration. As it is well to be prepared for any event the Liberals of New Brunswick ought to perfect their organization, so as to be ready for active work, no matter how soon it may be rendered necessary.

HEMLOCK LANDS.

The position taken in Mr. Sayre's resolution respecting the sale of the hemlock lands of the Province is such as commends itself to every intelligent person in the community. We have been told repeatedly that the timber lands of the country were rapidly being denuded of their pine and spruce, so that unless there is an entire revolution in the management of them, not only will a large revenue be lost to the Province, but a most important industry be well-nigh annihilated. We have remaining our hemlock and hardwoods. The former is of great present value, the latter have not as yet assumed that importance which they are likely to in the future. Prof. Hough in his report on Forestry, made to the United States Congress, drew special attention to the necessity of providing against the exhaustion of the supply of hemlock. Speaking of the State of Maine in which we are necessarily the most interested, he said that the supply would be exhausted in ten years. This was in 1871, and the information which we have received at different times, makes it appear highly probable that this prediction will prove correct. A large tanning business which is done elsewhere might of necessity be brought to New Brunswick if the large extent of hemlock lands yet remaining unoccupied were properly conserved. Instead of this the Surveyor General has been selling the land at a price which is less than a third what the bark alone is worth. A careful estimate of the hemlock lands of Maine makes the average number of cords of bark to the acre four. This is certainly worth as it stands \$600; and the Surveyor General has sold our land with its hemlock, spruce, pine and hardwood for \$200 per acre, and in blocks scattered over large areas, so that the person who purchases a thousand acres, practically has the control of 10,000. Nothing more wasteful can be well conceived. If they could not compel the erection of tan-neries in the Province the Government was at any rate in a position to obtain a revenue from the hemlock which is manufactured into extract and shipped abroad. So that not even the financial exigencies of the Government need have compelled the adoption of such a course. If the Messrs. Miller could not obtain enough bark from the settlers they would cheerfully have paid a stumpage for bark, and this, as we have shown, would be three times as great as the price they have paid for the land. If they could obtain enough from the settlers, then they wanted the land only for purposes of holding it with a view to its future value, or, as the people of Kent seemed to think, "as a lever to keep prices down." The Province is surely not so hard up for money that it cannot afford to hold its own lands and reap the advantage which will accrue from their enhanced value, and the existence of a factory, which employs a dozen or two men at low wages, is not so important a matter as to justify the Government in playing into the hands of the owners, as against the farmers who are endeavoring to get a fair price for their bark. The whole matter bears so unsatisfactory a complexion that it is difficult to account

for it. We know that the Surveyor General has often asserted that the arrangement under which he went into the Crown Land Office was that he should exercise his own sweet will with the public domain, and he certainly seems to be doing it. There surely must have been some understanding that he should shape his policy by the interests of the Province and not simply be an officer to enforce the dictates of the rich man who wish to make a fortune of our Crown Lands.

DANGEROUS LEGISLATION.

Poor legislation may be better than none at all, but we don't believe it. Mr. Crawford's bill to authorize Municipal Councils to exempt from taxation factors established abroad or to be established hereafter with a capital of at least \$10,000; is very objectionable. Exemption from taxation can only be justified in cases where very great benefits are likely to accrue from it; but to enable Municipal Councils to exempt, at pleasure, any factory in which \$10,000 is invested is to ask the least of it, a very dangerous piece of legislation. Some of the gentlemen who favored the bill did so for the sake of avoiding the necessity of voting exemption from year to year to certain industries. They propose, therefore, to delegate the authority vested in the Legislature by the Municipality. They say who are better judges as to whether or not an industry shall be exempt from taxation than the Councilors who are elected by the people, expressly to have a supervision of taxation. This is a very specious argument but it is not sound, for the reason it does not really go to the whole length of the possibilities involved in this bill, which contemplates that every person who has invested \$10,000 or more in a manufacturing enterprise may apply to be relieved from taxation on the amount so invested. The principle of the bill is wrong. Take the case of York County. We have here a number of industries which have been prosperous and have paid their taxes. The owners of these mills apply and, if they have increased their taxes done away with. There are other industries and businesses equally important in their way, which have also been prosperous, and have paid their taxes, which cannot get this exemption. We do not imagine that in this County a combination of the manufacturing interests would be formed to obtain an exemption. The gentlemen who have invested money in such enterprises here, have always cheerfully paid their share of the expense of government, and will probably continue to do so. They are not asking for this exemption. But we can well conceive the possibility of such combinations being formed, and the fact that they are possible under the bill in question, is all that is necessary to be established to show that the legislation proposed by it is dangerous. But it may be asked, on what principle can you justify exempting a factory to be established and refusing to extend the same privilege to one already in operation. We reply that we do not pretend to justify such a course as a general rule; but we can well imagine instances to arise where sufficient reasons might be shown to make the case exceptional. The Legislative Council has a good opportunity to prove that it is of some value by consigning this effort of the Solicitor General to oblivion.

THE CIVIC ELECTION LAW.

A great deal of unnecessary tumult has been excited in the breast of the *Capital* and the *Reporter*, because a Bill has been introduced into the Legislature to amend the law to prevent bribery and corruption at Civic Elections in Fredericton. The last named paper admits that the present law is defective, and yet it objects to any amendment, because the Bill did not emanate from the Council. The promoters of the Bill had no desire to treat the Council in any manner other than respectfully, but as that body did not seem to move in the matter, it was felt to be important to have the Bill introduced, and the Council have the opportunity of resisting its passage in all legal ways if they think it desirable. While it is customary for all bills affecting the city to emanate with the Council, there is no law to make it necessary, and we can well imagine a case where desirable legislation might be blocked if such were the law. Referring especially to the Bill in question, it is unimportant who prepared it. The only question to be considered is, whether the amendment proposed by it is a desirable one. If it is so, then the Bill should become law. The *Reporter* makes the following objections to it:—

"By the adoption of this amendment the city elections would be merely a bone of contention all the time, it all depending upon the law of agency bearing upon the case. There have been cases where an opponent to a successful candidate has bribed a person to vote for him for the mere purpose of afterwards unseating him. If this law should hold good in civic contests, we fear the city would be in a state of turmoil and confusion all the time, and our best citizens would be averse to entering civic politics."
The experience of all countries is in favor of a stringent election law and the proposed amendment simply declares that a successful candidate who may have directly or indirectly been guilty of bribery and corruption shall be unseated. Under it the supposed case of a person bribing votes for the candidate he opposed, with a view to unseating him, could not arise.

THE DEATH OF LONGFELLOW.

The poet of America is dead. Wherever the English language is spoken a feeling of sadness will be awakened when the news of Longfellow's death is told. Of all the poets which the century has produced none had a wider circle of admirers. Even Tennyson, Laureate though he is, and a master of poetry, has not won so warm an place in the heart of the people. Without claiming for the works of the distinguished poet and scholar, who has just entered into his rest, the highest rank, it may be said of them that, as their simplicity and fidelity to nature counseled them to millions on both sides of the Atlantic, their purity exercised an ennobling influence upon the popular mind. His simple, earnest and holy life was reflected in every line he wrote, and no one ever yet rose from a perusal of his poems without being the better for what he had read. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was born at Portland, Maine, on the 24th of February, 1807. He received his primary education there, and subsequently graduated at Bowdoin College in 1825. His father was a lawyer, and Longfellow studied with him for some time; but, having been offered the chair of modern languages at Bowdoin, he went to Europe to complete his studies, returning home in 1829. In 1835 he had already gained some fame as an author, and in that year Harvard offered him the chair of modern languages and literature. He returned to Europe for a year, and spent most of his time in the study of the literature of the northern countries. In 1839 he published *Hyperion*, a prose romance. His poems on slavery were published in 1842. *Evangeline* appeared in 1847, and the *Golden Legend* four years later. In 1854 Longfellow resigned his professorship and devoted himself exclusively to literary labors. *Hiawatha* which was published in the following year, and is entitled to be considered the greatest American poem, was the first fruit of this *otium cum dignitate*. Since then Longfellow's pen has been rarely idle and he has produced much both a prose and verse which will endure through the centuries. It is the lot of few men to be so dearly loved by the people as he. A man illustrious for his genius and who devoted his long life to noble works, he made his life sublime and departing has left

"Behind him
Footprints on the sands of time,
Footprints that, perhaps, another
Sailing o'er life's troubled main,
Some furor or shipwrecked brother
Seeing may take heart again."

WHAT THEY ARE TO BE ASKED.

A Tory candidate is going to ask York to return him at the next election, that is, if the wings of the party can agree upon a man to be the S. B. of the L. C. P. The electors of York are to be asked by their votes to do what they never have yet done, vote for a Government which sold a great charter for money—for the heroes of the Pacific Scandal. They are to be asked to support a Government which has created a monopoly which controls not only the whole future of the great West, but has the Government itself under its iron heel. They are to be asked to vote to continue Tupper in power, who threw away \$200,000 of the people's money to oblige a contractor who was a strong personal friend and who had in by-gone days remembered the financial exigencies of the Tory party. They are to be asked to vote confidence in the man who obtained power by promising merely to readjust the tariff and then violated their pledges by making it protective to a few and burdensome to the many. They are to be asked to endorse the policy which has added twenty-five per cent. to the expense of lumbering, has reduced the value of farm produce by lessening its purchasing power, has increased the power of living and discriminated in favor of the rich in the imposition of taxes, has compelled New Brunswick to pay more into the revenue upon a trade of \$5,000,000 than she formerly paid upon a business of \$10,000,000.

They may respond that they are willing to trust themselves once more to Sir Leonard Tilley, who has never yet made a political promise which he fulfilled, to Sir Charles Tupper who was so accomplished in "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" as to deserve twenty years ago the distinction of being the "high priest of corruption," to Sir John Macdonald who boasts himself "a Tory of the Tories," who is determined to centre all power at Ottawa and dominate the English vote which is essentially Liberal and progressive, by the French vote which is essentially Tory and obstructive, in short to confide in a Government whose whole career is stamped by corrupt and extravagant administration. York may be willing to do this, but we do not believe it.

A CONTEMPORARY asks: "How much of Mr. Irvine's speech as published in the *Grit* papers did Mr. Irvine actually deliver?" If the editor really wants to know and will call at the *HERALD* office we will show him an uncorrected copy of the Hansard report of Mr. Irvine's speech, and he will find on comparing it with the corrected copy published in "the *Grit* papers" that the changes all told would not aggregate one hundred words.

THE P. B. PENITENT.

Mr. Hanington informs the public through the editorial columns of the *Capital* that he thinks he would have been wiser if he had let the *HERALD* alone. With this view we entirely coincide, and wish to add that he will not fully understand how great a mistake he has made until we are done with him. He need not hope to shatter himself by claiming that the troubles he has brought upon himself are the result of any difficulties, politically or otherwise, between himself and Mr. Blair. It is no part of the *HERALD's* business to fight Mr. Blair's battles. When that gentleman proves unable to successfully defend himself or attack his enemies, he will probably step down and out. The *HERALD's* first reference to the member for Westmorland was simply a reply to his insolent attack upon Mr. Lugin. Since then this misrepresentative of an important constituency has seen fit to repeat his insolence and at the same time invited a review of his political record. This review we propose to make, not all at once, but by instalments, and we propose to show that of all men whose names occupied a position in the political arena of New Brunswick none have had so ignoble a record; none have so prostrated what abilities they possessed; none have done so much to embitter political strife; none have been so double-faced, and above all none have been so consumed by conceit and impudence. Our little sketch of him in the last issue of the *HERALD* he pronounces coarse. It was, its coarseness was due to its fidelity to nature. A story is told of a little rough, unkempt boy, who lived somewhere in the backwoods. One day the father brought home a looking-glass in a basket. The little fellow had never seen one before, and when he glanced into the basket and saw his own visage reflected there, he jumped back, exclaiming, "Father's bought a cub!" So with this noisy, blatant, village politician from Westmorland. The *HERALD* enabled him for the first time to see himself as others see him, and he cries out "How coarse!" We hail with satisfaction these first signs of a penitent heart, and hope soon to make him so humble that when his French constituents, for whom he has on more than one occasion, when away from home, expressed such contempt, give him the coup de grace, he will accept it without a murmur and resuming his original avocation of bullying J. P.'s, look back without a sigh to the days when he displayed his vanity and ill-breeding on the floors of the Legislature.

The Bill increasing the jurisdiction of Parish Court Commissioners to eighty dollars is scarcely needed. It is a mistake to be in too great a hurry to extend the jurisdiction of inferior tribunals. No doubt the same principles may be involved in a case for \$40 as in one for \$4,000, and we presume that the object in putting the jurisdiction of magistrates at a low sum was to prevent mischief resulting from their ignorance of legal principles. It has been well urged against such an increase of jurisdiction that it may prove oppressive to debtors, who ought to be allowed a longer time than six days between the beginning of a suit and the rendering of a judgment, where the debt is a larger sum than \$40. No doubt there are Parish Court Commissioners well able to discharge the responsibility sought to be imposed by this Bill; but the majority of them are not able to do so. It would be a breach of faith with the Police Magistrate of Fredericton to make such a law apply to York County.

MR. IRVINE'S SPEECH.

We publish on the third page of the *HERALD* a large portion of the speech, for the delivery of which, in the House of Commons, Mr. Irvine was so abused by the *Tory* press. A careful reading of it will show that he spoke with an intelligent appreciation of the subject under discussion, and though on one or two occasions he indulged in some personal allusions that might have been omitted, he only in this followed the example of some very distinguished men, who have been pleased to call themselves the party of gentlemen. Instead of vilifying Mr. Irvine the Tories would do better to answer his arguments if they can. This, however, they are careful not to attempt. The speaker who followed him got off some platitudes about the respectability of the Finance Minister, but never attempted to show, and it would indeed have been useless for him to attempt it, that the farmers have not been sacrificed in the preparation of the tariff, which was framed exclusively in the interests of a small body of manufacturers.

The Bill relating to Bribery and Corruption at civic elections in Fredericton is intended to remove an objectionable feature in the present Act. By the law as it now stands it is necessary for a petitioner to prove that a successful candidate "obtained his election" by means of bribery and corruption. If his majority of votes was twenty it would be necessary to prove twenty cases of bribery, and if the majority was two hundred it would be necessary to prove two hundred cases. This is so manifestly absurd that attention need only be directed to it to show that the law should be altered. This feature in the law was unnoticed until Mr. Phair filed his protest.