THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1892

ALL matter for publication in the HERALD should be in this office by noon on Tuesday. Persons wishing their advertisements changed *must* vise us Saturday forenoon.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

THE budget speech delivered by Premier Peters, on Wednesday evening last was possibly as poor an effort as has ever been dignified by that title. There was one thing it did not lack, and that was brag. From beginning to end it was scarcely anything but vaunting of what the Government did and intended to do. Were the speech stripped of its verbal frippery and were its important features eliminated from the froth with which he succeeded in covering them up, his exposition of the Provincial finances need not have occupied more than ten minutes.

We will just devote a brief space to what the Government have done and what they intend to do, as indicated in the Leader's speech. The Government had a deficit of upwards of $30,000, for their first year in office; they wasted the assets of the Province by way of remittances of interest, etc., in the Land Office, possibly to the extent of nearly $30,000 more; then not more than $20,000 of the seven odd thousand dollars collected in the Land Office should be used as ordinary expenditure, the other $50,000 properly belongs to capital. Add to all these the interest debt which has accumulated and it will be found that the Province is at least $100,000 worse off than when they assumed the reins of power. There might be some excuse for this state of things, if there was anything to show for it. But there is absolutely nothing; no important public works have been undertaken; the roads and bridges have not been improved.

Now let us see what the Government intend to do. They boast much about what they intend to do for the young men, and prove the sincerity of their utterances by depriving them of their votes. They dwell with much emphasis on the improvements to be made in our dairying interests and place in the estimates the enormous sum of $350 to be expended in developing the dairying interests of the whole Province. They say the revenue of 1892 must meet the expenditure of the same year, and, to begin with, announce a deficit of upwards of $4,000.

These are a few of the things the Government intend to do; but the end is not yet. They speak of other expenditures that will reach at least $20,000; we then have them practically admitting a deficit of $25,000 to start with. A reasonable estimate would, no doubt, be to multiply that sum by three, that would leave a deficit of $75,000 on the year's transactions, which is probably within the mark.

As the Leader of the Opposition well remarked, the Leader of the Government can say a great deal about nothing. There was one subject, however, about which he was very silent. That is the debenture question. He did not deign to enlighten the House as to how much money was received for the sale of these debentures, or what it cost to place them on the market, or how much per cent was realized on those of them that were sold. These are questions in which the electors are deeply interested and of which they will demand an explanation at the very first opportunity.

THE "LIBERAL" COUNCILLORS.

IN our last issue we pointed out the objectionable features incorporated by the Government in the bill for the abolition of the Legislative Council. These were principally the clauses relating to the disfranchisement of our young men, the mortgage vote, and the last clause requiring a two third vote to change the act.

When the bill left the House of Assembly bearing these illiberal provisions, it was bad enough; but it remained for the vanguard of "Liberalism" in the Legislative Council to perfect the iniquity commenced by their confreres in the other end of the building. These men evidently know that under a broad, liberal and equitable franchise their rule in this Province would be of short duration, and they have resorted to desperate and dastardly means to perpetuate themselves in power. In pursuance of this they have amended the bill so that all office holders under the Dominion Government shall be disfranchised; that all returning officers at elections shall be appointed by the Government, and that four of the electoral districts of King's County shall be so gerrymandered that the conservatives shall be hived. The power to have partisan returning officers is bad enough; the disfranchisement of Dominion officials is an arbitray and a high-handed act worthy, only of a set of narrow-minded political fossils; but the gerrymandering of the electoral districts in an outrage so monstrous as to deserve for its perpetrators everlasting execration and obloquy.

By this change in the boundaries of the districts, that part of Lot 61 embracing Gaspereaux, Sturgeon and St. Mary's Road, in the Murray Harbor district, the part of Lot 63 extending down into Murray Harbor, those portions of Lots 54 and 55, in the Cardigan district, embracing De Gros Marsh, north of Grand River, and all of Lot 56, in the St. Peter's district, are to be added unto Georgetown. These changes are proposed not because the Government love Georgetown more but because they love the other districts a great deal less, and it is hoped that by thus taking from them these Conservative strongholds the Government may be able to secure the election of one or more supporters. We purpose having a plan made of the new Georgetown district and publishing it so that our readers may have some notion of the crookedness by means of which the Government hope to compass their designs. It is not unreasonable to suppose that although these iniquitous amendments were introduced in the Council, they were planned, or at least approved by the Leader of the Government. The voice was the voice of the Councillors; but the hand was doubtless the hand of Peters.

The devious course through which the outline of the new district winds, and the fact that the voters in the territory added to Georgetown are nearly all Catholics would almost induce one to believe that the object of the gerrymander was to hive the Catholics. But surely these "Liberals" would not be guilty of inaugurating any legislation that would tend to destroy the peace and harmony existing between the different religious denominations in this Province, and set people at one another's throats. What have the Catholic members of the Government, and the Catholic supporters of the Government in both branches of the Legislature, as well as the Protestant supporters of the Government, responsible for their seats to Catholic votes, to say on this point?

SESSIONAL NOTES.

On one or two evenings last week there was as vigorous clashing of intellectual rapiers in the House of Assembly as is often produced in our Provincial Legislature. While the wordy war waged warm across the floor of the House it was of much interest to the spectators, and afforded them no inconsiderable amusement. The hilarity, at times, became so pronounced that the sergeant at arms apparently seriously meditated a forcible suppression of what, no doubt appeared to him unparliamentary conduct. Fortunately, however, everything passed off without mishap.

For an hour or so on Wednesday night, matters were extremely lively. The member for New Perth, (Mr. Shaw) rose to move that an humble address be presented to the Lieutenant Governor for the purpose of obtaining certain information denied the House by the Government. As he hurled his invectives across the House, at the Commissioner of Public Works particularly from whose department the returns asked for should come, the last named gentleman grew wrathy and was with difficulty restrained, by his colleagues, from doing something rash. The spectators in the gallery could not restrain themselves, as Mr. Shaw excoriated the Government, and they again and again manifested their satisfaction by applause.

If, as the member for New Perth pointed out, the Commissioner of Public Works has manipulated time in such a way as to increase the days in three months, usually numbering 92, to 116, and so compressed the seven days of a week as to dovetail them in between the 12th and 14th of a certain month, he is an extraordinary genius. Much difficulty has hitherto been experienced in the computation of time. The Julian Calendar made considerable improvement in this matter, and the Gregorian Calendar advanced still nearer to perfection; but still some odd hours and minutes remain which give us an extra day every four years. Is the present Commissioner of Public Works the man that all these centuries have been waiting for?

During the debate on the expenditure for Education, on Thursday, Mr. Gordon showed that he fully believes in the Scotch motto, "*nemo me impune lecessit.*" The item under consideration was the salary of the Secretary of the Chief Superintendent, and Hon. Mr. Farquharson, in support of the Government's action in reducing the salary, indicated that the present salary was quite enough, and if the Secretary was not satisfied there were numbers ready to take the position. In reply, Mr. Gordon said he had no doubt, the hon. member for West River would grind the face of the poor with any man living. This, of course, angered Mr. Farquharson, and in the absence of any argument he made his stereotyped little speech about the smallness of Mr. Gordon's constituency and insinuated that the member for Georgetown was interested in a ferry subsidy. The Gordon's Highland blood was up, and he spiritedly retorted that he was totally independent of all the Governments in the world, and, as to the size of his constituency, he would answer the member for West River in the words of Mr. Gladstone, which he would surely not deny: "the larger the constituency the smaller the representative." The hon. member for West River could draw his own inference.

Each day of the session furnishes evidence that the Government is a one man power, and that it is directed by the most arbitrary rules. There appears to be a fixed determination to burke all enquiry, and to take advantage of every technicality to shut off discussion as to the *modus operandi* in the departments of the public service. Then again, the Premier undertakes to answer all questions asked any other members of the Government. Why is this? Is he afraid they might answer too much; or does he regard them as creatures of such inferior intelligence as to be incapable of giving a correct answer? Are they mere puppets in his hands? We imagine that men of spirit would not long occupy such a humilitating position as the latter conclusion presupposes. Arbitrary men have come to grief before now, and it might not be amiss to profit by their example.

The scene in the House, on Thurday night, when the chairman of the Committee of Supply dubbed himself "Governor" may better be imagined than described. The Leader of the Opposition had the floor, and his merciless criticism of the manner in which the public works of the Province are conducted by the Government was very far from palatable to the Premier, who undertook to apply the cloture, and insisted on the chairman calling him to order. But the Leader of the Opposition paid no attention to such nonsense; he cared nothing for the Leader of the Government or the chairman, so long as he was within his right; and towering above his fellows he stood there like some former chieftain of his race and scorned the puny attempts of his assailants. Even the self-dubbed title of "Excellency" assumed by the chairman had no effect on the Leader of the Opposition, he finished his speech and covered his opponents with confusion.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

WEDNESDAY, April 13.

Mr. A. McLeod submitted a bill to amend the Act to incorporate the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church at Montague.

The bill to prohibit the sale of cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco to minors was further considered in committee and was reported agreed to with amendments.

The bill to amend the Town of Summerside Incorporation Act was read a second time and committed.

Mr. Rogers asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands whether, before taking the balances off the Township Ledger in order prepare the figures given in the annual statement as balance due on the 31st of December, 1891, he caused the entries for the year in the township ledgers to be compared item by item with the corresponding entries in the counterfoil receipts and daily cash book; and if so whether check marks were made in the said Township Ledgers counterfoil receipt books and daily cash books to denote that the credit was only made.

Hon. Mr. McMullen said that he would reply to-morrow.

Mr. McKay asked the Leader of the Government whether the Government have opened any correspondence or taken any action with a view to the purchase of the estates owned by Mrs. W. S. Smith, and thereby give the tenants thereon an opportunity of owning the fee simple of the farms they live on.

Hon. Mr. Peters replied that the Government have communicated with the person referred to, and it was hoped that the estate would be purchased.

Mr. Warburton submitted a bill to incorporate the Park Corner Hall Company.

Mr. Bentley asked the Leader of the Government to lay on the table of this House a copy of all correspondence between the Leader of the Government and John McCaul, late Inspector of Licenses for Prince County, relative to his (McCaul's) claims against the Government for salary and expenses under the Canada Temperance Act. A copy of McCaul's bill for expenses, etc., a statement of how much has been paid him during the past year and up to April 1st, 1892, and how much he claims to be still due; also, how much has been collected as fines under the C. T. A., etc., in Prince County, since the first of May, 1891, and from whom collected.

Hon. Mr. Peters replied that the correspondence would be laid upon the table. Mr McCaul demands payment of $800 for services rendered while the late government was in office.

EVENING SESSION.

When the Speaker took the chair, Mr. Shaw rose to move, seconded by Mr. Clow, that an address be presented to his Honor the Lieut. Governor requesting that certain returns repeatedly asked for, from the Government, be laid upon the table of the House. These returns relate to money spent in connection with the work and inspection of Cardigan Ferry docks. The inspector appointed by the late Government Campbell and Flanagan, and they were replaced by Mr. Donald Sigsworth and Mr. Donald Stewart. The hon. member for New Perth desired to know the amount of money paid these new inspectors for their work. But this the Government did not appear to be willing to give in full. Other public works regarding which information was desired were the Southport Ferry Wharf, and the Prince Street Wharf in this city. Mr. Shaw went on to show that the members of the Opposition were kept waiting, week after week without receiving the desired information. Notices were put on the order book, and the questions were asked time and again; but no information was given. They were treated in the most incourteous manner regarding these questions. They were called to order when the questions were asked, and no one was more persistent in his refusals than the Leader of the Government. In former times, under the previous Government such was not the manner in which the Opposition were treated. He was of the opinion this was a Government of one man, the Leader of the Government was evidently something like Louis the XIV. of France whose favorite expression was "the people that's me." The other members of the Government and their supporters, in the House, were apparently so many machines, to do the Leader's bidding. He thought the words of Scott, slightly changed would not be inappropriately applied to the Government: "Old times were gone old manners changed, a despot filled the Leader's throne." He next called attention to the bill that had been passed last year authorizing the distribution of the Public Accounts as soon as they were prepared, and not to be kept back, as heretofore until after the reply to the Lieut. Governor's Speech; but they had not been produced much earlier than usual. Had the accounts showed a surplus, instead of a deficit, on the year's transaction, they would, no doubt, have been given to the public at a much earlier date. He called attention to the fact that no correspondence between the Local and Federal Governments, regarding our claims against the Dominion, had been produced although asked for. Much more correspondence, and other information asked had been refused. The budget would shortly be delivered, and we would then find out the state of our finances, and all this correspondence, and this information would be necessary to the intelligent discussion of our financial situation. He next discussed the Land Office. He said that big discounts had been made in many cases, and other evidences of favoritism existed, with regard to those who were friends of the Government, while in other instances, where the applicants were not of the same political faith as the Government, the last pound of flesh had been demanded. He considered that the Leader of the Government had brought pressure to bear on the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and thus brought about the state of things we had to-day. He instanced cases where friends of the Government had received large discounts. Were such conduct practised in private business by any man, he would soon be made an example of. In some cases sums reaching forty or fifty dollars were knocked off. He then turned to the information that had been demanded regarding the Ferry Docks and other Public Works. In the case of the Ferry wharf at Southport, he said, the Commissioner of Public Works evidently considered that there was no one in Charlottetown, or at Southport or Lot 48, who was capable of inspecting that work; so a favorite of his own had to be brought from Souris and paid three dollars a day for doing this work. It turned out, however, that this man knew nothing, at all about the work he had to perform, so that the principal thing he did was to draw his pay. Men had been paid twice. The Commissioner of Public Works had evidently annihilated time, and sandwiched a week into the space intervening between the 12th and 14th of one month. The sum of $1290 had been spent on the roads without authority, and $129 spent on Cardigan Bridge had not been accounted for. The Bedlamism of Mercier dwindled into insignificance, comparatively speaking, when contrasted with that of the Government of this Province, under the present administration. In reference to the Cardigan Ferry docks, he pointed out that Pius Flanagan, one of the inspectors appointed by the late Government was to receive the sum of $80. Of this amount he had been paid $65, showing that he had almost completed the work. But the present Government instead of paying him or his successor the remaining $15, of the original contract, employed Mr. Donald Sigsworth and paid him $174, thus at one swoop giving away $159. Another inspector Steele, was to receive $80 according to the contract, as first entered to; but Mr. Donald Stewart the friend and appointee of the present Government received $50 for the same work Sigsworth was credited with three months work, July, August and September, 116 days. Now, Mr. Shaw pointed out that when he went to school there were only 92 days (Sundays included) in these three months, and he was sure there were only 92 days in them last summer; but the Commissioner of Public Works had made 116 days out of them and paid Mr. Sigsworth for that number of days at $1.50 per day. This was a most extraordinary calculation; but perhaps the Commissioner had rabbits. There were no doubt spheres for which nature had intended that hon. gentleman; but certainly the office of Commissioner of Public Works was not one of them. During the delivery of this speech and at its close Mr. Shaw was most heartily applauded.

Mr. Clow seconded the motion. He was very sorry that it was found necessary to have recourse to such means to obtain information due members of the opposition.

Hon. Mr. Peters here raised a question of order. He said all the conditions required had not been fulfilled, in bringing the resolution before the House, and as a consequence he considered it was out of order.

The Leader of the Opposition took issue on the question of order, and pointed out that he considered the resolution was properly before the House. The Speaker, however, ruled the motion out of order, and thus once more, the Premier succeeded by a mere technicality, in stifling enquiry as to the methods pursued in spending the public money.

THE BUDGET.

It was after nine o'clock when Premier Peters began his budget speech, the bombshell thrown into the Government camp by Mr. Shaw, having somewhat disconcerted his plans. In his remarks on the financial condition of the Province, he, of course, blamed his predecessors in office for not having conducted the public business to his liking He blamed the previous administration for increasing the public debt to the extent of $80,000. But with regard to his own Government, he claimed they had done everything they promised. He also claimed that they now had money in the banks bearing interest He next referred to the operations of the Land office. He enumerated the amounts that had been received from that source for a number of years past, and compared them with what had been received last year. He, of course, took advantage of the occasion to say hard things about Mr. Donald Ferguson, the late Commissioner of Public Lands. Referring to the question of compound interest, he said that if the Government, in some cases, remitted it, they were justified in doing so, by the example of their predecessors in office, and quoted the opinion of the Leader of the Opposition on the matter. He said compound interest was not illegal. He next referred to the bill which had been passed reducing the number of jurors and claimed a considerable saving would thereby be effected in the expenditure for the administration of Justice. The Registry Office, he said, was in a bad condition, when the Government came into power. The stereotyped complaint about the people going away was indulged in. He boasted that the Scott Act had been well enforced under his Government, and said he intended to ask the Legislature for a vote of $1,000 for a continuance of its enforcement. He took great credit to himself and the Government for the dairying interests about to be started and fostered in different parts of the Province. He computed the estimates of receipts for the current year as follows:

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS, 1892.

Dominion Subsidy	$183 500
Public Lands	60 00
Provincial Secretary	1,000
Prothonatory	3,000
Registra Deeds	5,000
County Courts	2,000
Hospital for Insane	1,500
P. of W. College	150
Private Bills	100
Peddlers Licenses	650
Fines and Penalties	350
Venders Licenses	140
Ferries	5,200
Casual Revenue	600
Rent Warren Farm	90
	19,780
Total	$263 280

Comparing this with the estimates of expenditure $267,344 it will be found that we have a deficit of $4,164 on the estimated financial transactions of the current year. In addition to these expenditures he said a new steamer would have to be provided for the Southport Ferry, which would probably cost $20,000. For this a supplementary estimate would be brought down. He closed his remarks with a general boast of what his Government had done by way of fulfilling promises.

The Leader of the Opposition said it was really wonderful how much the Leader of the Government could say about very little. His boasts concerning what he was going to do for our young men must appear hollow and empty in view of the fact that he has introduced a measure to destroy the value of their votes. His boast that the Province owes no debts must appear vain and false in view of the debentures which he has set afloat. The Premier is like the man who, being threatened with legal proceedings, came to an arrangement with his creditor by signing his note of hand, and said as he did so, "Thank God, that debt's paid." It is, however, certain that the Province must liquidate every cent of the debenture debt. Last year the Government employed experts, and trumped up an enormous balance against the Province, when they took office, of $171,000; and then they took power to issue debentures for $185,000—or $14,000 in addition to the alleged balance. It was freely admitted that the Land Fund of $800,000 had been inequitably administered. For instance, Mr. Davies had purchased an estate for about $5 an acre, which had been sold to the tenants for $2.50. As to compound interest, the late Government had treated everyone alike. He believed it to be equitable, and right, though it could not be legally collected in some cases. One of those cases—only one—had arisen while the late Government was in office; and he had advised that the compound interest could not be collected. A similar case had arisen while Mr. Davies was in office and Mr. Davies was forced to issue a deed on payment of the purchase money and the simple interest. But he rightly received compound interest in other cases, and the late Government followed his example. But how has the present Government acted in respect to it. First of all, Mr. Bell was put up to say in the Legislature that compound interest is illegal, and to put the people on their guard against paying it. Then, those of the people who were unacquainted with the Government's methods, were permitted to pay it in full, while to those who said that they would not pay it, it was remitted in the most extraordinary and inequitable way. For instance, of the constituents of the member for West River who paid money into the Land office, R. Hogan owed $61,04 and paid 45.20; Duncan Macdonald owed $208.49 and paid only $135,33—the compound interest remitted in this case amounting to $48.26 and the discount to $25.03; William Ross owed $125.37 and paid only $109.96; Archibald Macdonald owed $107.32 and paid only $76.95; Donald McEachern owed $316.28 and paid only $275.00; Henry Smith owed $228.79 and paid only $173 34. These are a few of many instances. No wonder the Land Office has been a fruitful source of revenue! In several of these cases 19 per cent. discount was taken off after the expiration of the date authorized by the Legislature, and the compound interest remitted was calculated on the gross amount of the debt at the time of payment—a most extraordinary kind of bookkeeping. The Government seems to have been ready to accept any sum that was offered by certain persons—to give away any amount—so great was their need of ready money, and all the people who paid in full have to bear their proportion of loss to the Province. The balance at the land office on the 31st December, 1890, was $411,880.67. One year's interest ($20,594) together with the amount of the prices of law sold during the year ($6,481) added to this amount would raise it, at the end of last year, to $438,905.67. But it appears by the Land Commissioners report that the total amount uncollected at that date is only $347,838.70—a falling off of $90,966.97. Add the expenses of the Land Office ($3,146.60), and it will be seen that it cost about 20½ per cent. to collect the amounts paid into the Land Office last year. About $3,000 of capital were taken out of the Land Office last year—a larger wholesale capital than in any previous year. Mr. Peters boasted of what the Government had done to extend the telephone system—he knows perfectly well that it was the late Government which introduced that system. He boasts of what he is going to do to advance dairying—by means of bonuses to dairy associations amounting to $350, which divided among the various districts of the Province will give them about $10 each! The Lieut-Governor's speech contained the announcement that the Stock Farm was to be revolutionized; and we see in the estimates that $.000 are to be expended to import stock, though we know that if his boast concerning the establishment of an experimental station is to be made good, a very much larger amount will be required. Notwithstanding the strong expressions of opinion on the part of the hon. member for Springton, that revenue and expenditure should meet, the Government is pursuing the policy of drift. Last year the administration of justice cost $18.972, and the criminal docket was very light; this year the estimate under that head is $15,487, or nearly $3,500 less. Last year's education cost $113,022.98; this year the estimate is $111,510, though the number of schools will probably be larger than smaller. There is to be a reduction of $560,74 in the cost of the hospital for the Insane; is it expected that the lunatics will be less? The poor house is to cost $133 less than last year. Ferries and wharves cost $30,000 in 1890, and last year $17,380 83. But this year there is estimated for that service only $3000. Our roads cost last year $19,681.89, but this year there is to be expended upon them, according to the estimates, only $15000. There is, it appears, to be a reduction in the cost of bridges of upwards of $500 and nothing is set down for the new scamer to be built. With all these estimated reductions in expenditure the leader anticipates a deficit of about $4,000. He knows that the deficit must largely exceed this sum. Certainly the expenditures of last year were swelled by reason of the favors accorded to their friends. Thomas Mullaly was imported from Souris to act as a boss to look after the wharves at $3 per day, though a better man could be obtained in Charlottetown for $1.50 per day. R. F. Irving was paid $125 to superintend the laying down of the sewer; Philips & Chapelle would have done the work for 5 per cent. of the contract, or half that amount. A sum of $1,290 was expended in some way that is still unexplained. We want the particulars of this and other jobs. But we have so far applied for them in vain. They will, however, be forced out fo the Government in due time—even though the leader of the Government took advantage of a technicality and the ruling of the Speaker to burke the object of the resolution of the hon. member for New Perth. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. McMillan followed. He defended the management of the Land Office, while condemning the late administration for allowing some accounts to remain unpaid for years. He said that the statement asked for by the member for New Perth would be brought down in the three weeks promised. He admitted that compound interest had been taken off in some cases. The policy of the Government was to get as much as they could from those who owed the office for a number of years, as some of them had been told by the lawyers that they need not pay.

Mr. Rogers scored the Government for refusing to give the Opposition the information they asked for in reference to certain public matters, and for hiding behind a technicality and snuffing out a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor asking for the information. He criticised the statement of the Leader of the Government that they did not owe the banks one cent, and for his self-lorification in the matter of reducing the cost of legislation after stealing the policy of the Opposition. Much had been heard to-night about telephone extension, but not one cent had been spent for extending the line west of Summerside. The extension had nearly all been made in the district represented by the Leader of the Government. The Land Office policy of the present Government was bad, but he did not hold the present Commissioner of Crown Lands responsible for it. There was a power over and above him in the management of that office. After some references to the public accounts, the tunnel scheme and other matters, he closed by saying that not half the crookedness of the present government had yet been exposed, but the time was coming when we would have a free hand at it.

House adjourned at 12.40.

THURSDAY, April 14.

After routine, the House resolved itself into committee of supply. Mr. McWilliams in the chair. The first item taken up was the expenditure for education, upon which the debate was kept up all day and during the evening session. The Leader of the Opposition and his supporters dwelt upon the fact that the present Superintendent of Education—appointed by the present Government—is now calling for important and economical reforms which were proposed years ago by the Liberal-Conservatives, but denied by the Liberals (so-called) of the Upper Houses. The provision against first-class pay for third-class work in the schools, and the provision of better inspection of these schools, advocated by the superintendent, were strongly pressed, and the question was asked, why does the Government ignore the suggestions of its own chosen officer? Mr. McLeod said that apart altogether from the qualifications of the present incumbent, the summary dismissal of Mr. Nicholson was outrageous, and particularly so in view of the fact that he was permitted to make preparations for his marriage and for "settling down," under the impression that he was to be retained in the position for which he had shown his fitness. The office of Superintendent of Education is properly, non-political, and Mr. Nicholson had carefully avoided participation in politics. Hon. Mr. Sinclair was unfortunate in his reference to the smoothness and the economy with which the department had been administered during the past year, and to the fact that every school house was occupied; for Hon. Mr. McLeod pointed out that, if credit were due to anyone, it was to the late Superintendent, Mr. Nicholson, who had occupied the office during almost the whole of the period of the last report.

The Opposition denounced in the strongest terms the further reduction by $100 of the experienced, capable and reliable Secretary of the Board of Education. The Government had brought from Souris to boss a job on the wharves at Charlottetown a man named Mullaly whom someone has described as "a hemlock carpenter and a botch at that," and paid him $3.00 a day; and had reduced the pay of the Secretary of Education—an educated, efficient, hard-worked and highly respected officer, through whose hands hundreds of thousands of dollars pass every year—to less than $2 per day—though they know that he cannot maintain his position and his family upon that amount. Surely an outrage such as this will not be permitted by the Honorable Mr. Peters. Surely we shall see in the supplementary estimates the difference between $600 and $800 set down for salary of the Rev. Donald McNeill.

Mr. Gordon thought it was exceedingly small business, on the part of the Government to reduce the salary of the Secretary of the Superintendent of Education from $800 to $600. It was rather a grinding policy. He believed, he said, that the hon. member for West River, (Mr. Farquharson) was an adept at grinding the poor. Hereupon Hon. Mr. Farquarson, sprang to his feet and insinuated that Mr. Gordon was interested in the subsidy paid the Georgetown Ferry Steamers, and made some mean allusions to the smallness of Mr. Gordon's constituency, asking what right he had to speak for King's County. Dr. Jenkins showed that Mr. Gordon was, properly speaking, not only a representative of Georgetown, nor of King's County only; but of the whole Province, as were all the members in the House. He stated, moreover that there were not two men in the House who did not listen to Mr. Gordon with every respect and attention.

Mr. Gordon took the floor and spiritedly resented the insinuations of the members for West River. He said he was not under obligations to the value of the pencil he held in his hand, to any Government in existence. As to the constituency which he represented he was proud to say that it had had for representatives, during its political history, some men who had destinguished themselves in much wider fields of statesmanship than was here afforded them, and had deserved well of their sovereign.

At the opening of the evening session, the Commissioner of Public Works, foaming with rage, made an onslaught on Mr. Shaw, by way of retaliation for what he had said on the previous night. If he did he received a Roland for an Oliver. The member for New Perth unmercifully scathed him to the great amusement of the spectators.

As is very often the case in committee, the debate took a very wide range; and the Leader of the Government undertook to choke off discussion, so far as members of the opposition were concerned. But his attempts in this direction only resulted in a ludicrous failure. The Leader of the Opposition had the floor and was sailing into the Government policy generally. The Premier was evidently finding it going rather hot for him, and he commanded the chairman to call him to order. Mr. McLeod paid no attention to these calls; but kept right on scoring the Government. Finally the chairman became excited and jumping to his feet and exclaimed "I am Governor here to-night, and I must have order." It is needless to say that the result was general disorder. Meantime the Leader of the Opposition complimented the chairman on his elevation and saluted him as "His Excellency." This freak in no way prevented the Leader of the Opposition from saying all he desired to say regarding the mal-administration of the Government in the different departments of the public service.

The House adjourned over Good Friday. On Saturday the House met late in the afternoon, when some private bills were advanced a stage, and a few minor items of supply were passed.

MONDAY, April 18.

House met at 12 o'clock.

The Medical Act was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Peters moved the House into committee, with Mr. Cummiskey in the chair, on the following resolution:—

Resolved, That it is advisable to introduce a bill providing that hereafter no fees shall be charged by judges of the Supreme Court of this Island and that all fees heretofore payable to them shall hereafter be paid to the Prothonotary or Deputy Prothonotary of said court for the use of the Province.

The Speaker took the chair, and the chairman reported the resolution agreed to.

The following were appointed a committee to draft a bill in accordance with the above resolution: Hon. Messrs Peters and Sinclair and Mr. H. C. Macdonald.

Hon Mr. McLeod moved the second reading of the bill to abolish the Water Commissioner of Charlottetown, which was submitted to a committee of the whole House, with Mr. Robertson in the chair.

Mr. McLeod explained the provisions of the bill and said it was not in the same form as when adopted by the citizens at the meeting in the Market Hall. The one there adopted provided that the office of Water Commissioner be invested in the City Council. The measure he now presented made the Mayor of the City Water Commissioner. When submitted to him to introduce in the House it was in its original form, but he and his colleague for the city, thought it would be a better measure in its present form. He and his colleague were responsible for it in its present form. Personally as a citizen of Charlottetown he favored the retention of the Water Commissioners as he thought their work was yet unfinished, and their management of the works would be more satisfactory and give better results financially than if placed in other hands.

Hon. Mr. Peters was entirely opposed to the measure either as drafted or to place the works in the hands of the City Council. He enumerated the many disadvantages which would arise did the bill become law and thought the original act of 1887 the best and most serviceable for the city.

Hon. Mr. Richards full coincided with the remarks of the Leader of the Government and thought the repeal of the old act would be an unwise proceeding. He therefore moved that the Speaker take the chair.

Mr Shaw thought it would be altogether wrong to repeal the old law. He was opposed to rushing such an important measure through before members of the House were fully conversant with it and the citizens of Charlottetown had decided in a little more definite manner. He favored the taking of a plebiscite vote by the citizens on the matter sometime the coming summer. He therefore seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Speaker took the chair.

Mr. A. McLeod questioned the C. P. W. concerning the Wood Islands road, and the opening of a new road from McLure's road and Murray Harbor road after which the House took recess.

The House met again at 3.45. Mr. H. C. Macdonald asked the C. P. W. if a petition had been received from the inhabitants of Belle Creek and vicinity, praying for the construction of a dam at the mouth of Belle Creek river, and if not what action does the government intend taking on the matter.

Hon. Mr. McLean said the matter would be looked into.

Mr. McKay asked the C. P. W. to lay on the table a statement of all sums paid for inspection upon the new dock built for the accomodation of the steamer Southport at McPhee's Bridge, West River, and names of persons to whom such payments have been made, and the amounts paid to each person; also to lay on the table a copy of the tenders received by the government for wharfenger for North Rustico bridge on or about the 31st March 1892, and which tender has been accepted, if any, and who is in charge of said bridge as wharfenger at present, and how much he is under contract to pay the government as wharfenger for this year.

Mr. McLean promised the information.

Mr. Shaw asked the Commissioner of Public Works if it is the intention of the Government to open a road leading from Keith's Mills to Montague Bridge this summer on the route surveyed by Mr. Bell in 1891; and if it is the intention of the Government this summer to open a road leading from Stanhope Road to Baldwin's Road at or near the Samphy property?

Mr. McLean said both roads were under consideration and would in all probability be opened.

The House then went into committee of supply, with Mr. McWilliams in the chair, and passed several items before adjourning at 6 o'clock.

All of Monday's evening session was spent in supply. A resolution of sympathy for Mrs. Mackenzie, widow of the deceased ex-Premier of Canada was moved by the Attorney General, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, supported by Messrs Gordon and Sinclair and agreed to.

Yesterday several bills were advanced a stage and the house went into supply.

Prince George of Wales is to visit Canada next summer.

A disastrous cyclone visited the section around Petersburg, Virginia, on Thursday night. Houses, barns and fences were levelled to the ground. The residence of B. Ross at Stony Creek was lifted from its foundation and crushed to pieces on the ground some distance away. Mrs. Ross and her servant girl were instantly killed. The damage to property and crops was enormous.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

In the Commons on Monday, of last week, Hon. Mr. Tupper introduced a bill to repeal the acts respecting the Quebec harbor police. He said the harbors in other provinces were policed by the municipal authorities and there was no reason why the expense of protecting Quebec and Montreal harbors should be borne by the Federal Government. Hon. Mr. Patterson, secretary of state, introduced a bill to legalize voters-lists received at the printing bureau after 31st of December, 1891. He stated that it was the government's intention to introduce another measure suspending revision of the Dominion lists this year and simplifying preparation of voter's lists and the extent of their preparation in the future. Mr. Ives moved a resolution proposing to re-impose an export duty upon logs and pulpwood. He made a long speech, arguing that all logs produced in Canada should be manufactured in the country. He objected, especially, to allowing the Americans to cut and carry away spruce logs. After several members had spoken, Hon. Mr. Foster said the export duty on logs was abolished in order to secure a reduction in American duty on Canadian sawn lumber. He regretted Americans had not reduced the duty upon spruce lumber as well as pine. The industry had been benefitted by the reduction of American duty by one half. If to-day the export duty on logs were re-imposed the American duty upon pine lumber would be at once doubled, while the spruce business won'd not be helped at all. Therefore the government must oppose Mr. Ives' resolution. The motion was withdrawn and the house adjourned.

Tuesday Sir John Thompson moved a resolution authorizing the use of evidence taken before the parliamentary committees last session at the coming trials of Thomas McGreevy and others on criminal charges. He stated the present position of the various prosecutions and read a letter from Mr. Osler, the government counsel, stating that the evidence taken before the committee was necessary. Sir John argued that the British parliament had authorized the use in criminal trials of evidence taken before parliamentary committee. After recess Sir John Thompson moved the second reading of the bill to consolidate and amend the criminal laws of the Dominion. He said he proposed to refer the bill to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament which committee could commence work after Easter recess. He said he proposed the consolidation because it would greatly simplify the present criminal statutes and their administration. Among the changes proposed were those abolishing distinction between principals and accessories and so far as practicable to provide uniform punishments, for the same class of offences. Distinction between felonies and misdemeanors was to be wiped out and the rules of evidence in bigamy cases would be amended. With respect to the abolition of grand juries, Sir John Thompson said he personally favored such a change, but owing to the division of opinion among the judges as to the desirability of such abolition he did not propose to press it upon the attention of parliament. They had power to deal with the grand jury question because it related to criminal procedure. If grand juries were abolished persons committed for trial could be tried when the indictments were approved by a trial judge. Mr. Laurier favored the retention of the grand jury system as it afforded additional protection against personal prosecution. The alleged charges against Lieut-Col. Denison in certain declaration or alleged affidavits read by Mr. Somerville the other evening, was again brought up in the house by Col. Denison on motion to go into supply. Denison showed there was no foundation in the charges and produced original documents to show this. A long debate took place on this, Thompson stating that if Somerville did not retract, he would offer a resolution on the matter. Somerville made a retraction and the house then went into supply.

There was a slim attendance in the House on Wendesday. Mr. Mulock withdrew his amendment to the extradition act. Mr. Davies moved for the correspondence, telegrams, etc., relating to claim for compensation or damage made by John F. Robertson for injuries sustained by him on the Prince Edward Island Railway. He maintained as the case was a deserving one. Whether the law was or not strictly with Robertson, his case was one which the government ought to consider. This Sir John said he would do, so the motion passed. A motion by Mills, of Bothwell, for reports, etc., made by the minister of finance regarding his trip to the West Indies, was passed, Sir John stating that he thought all the papers were brought down, but if not they would be.

HON. ALEX. MACKENZIE DEAD.

Hon. Alex. Mackenzie died at Toronto, on Sunday morning. For some months back his death has been daily expected, owing to an accident received about the first of February. He was out walking and slipped and fell on the icy sidewalk, injuring his head so that his brain was affected, and he lay almost ever after hovering between life and death and generally in a condition of unconsciousness. On January 28th last he celebrated his 70th birthday, and was then in better health than almost at any other period since his health broke up through overwork and paralysis ten years ago.

Mr. Mackenzie was born in the parish of Logiorait, Perthshire, Scotland, about five miles from the Pass of Killiecrankie, in January 1822. He came to Canada in 1844, being the first of the seven brothers to make the change. He received but a meagre education, but being of a studious nature, daily added to its store. He learned the trade of stone mason, at which he worked after coming to Canada. He sat in the Ontario Legislature ten years resigning with Mr. Blake in October 1872 in order to devote himself exclusively to Dominion politics. On the fall of Sir John Macdonald's Government, on November 5th, 1873, Mr. Mackenzie was entrusted by Lord Dufferin to form a new ministry. He continued in power until September 1878, when his government was defeated at the polls. After his defeat he continued to lead the Opposition until 1880, when Mr. Blake was placed in charge. The defeat of 1878 came to him as a shock, as he had not the least idea that his government was in danger. He was never reconciled to the treatment which he received from his own party in 1880 and was never the same man afterward. He took little or no part in the caucus afterward, and had literally nothing to do with the councils of the party leaders. He sought and obtained re-election in 1882, 1887 and 1891, and occupied his place in the house whenever by any possibility he could get into the chamber. Of late this was only in the afternoon session, and for some years past he has had a standing evening pair with Sir Donald Smith. He was first married to Helen McNeill, of Irvine, Scotland. She died in 1852 and the following year he married Miss Jane Sym, who survives him, and has been his constant attendant in his helplessness.

A fatal accident is reported from Lincoln, Sunbury Country, N. B. John Lowe a farmer of that place accidently cut off his big toe while using an axe, causing death in less than half an hour. Deceased was about 55, and leaves a large family.

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