

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, FEBRUARY 24, 1888.

THE ACTING PREMIER'S POSITION.

THE Acting Premier—Mr. Attorney General Winter—we understand, is hearing some very discouraging news from Fortune Bay and other independent districts just now. Other men in his frame of mind might turn to that great solace for human ills, tobacco, but, notwithstanding his high opinion of that article as a necessity of life, Mr. Winter never uses it, and a pipe or a chew would undoubtedly make him sick.

Similar sentiments may be expressed with respect to Attorney General Winter and the liquor question. When the subject of prohibition was before the Legislature last year, Mr. Winter might have taken a foremost position in the ranks of those who opposed that measure. But he didn't, though. Being an old son of temperance, and largely indebted to the friends of "the great and glorious cause" for his success in public life, he (Mr. W.) thought it expedient (if not honorable and manly) to take a back seat and direct the action of the Assembly in the matter. True, Premier Thorburn was present during the debate on the question; but the latter gentleman, as everybody knows, has never attempted to exercise an independent opinion with respect to politics. Messrs. Winter and McNeily have always thought and acted for him, and so, in this case, as on many other occasions, his presence did not count for anything here or there.

But, be that as it may, Mr. Winter, as we have said, remained on the outskirts of the discussion, watching and waiting, with intense anxiety, for the close of the debate and the decision of the House. His own personal interests, as well as the stability of the Amalgamation, inclined him to earnestly hope and pray for the defeat of the Bill; and, in spite of all his dissimulation, the outward and visible signs which his restless manner betrayed, indicated the "inward and spiritual grace" that constrained him to stifle the voice of conscience and imitate his principles once more upon the altar of political expediency.

Indeed, it is stated that, when the vote was taken and the decision trembled in the balance—when there were sixteen for and sixteen against—when the Speaker saw the tremendous importance of the position in which he was placed and began to hesitate—a hard, relentless glance from Mr. Winter's cold grey eye arrested Speaker McNeily's attention. Then, without further hesitation, the fatal vote was recorded, and the Prohibition Bill defeated by a majority of only one.

We hope the people of every district in the Island will bear the foregoing fact in mind when the approaching general election takes place, and give all candidates for their suffrages to understand that such conduct is reprehensible—nay, unpardonable—in the eyes of the whole country. Political treachery and deceit must be punished in some way; otherwise their baneful influences will one day be felt in every department of the Commonwealth.

Think'st thou there are no serpents in the world  
But those who slide along the grassy sod,  
And sting the luckless foot that presses them?  
There are who in the path of social life,  
Do bask their spotted skins in fortune's sun,  
And sting the soul.

SAID TO BE THE "ANTLER MOTH."

An esteemed correspondent volunteers some interesting information regarding the "grub phenomenon" between the Torbay and Portageal Cove Roads, the other day, and to which Mr. R. J. Parsons compared the present Government, in his speech in the Assembly on Wednesday afternoon. Our correspondent says:—"The caterpillars mentioned in your paper, some of which I have before me, are, in my opinion, from the 'antler moth,' and eat the shoots of the grass as well as the roots. They are said to be most destructive in Germany and North America. In Sweden, in 1741, their ravages were so great as to be almost a national calamity. Their habit is to advance in battalions; but as to how they arrived on the snow, and at such a season, must be left to imagination, and there is much room for it."

RAPIDLY DYING OUT.

INDICATIONS that the Thorburn sentiment is rapidly dying out are multiplying at a rate that must be very disheartening to the friends of the mercantile Premier. There will be none of it left by the next general election, and there will probably be no attempt to repeat the unpopular experiment of nominating candidates at the Commercial Rooms. Next time, the people will nominate their own candidates and elect them, too.

CAPTAIN SERVICE, of the barque *Beltrees*, brought his ship up from Pernambuco in good style this trip—a twenty-six days' run. It was a fair weather and a good service trip, as it were.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY NOTES.

The Address Committee Raised After Tea.

ELOQUENT EFFORT OF MR. MORINE.

The Sealing Captain Dawe Brings in a Sealing Bill.

THE House met at 4 p.m. yesterday. After the Speaker took the chair, it went into committee on the address. The chairman, Mr. Godden, took the chair, and Mr. DeMessurier, who is in charge of the committee, sat close to the table. Nero fiddled while Rome was burning, and so the Government of this colony are purposely delaying public business while our fishermen are starving. Thus, again yesterday, the address committee was raised immediately after tea, and the House adjourned at 8 p.m. Precisely at 4 p.m. Mr. Morine arose to address the House, and made, perhaps, one of the most eloquent speeches ever heard within its walls. He occupied the close attention of the House during the two hours and a half of its delivery, and it would be impossible for our reporter, in the limited space at his disposal, to give anything like a comprehensive synopsis of the numerous matters therein treated. He commenced by remarking that the Government were bestowing upon His Excellency the same dull flattery as they had given his predecessor. His predecessor they had induced to write a despatch on the Bait Bill, which commented so unfavorably upon the resources of the country that they disavowed and repudiated all responsibility for it. Our present Governor has pledged himself to administer upon constitutional principles. Had his predecessor done the same, we should have no bye-elections sprung upon the people in which the candidates stole away at the midnight hour. We should have no amalgamation in defiance of written pledges: we should not have thousands corruptly spent to gloss over the outrage, and we should not have any railway built on Executive responsibility, in contemptuous disregard of a vote of the House.

Of all our fisheries the small, unimportant industry of lobster catching is the only fishery that is fairly successful. The cod, salmon and herring fisheries were failures, and the Bank fishery was not equal to the previous year. The prices were raised only at a late date, when the fish was all sold, and so the merchants and not the fishermen were the gainers, and thus the rich were made richer and the poor poorer. The increased bounty for ship-building, ordered in November last, all goes into the pockets of the merchants, and is paid by the destitute fishermen of the Shore and Labrador fisheries to the well-to-do young men who go out upon the Banks. There has been also a delay in putting on steamers to enforce the Bait Bill, and St. Pierre bankers have already purchased a complete supply for the Spring fishery. Even up to date the notice has not been given to owners of steamers.

Although there had been 25 per cent. added to the taxes, the revenue was short \$100,000, as he had told them last year. The limit of taxation had been reached, and unless economy were practised we would be ruined. This year's road grants had been lost, and now there remains not a dollar in their hands. The mention of new steamers for the coastal service was made in the address, as had been expected. Larger boats were not so much required as frequent trips. It is also provided that western boats call at St. John's after the Placentia railway was built, and not, as argued in favor of the Placentia railway last year, that Placentia, having been made the western terminus, a saving in time and money would have been effected. He then commented upon having steamers in the bays—unfavorably upon the Allan contract, and showing how a saving of \$60,000 might be effected. The Placentia railway was promised for this year, but will not be completed till next summer. On the municipal affairs of St. John's, three bills had been introduced, all of which failed. He hoped to see a measure put through this session that would give the ratepayers of St. John's full control of their own affairs, regardless of creed or class.

Why were we not represented at the Washington commission? Had former commissioners incensed the British Government? Why did not Government refuse to attend at Washington upon unequal terms? He then referred to the Railway judgment, and said Evans must be bought out and the line built north. It was the Jubilee ball—its cost, character and result, that drew forth all the force of his denunciation. A few sentences were bestowed upon Sir William Whitway's manifesto, its need promises and effect. White's resignation was treated, and the Government condemned for not issuing a writ. Our hopes, he said, shall be fulfilled: the day of prosperity is dawning—the day the land so much needed is at hand; or, as Mr. March would say:

There's a midnight blackness changing into gray:  
Men of thought, men of action; clear the way.

The hour was 6.30 when he brought his speech to a close. The House then adjourned for tea; for notwithstanding the great interest our legislators take in the affairs of the country, they never forget meal hours. When the House came back the committee was raised and Capt. Dawe, with a short, practical speech, moved the second reading of his sealing Bill. The House adjourned until 4 p.m. to-day, a little after 8 p.m.

Mr. Murphy will be on this evening in all probability.

THE MUNICIPAL QUESTION.

How is the Bill to be Framed?

WHAT ABOUT THE WATER COMPANY?

Who Are to Control the Police Force?

THE MATTER OF PROPERTY TAX.

Other Very Important Matters

I hear that a bill will be brought in this session to incorporate the city of St. John's, and, as a matter of course, to place in the hands of the citizens the control and management of all their local affairs; they, the citizens, finding the funds for all our town expenses and electing a competent staff of officials to carry out their views. In the first place who is to frame the bill? Is it the Government or is it the citizens? What does the bill or what will the bill aim at, and how is the machinery to carry out the provisions of the bill to be set in motion? I would ask a few questions which I have no doubt some persons more conversant with this subject may answer satisfactorily for the public benefit.

In the first place, is the town to be really severed, not in a mean manner, but on a scientific and reliable basis? If so, how is the money to be raised to pay for this necessary work for preserving the health of the inhabitants and of those who either on business or pleasure visit us? In the second place, how are the water rates to be met? Will the Government hand over to the corporation, when it is embodied and properly legalized, the stock and trade of the Water Company for the sole use and benefit of the city? How will it affect the shareholders, and will they be willing to take the corporation as a security for the payment of the interest, or will they hold the general government as a security for their stock? We must bear in mind that a sum of money must shortly be raised to give increased power to supply the higher parts of the town; but this need not trouble us as regards monetary means; as the consumption increases, so will the means be raised from the consumers to meet any interest which may fall on the city. How is the expense to be met for lighting the town, which we cannot do without? and from what source are we to get the means for cleansing, and repairing our streets?

The next point is, if St. John's be incorporated, it will have to support its own poor, whether permanent or otherwise. This, I think, can only be done by assessment on property and collected like the water rates. This will not be a great hardship, because, if the metropolis supports its own poor, each and every district in the Island will have to follow suit. Let each district be compelled to provide for their poor, and you will soon find poor relief a thing of the past. The representatives will not then be coerced into begging or demanding relief from the Government, and the cry that the representatives and their hangers-on are fattening on the poor will vanish. The cormorants of all and each government who have been eating the vitals out of the toilers of the sea will be a myth, and we shall usher in the millennium. Every man and every district must take care of themselves, and what is it, after all? Instead of paying taxes into the general fund, we pay it out ourselves, and among ourselves. One thing I notice, that representation and starvation go hand in hand. The districts of Burgeo and LaPoile, St. George's Bay, St. Barbe's—the French Shore—and later on, the Labrador: as soon as these districts got represented, poverty and starvation immediately set in. How is that? Before a member was given them, the fearful cry of poverty, starvation and distress was not heard of. Would it not be a mercy to disfranchise them, so that they might return to the old state of peace and plenty, and not burden the colony with an extra debt to support them and their members?

The next point is the police force. I think this should be left in the hands of the Government, and the expenses defrayed out of the general revenue. I mean for the whole island. I would not place the control of this body under any corporation or body of men. The public wharves and landing places should receive the serious attention of the municipality, and provision made not only for the citizens to land their goods, but also for our out-port brethren, and afford them every facility to land their produce and take in supplies, without any unnecessary delay. Labrador, not yet being represented, cannot fairly be taxed with much outlay, but as it most likely will soon receive that honor, we can well see how the land lays. Yours truly, ALPHA.  
St. John's, Feb. 24, 1888.

The Allan steamer *Parisian* is the one bearing the present outward mail to Halifax, and, being a swift-footed messenger, she will likely be on time, so that our local mail-boat *Newfoundland* will be pretty certain to leave at the appointed hour for this port—noon of Tuesday next.

REPORT

Of the Officers of the Junior Benevolent Irish Society, for the Year Ending Feb. 5th, 1888.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY.

A meeting of the pupils and ex-pupils of the Christian Brothers' schools was convened in St. Patrick's Hall on the 1st of March last by the Rev. J. L. Slattery, who stated that it had been decided by the Benevolent Irish Society to establish a junior branch. Those present being in accord with the intention stated, a requisition was immediately drawn up and presented to the Benevolent Irish Society, asking the privilege of walking with them in their annual procession on St. Patrick's Day.

A deputation consisting of seven members of the Benevolent Irish Society, who stated that the privilege asked for had been granted, was afterwards received in the Christian Brothers' Schools. The members of the deputation, who were also appointed to act as directors of the junior branch, immediately organized the society, and those present, to the number of two hundred and three, were enrolled. We are deeply indebted to those gentlemen whom the adult society appointed directors, and we take this opportunity of returning them our sincere thanks.

On St. Patrick's Day the junior branch met in St. Patrick's Hall at 9 a.m., accompanied the senior society in its annual procession, and attended High Mass in St. Patrick's Church. After the ceremony, they marched to Government House and, having paid their respects to His Excellency the Governor, proceeded to the Episcopal Library, where they were received by His Lordship the Bishop of St. John's, who addressed them in words of encouragement, and gave to them his blessing. On returning to the Hall, the President of the Benevolent Irish Society, R. J. Kent, Esq., Q.C., expressed his delight at their manly bearing, and congratulated them on the success which attended the first procession.

The meeting for the election of officers was held in May last and resulted in the appointment of the present officers to their respective positions. On the fifteenth of August an excursion in connection with the society was held on the grounds of the late William Boyd, Esq., near Irvine Station, Topsail. It was participated in by a large number of the members and their friends. From the success which attended it, and the enjoyment it afforded, we sincerely hope that the members will be encouraged to hold annually a similar excursion.

The Concert Club, which was organized in September last, produced during the following month two concerts which, considering the brief time given for their preparation, and that the majority of those who took part were only beginners, proved very successful. We take great pleasure in recording, as the most important transaction of the year's proceedings, the establishment of the gymnasium and reading-rooms. A portion of the basement of St. Patrick's Hall being allotted by the senior society for the erection of the gymnasium and reading-rooms, a committee was appointed to carry into effect the wishes of the society. The labors of that committee were attended with the most satisfactory results.

The gymnasium has been fitted up with several athletic appliances, and it is very gratifying to note that the members are taking advantage of this means of physical development. The intellectual advantages derived from the reading-rooms are also very apparent; it is supplied with a good selection of the current newspapers and magazines. As the support of this department will necessitate a large annual outlay from the funds of the society, any contributions of periodicals, magazines, etc., will be very acceptable.

In recording the death of Wm. J. Colfer, one of our foremost members, we must express the deep regret which we feel at his being so suddenly called from amongst us. That the society recognized the loss which it had sustained, was evinced by the adoption of a resolution tendering the heartfelt sympathies of its members to the relatives of the deceased.

The sociable and dancing assembly, held on the 6th of January last, was very successful, and we look forward with pleasure to the enjoyment of many more of these happy reunions. At the establishment of the society the number of members was two hundred and three. At the various meetings held since, fifty-five were added, making the aggregate at present of two hundred and fifty-eight. By the inducement of the reading-room, library and gymnasium, we anticipate that the roll will be largely increased.

Considering the great expenditure necessitated by the erection of the gymnasium and reading-rooms, the financial condition of the society, as may be seen by the report of the Treasurer, is very satisfactory.

We cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing our sense of the deep obligations which we owe to the Christian Brothers for the interest continually manifested by them in the welfare of the society.

In retiring from the positions you were pleased to confer upon us, we trust we have fulfilled our duties in a manner satisfactory to you all.  
Respectfully submitted,  
JAMES GALWAY, President.  
JOHN W. WHITE, Secretary.

St. Patrick's Hall, Feb. 5, 1888.

The following are the officers for the ensuing year:—  
James Galway, re-elected, President; Thos. S. Carey, re-elected, Vice-President; John O'Neill, re-elected, Assistant Vice-President; Daniel Carroll, elected, Treasurer; Thos. B. McGrath, elected, Chairman Finance; John W. White, re-elected, Secretary; Wm. F. Graham, elected, Assistant Secretary.

By Telegraph

FROM ROSE BLANCHE.

Fishery Prospects Improving.

ROSE BLANCHE, This Forenoon.  
All the skiffs, ten in number, that use the Gut here have done well during the past few days, their daily catch averaging from two to four quintals each. They report plenty of fish; but, unfortunately, most of our skiffs are frozen up in the harbor. This circumstance sufficiently demonstrates the great need that exists for opening up the said Gut, so that all skiffs may be kept near Caine's Island. If a grant of five hundred dollars could be obtained, so as to make a good opening, the results would be a considerable saving to the Government and great benefit to our fishermen.

FROM CHANNEL.

Severe Frost and Ice Along the Coast.

(Special to the Evening Telegram.)  
CHANNEL, This Afternoon.  
The weather here to-day is frosty, with a strong breeze from the northwest. A heavy cordon of ice stretches along the coast, only a short distance from the land.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

THE Masons are reminded of the meeting to-night for instruction.

THE steamer *Newfoundland* arrived at Halifax at 8 o'clock last night.

PASSENGERS per *Portia* from New York—Mrs. Wilson; from Halifax—E. Sinnott.

MR. M. A. DIVINE will lecture before the Academia this evening. Subject—"Something About Song."

THERE will be practice for the Benevolent Concert this (Friday) evening at 8.30 in the Methodist College. Basses and tenors will meet at 8 o'clock.

THE Dundee sealing steamer *Polymia*, Capt. Guy, will try to find where the seals are in the Gulf this season. If the ship can get within striking distance of the patch, her men may be relied upon to get them between decks. Captain Guy is a deservedly popular commander, and the wish is universal that he will "strike it rich" this spring.

THE race of six miles on skates round and round the Parade Rink, will be a great attraction in that place of amusement this evening. There are five competitors, each of whom will do his level best to win; and as they all have their admirers, the scene will be cheery decidedly and enthusiastic generally. Bennett has arranged a bouquet of musical gems for the occasion.

THE Sabbath School Festival in the basement of Cochrane Street Church last evening proved a really delightful affair. The attendance was large and the tables were fairly loaded with good things. After tea a charming musical and literary programme was performed, to the intense pleasure of all present. One of the most interesting incidents of the evening was an eloquent address by Miss Narrowsay, B.A., of the Methodist College.

In the Police Court, before Judge Conroy, Benjamin, Edward and Richard Garland were charged by Captain Reuben F. Pike with assaulting and ill treating him while he (complainant) was in John Garland's house, James Street, whither he went with the object of becoming reconciled with a member of his (the captain's) family, the two having been estranged for some time. His purpose was opposed by defendant, his brother-in-law, who forced on the quarrel which ensued. Two independent witnesses confirmed the complainant's evidence, and, though defendants tried to palliate their offence with the plea that they ordered the complainant peacefully to quit the house, which he refusing to do they forcibly ejected him, yet complainant's version was so much the more reasonable and truthful that the magistrate held two of the defendants—Benjamin and Edward—guilty of the offence charged, and fined them \$20 each or 30 days' imprisonment.

BIRTH.

At 29, Queen's Road, on the 23rd inst., the wife of Kyle W. Pinniger, of a daughter.

DIED.

To-day, at 3 o'clock, Herbert George, second son of R. H. and M. G. Rice.—*Twillingate Sun* please copy.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED.  
24—Portia, Dawson, Halifax, 3 days, Harvey & Co.—3509 bris flour, 196 tubs butter, 1280 bris pork, 10 bris hams, 70 bales hay, 156 qtrs beef, 315 bris beef, 25 bxs cheese, 1000 bris meal, general cargo. Bella Rosa, Bowden, Macelo, 32 days, A. Goodridge & Sons—ballast. Beltrees, Service, Pernambuco, 26 days, W. Griete & Co.—ballast.  
CLEARED.  
24—Silver Sea, Hoeborg, Barce'ona, P & L Tessler—4900 qts fish.  
LOADING.  
Feb. 14—Stonehouse, West Indies, Job, Bros & Co  
24—Ritel, Brazil, Job, Bros & Co.

Auction—New Goods—Eggs—fr... Daily... New and... Codfish... Yellow... B. I. Soc... Grabs, s... Four... Daily... Prelim... Sydney... Wanted...  
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