

THE HEAD LIGHT.

Truro, Saturday, Oct. 5, 1889.

That Franchise Business.

Our contemporary the *Guardian* has at last spoken on the extension of the local franchise to railway men. We asked the *Guardian* upon the strength of its own spontaneous declaration that it was willing to "do as much for railway men as any others" to call upon its own party the local government to extend that franchise to railway men. The annexed is its answers:

"We must decline to do so. So long as the Dominion government continues to treat its employees as mere voting machines, without liberty of conscience or any of the rights of free citizens, so long will it be the duty of the local legislature in protection of our provincial rights, and for the sake of the railway men themselves to deny them the right to vote in Provincial elections."

Railway men will learn with surprise in the opinion of the editor of the *Guardian*, and no doubt he voices the sentiments of his party, that they are mere voting machines, or in other words have no minds of their own. In fact, indeed. We fall to see wherein the Dominion Government have denied railway men the rights of free citizens. On the contrary they have given railway men rights that the local government utterly refuse to give them.

Admitting for the sake of argument that the present Dominion Government might influence its officials to vote Conservative in Provincial politics, does that justify the local government in denying railway men the right to vote in their own town election? and thus prevent their approval or disapproval of the manner in which their money, taken from them as taxes, is used. The *Guardian* says:

"The local government is not responsible for reducing the railway men to the level of paupers and Indians as suggested by our contemporary."

So far as voting in town affairs is concerned, are not railway men on a level with paupers and Indians? only worse, they pay for a British right, but do not get it. Who reduced railway men to this humiliating position? Was it not the present local government?

Again it says:

"It would imply as adding to their degradation to give them the right to vote when it is well known that they do not exercise the right as free men, but must do the bidding of their master. There are abundant evidences of the truth of our statements, and we are prepared to cite the cases."

Railway men vote in Dominion politics as free citizens, and the facts of the case bears us out in what we say. It is a well known fact that voting in Canada to-day is carried on by secret ballot. Each elector goes into the booth and unobserved by any one, marks his ballot as he sees fit. We have never yet heard tell of, nor have we seen any

Dominion official take a railway man by the ear into the booth and dictate to him how he shall mark his ballot. A man may vote, and if he holds his tongue no one need ever know for whom he voted, and well the *Guardian* knows it.

As to citing cases we challenge our contemporary to do so. We know of railway men who are held in high esteem by the general management, who never voted any party but Liberal. True there may be cases of intimidation on the part of politicians, but we fancy our contemporary does not want to compare notes on that point. If he does he can be accommodated. Talk about intimidation, has not the *Guardian* on every opportunity seized upon every straw in order to prejudice railway men against the management and thus make a point against the government.

If railway men dare not act independently, why does the *Guardian* go to all this trouble? Because it well knows they can do as they like by the aid of the secret ballot. The logic of circumstances is against the *Guardian's* argument. He is talk about doing well for railway men is empty sound. He has either got to put up or shut up, on this matter.

The Spring Hill News is a fearless independent journal and a warm supporter of the cause of the working men. It is not an extremist on that point as its arguments are all based on an equal rights platform, and are not calculated to engender strife and strikes between labor and capital. In this it is right, live and yet live.

The Moncton *Transcript's* kind words about our little paper was highly appreciated by us. They are in striking contrast with the contemptible mean manner in which Halifax papers have used us, stealing news items and crediting them to some other paper. Besides, two of those mighty journals charged us subscription price for our Exchange, and they were *Reorder*. The two receipts we obtained on that occasion, we are going to have mounted and framed and hang them on the wall at the foot of our couch, so that when we open our eyes each morning they will remind us that two of the meanest papers in America are published in Halifax.

In answer to some of the pertinent remarks of Capt. J. A. Farquhar, master of Halifax *Herald*, in a recent number of the Dominion government have been and are considering the safety of our people, "who go down to the sea in ships" and land "on the dangerous coast of Newfoundland" as within a day or two there has been tested at the Truro Iron Foundry works of Capt. J. A. Farquhar, master of Cape Norman and vicinity, and which in a few weeks will be giving forth their doleful and warning notes in the locality.

FOUND.—On Brunswick Street, gentleman at Mr. H. Cameron's Saloon on the Esplanade, proving property and paying for this notice.

G. J. McLeod, grocer, Prince St., has had a neatly painted sign hung over his shop door.

At Home and Abroad.

—Sheriff Archibald, of Halifax, was in town on Wednesday.

—Postmaster of Acadia Iron Mines, was in town on Wednesday.

—James McQuinn of the Halifax *Chronicle* staff, was in town on Tuesday.

—Mr. John Phinney has returned from his vacation trip and resumed duty.

—Misses Rubin and Maggie McNutt of Truro, left for Boston, Thursday evening.

—Wm. Johnson Mechanical, Superintendent at Richmond, was in town on Thursday.

—Mr. Peter Stevens, an employee in the Round house at Truro, is away to Boston, visiting his daughter.

—Came R. F. Rutherford has returned from Halifax, and has already been in health.

He resumed work again on Wednesday.

—District Superintendent J. J. Wallace, returned from Ottawa, Thursday evening.

He was attending the Exchequer Court as witness in a railway suit.

—Conductor W. H. Donkin and daughter, Miss Annie, have already been returned from their came back to Halifax arriving in Truro Monday morning.

—Train Driver F. J. Lattie, Isaac Dover, barber, Truro, and E. E. Brown, Exhibitor of Moncton, did the P. E. I. Conductor Brown who runs alternately freight with Fred Davison on the Moncton night.

McDonald, was relieved by Conductor James McDonald.

—Miss M. A. Mackenzie is visiting friends at New Glasgow.

CARBON GOLD.—The Truro Gold Mining Company have already been led of quartz, selected as it came from the mine, was taken to a neighboring crusher one ounce of gold to the ton of quartz.

The lead in which the quartz is taken runs from nine inches to six feet in thickness, and it really does look as if this evidently fine company have a good thing. They machinery have within a day or two gone Machine Co., and it is the intention to fit up in good shape for the purpose of taking out the precious metal.

—Stirring times at the Y. M. C. A. Hall last night: Clark Barton upstairs knocking the props from under all Secularists and the Town Council and Board of Trade and the explosive siding. The town council appointed the Mayor D. H. Muir, their President, J. F. Blanchard, Esq., as delegates to Ottawa to look to the interests of the town on these too vital questions.

—Miss Florence G. McCully was united in marriage Thursday evening last at 6.30, money was performed in St. Andrew's Church by the pastor, Rev. T. Cummings, presence of a large number of spectators.

The bride was the recipient of many from the merchants and business men of Truro. The happy couple left by the C. P. R. express for their home in Dayton, Ohio, via Halifax.

—THE COLCHESTER SEN keeps its patrons well posted on the time of holding Exhibitions in the various parts of this province. From its columns we are glad to answer the question asked us the other day. The Cape Breton exhibition opens at Mabou on Tuesday the 8th and continues three days.

At a meeting of the Town Council on Monday night, Policeman Green who was charged by Council Chambers for refusal to do duty in connection with the fire alarm service was exonerated.