

CHIGNECTO POST AND BORDERER.

SACKVILLE, N. B., APRIL 23, 1885.

—The Nova Scotia Legislature prorogues to-day.

—The Afghan loss in the Penjoh affair is placed at 1,000.

—The reported massacre at Fort Pitt lacks confirmation.

—The Imperial Government will ask for a war credit of £6,000,000.

—It is rumoured that Osman Digna has been killed by some of his men.

—Quite a serious riot occurred at Cork during the visit of the royal party to that city.

—The Scott Act has been adopted in Chicoutimi County, Quebec, by a majority of 628.

—The new ministry formed by M. Brien is the twenty-third cabinet France has had in fifteen years.

—It is now stated that General Grant is not suffering from cancer, and his physicians express the opinion that he will recover.

—The Liberal-Conservatives of York will hold a convention next Tuesday to select a candidate for the vacancy in the representation of the County.

—The Portland Argus intimates that James G. Blaine has not given up hopes of becoming President and that he is already working for a nomination in 1888.

—The Nova Scotia estimates for the current year were presented in the House of Assembly on Saturday. The revenue is estimated at \$599,698, and the expenditure at \$597,122.

—The bill to enable the Australian colonies to federate will be introduced on Thursday in the House of Lords. It contains clauses which, it is expected, the colonies will strongly oppose.

—Mr. Turcotte—the man who sold himself for the Quebec Speakership some six or seven years ago—has introduced a string of resolutions into the Quebec Assembly expressing sympathy with the half-breeds now in rebellion in the North-West.

—Professor Wilson, who was dismissed from Kings College without notice by the Board of Governors, and who applied for a mandamus ordering the Governors to restore him to his professorship, has been granted a rule absolute for a mandamus.

—The Opposition press seems to have a poor opinion of the Grit portion of the farming community of West Northumberland. It is intimated that the purchase at Cobourg of fifty horses for the Mounted Police turned enough votes to give Mr. Gillies his increased majority.

—There seems to be reason for believing that the story of the Frog Lake massacre was a pure fabrication and that no such massacre has taken place. If this proves to be the case there will be cause for sincere thankfulness for the rebellion, which will be relieved of its worst feature.

—The Hamilton Spectator says:—"We have not seen in any Grit paper any intimation that the last year's failures were fewer in the first quarter of this year than in the first quarter of 1884. Those journals were eager to point out the increase in failures last year; they are dumb respecting the decrease this year. Why?"

—O'Donovan Rossa says in his paper that a decided change of opinion among Canadians with regard to the so-called rebels will compel the Government to come to terms and concede the demands of Riel and his followers. O'Donovan quotes the Turcotte resolution and the Halifax Chronicle in support of his assertion.

—The legislature of Manitoba has passed a resolution which is calculated to reassure those who, from ignorance, may have placed the scene of the rebellion within that province. Therein it is shown that Manitoba is entirely peaceable and law-abiding, without a known rebel within 200 miles of her borders, so that intensions of rebellion have been redressed and the rebellion averted. It is possible that the Opposition papers have neglected their duty?

—The month of March saw a large decrease in the value of both the import and export trade of the port of New York. The total value of the import trade during the month was \$39,735,748, as against \$41,028,167 in the same month of 1884 and \$43,096,999 in March, 1883. The exports during March amounted to \$28,250,094, as against \$36,080,146 in March, 1884, and \$34,475,141 in the same month of 1883.

—The Toledo Blade, speaking of the North-West rebellion, says:—"Meantime Riel's hands will be metaphorically strengthened by the moral support given by the debates in the Quebec Assembly, in which it was declared that the insurrection was not without excuse, because of carelessness and neglect on the part of the Government."

—This remark applied with equal force to the course adopted by the Opposition in the Dominion Parliament and the Grit press throughout the country.

DOMINION FRANCHISE BILL.

The Franchise Bill introduced by Sir John Macdonald can scarcely be said to be a new one, for two bills of a similar character have already been before Parliament, and the new measure contains no features with which the Opposition are not familiar. The plea that the measure was introduced too late in the session therefore fails to the ground, and the amendment to that effect was very properly defeated, for the Opposition members have already spoken on the bill at such length that further discussion scarcely appears necessary. The principle of the bill is to introduce as far as possible a system of representation that will be acceptable to the different provinces, and the Dominion Parliament is certainly the proper place for such a measure. The substance of the bill as regards the franchise is as follows:—

It is proposed that in cities and towns and incorporated villages shall have the same qualifications. Everyone who is twenty-one years old and is a British subject, and not otherwise disqualified, shall have a vote if he is the owner of real property to the value of \$500.

Everyone who is a tenant in a city or town under a lease shall have a vote if the lease is the annual rental of not less than \$20.

Every bona fide owner of real property, whether city or town, of the value of \$300, shall have a vote.

Residents of such cities or towns deriving an income of less than \$400 annually, who have been residents of such towns for a year, shall have a vote.

In the counties, it is proposed that every person who is a British subject and the owner of real property within any such electoral district of the value of \$200, or is tenant under lease of not less than a year, at an annual rental of not less than \$20 in money or kind, shall have a vote.

As in the cities and towns, the franchise in the counties shall be extended to the following:—

Farmers' sons, not otherwise enfranchised, who are residents and have been so continuously on their paternal acres, shall have a vote if the farm be of sufficient value that if divided among them they would be qualified under the Act. This provision extends the Ontario privilege to the other provinces.

The same privilege is extended to the cities. Sons of owners and occupants of real estate in cities and towns, not otherwise qualified who have been residents with their fathers or mothers, shall be admitted to vote on the same terms as the divisible value of the property.

A new clause, marked 55, reads as follows: "At any election that may be held in any constituency before the voters' lists under this Act shall have been finally revised and certified under this Act the voters' lists for the previous year shall be used."

The effect of the measure on the various provinces is thus stated by Sir John Macdonald:—

"So far as Ontario and Quebec are concerned, it is a decided enlargement of the franchise. It is much the same in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It is not in British Columbia and Prince Edward Island."

The bill is meeting sharp opposition in the Commons. The Liberals oppose it on principle, because it is a Government measure, although the Opposition is divided on the subject. Brown, Mackenzie and Blake, have strong advocates of a uniform franchise ever since Confederation. One or two of the French members, who have hitherto supported the Government, spoke, against the measure on its second reading on Tuesday, and it is probable that the representatives of P. E. Island and British Columbia will have some objections to make. The Grit papers have already found a number of flaws in the bill, but there is not very much surprise about this. The bill, however, will probably become law, and will remove the absurdity of having half a dozen different franchises for the election of the members of one parliament will enfranchise a considerable number of our fellow citizens.

—The Severn Tunnel to connect England with Wales is rapidly approaching completion, and it is announced that by mid-summer it will be an accomplished fact. The Severn is 2½ miles wide where the tunnel passes under, and the extreme length of the tunnel is about 4½ miles. Work was commenced on it in 1873 on both sides of the river, and it is now nearly completed. The tunnel is 1170 feet long, and the workmen have been digging the tunnel for nearly five million dollars and the work proceeded. Powerful pumps were put in to pump out the water, which enabled the workmen to successfully cope with the spring, but in October, 1883, it burst upon them and swept the whole of them into the tunnel. The rush of water was at first forty million gallons per day, but the daily flow now is only ten million gallons. A tidal wave is the river the same month caused considerable trouble by flooding the works, and fissures in the rock admitted the tide and caused the utmost difficulty till the holes were plugged up with water with boulders and cement. The difficulties surmounted in the Severn Tunnel are of interest in connection with Senator Howland's proposal to tunnel the Strait. The tunnel under the Severn is only one-half as long as the one proposed between the Capes, and it is obvious that the estimated cost of the latter is far below the mark if similar engineering difficulties should be encountered.

—The Nova Scotia Board of Agriculture is to be abolished, and its duties are transferred to the Governor-in-Council. A Secretary of Agriculture is to be appointed and the Journal of Agriculture is to be abolished. A Professor of Agriculture is to be appointed in the Provincial Normal School and he is to lecture on agriculture throughout the Province.

—A resolution in the Quebec Legislature, on Monday, censuring the Federal Government was defeated by a vote of forty-two to fifteen.

England and Russia.

The War Cloud Grows Darker.—Both Nations Preparing for the Contest.

LONDON, April 19.—The greatest diversity of opinion prevails respecting the Afghan question. There are those who say that England's honor has been battered for a temporary peace on the one hand, there are those who say that England is abstaining from war because she feels inadequate to the task required of her, and there is yet another set who say that Mr. Gladstone is playing a deep game and that before long he will surprise not only his opponents, but his friends who have built faith in him. Those who maintain this last theory refer to the silence of the Opposition leaders as corroborative, a silence, they say, that would not have been the case had the Government been in the wrong. The substance of the bill as regards the franchise is as follows:—

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Sackville and Westmorland Agricultural Society.

The annual April meeting of the Sackville and Westmorland Agricultural Society was held in Point de Bute on Monday. The President, W. F. George, Esq., occupied the chair. The meeting passed off very pleasantly. A resolution that this Society do not hold an exhibition this fall, but take the money usually given in prizes to import improved stock was moved but after a short discussion was withdrawn, the feeling of those present being decidedly in favor of holding the annual show. The prize list of last year was adopted for this, with but one or trifling changes. The time of holding the exhibition was left to the discretion of the Executive Committee. The price of admission to the exhibition was raised from fifteen cents to twenty cents for adults, children half price. The discussion of the day was on motion to sell or lease the grounds of the Society not strictly needed for exhibition purposes. Mr. H. Humphrey gave a very interesting paper on the subject, and the meeting was adjourned to the 10th inst. for the purpose of holding a meeting to consider the question. It was decided that if any one should be troubled about the matter, he should apply to the Executive Committee. The Society is in debt, and Mr. Fawcett thought it would not do to be too particular. A number of the members gave their views on the question, some agreeing with Mr. Fawcett, others with Mr. Humphrey, others again for the sale of the land. The meeting was adjourned to the 10th inst. for the purpose of holding a meeting to consider the question. It was decided that if any one should be troubled about the matter, he should apply to the Executive Committee. The Society is in debt, and Mr. Fawcett thought it would not do to be too particular. A number of the members gave their views on the question, some agreeing with Mr. Fawcett, others with Mr. Humphrey, others again for the sale of the land. 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