

POOR DOCUMENT

THE WEEKLY HERALD

CHARLES H. LEWIS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
FREDERICTON, N. B., MAY 25, 1882.

The Liberal Committee

will meet at the Rooms over the HERALD Office this evening at 8 o'clock.

These Rooms will be opened at all hours for the transaction of business connected with the election of JOHN PICKARD for the House of Commons.

THE SITUATION.

Mr. Fisher has gone to the country and has begun his canvass. We understand that he declines to submit his claims to a convention. The tri-weekly organ of the Tories has worked itself up in a fine frenzy over the situation and we confess being amused a little over its distress. But yesterday and Mr. Fraser could sweep the constituency; to day the man whom they affected to despise and intended to ignore, to-wit, Mr. C. H. B. Fisher, has brought about "a crisis," as our contemporary puts it. The result of the Liberal Conservatives, as they call themselves, against the domination of the Tories has brought confusion into the ranks of the party which Mr. Fraser is the head and front.

On the other hand, Mr. Pickard is receiving from every side assurances of hearty support. His friends, and they are neither few nor unimportant, never were so enthusiastic in his behalf; and while they recognize the wisdom of not underrating the strength of those against whom they have to contend, they go forward to the fight full of the courage which comes from, and is of itself, an assurance of success.

Our advice from Sunbury are most encouraging. Mr. Burpee has been welcomed home from Ottawa by hundreds of his friends whose number is no wise diminished from what it was in 1878, while reports are to be relied upon there is a want of harmony in the ranks of the Tories there.

In Queens Mr. King will probably meet little difficulty in defeating Mr. Peters. Without having any disposition to rate the last named gentleman below his real value, we are satisfied that the people of Queens would make a great mistake to replace Mr. King by him. Apart from the principles which the two candidates represent, Mr. King has proved himself so excellent a member that he deserves well of his constituents.

In St. John the campaign opened by a vigorous meeting on Saturday night. The prospects of the Liberals are very bright and they express confidence that they can carry the three seats, not with ease of course, but by respectable majorities.

Carleton County is safe for the Liberals. We learn from several sources that Mr. Haddow is gaining strength in Restigouche and that his re-election seems now to be sure. Mr. Gillmore will face all comers in Charlotte with splendid chances of success, and in Westmorland Sir Albert Smith's supporters feel confident that they can return him. From the other Counties we have nothing very definite to report as yet. Mr. Adams is our authority for saying that Mr. Mitchell will undoubtedly contest Northumberland and that he himself has no aspirations to a seat in the Commons. Mr. Snowball, we are told, feels quite able to take care of himself even against the redoubtable ex-Minister of Marine.

All over the Province the prospects of the Liberals are bright, and the people may rest assured that the Tory boat that they would carry the majority of the constituencies will fall a long way short of being realized. We do not believe that the Liberals will lose a single seat which they now hold in New Brunswick.

THE EXECUTIVE MUDDLE.

Among other things which are disturbing the usually placid and serene surface of the Executive pool is a breeze which blows over the vacant chairs in the Legislative Council. Messrs. Fraser and Wedderburn having promised the seats to certain of their thick and thin supporters are very anxious before they resign to carry out their promises. On the other hand, the fragment which will remain when the Attorney General and Provincial Secretary have resigned, seriously object to so much ammunition being wasted before the battle. It is even said that the whole cabinet may go to pieces upon this question. Whatever may be done we submit that the claims of York County ought not to be overlooked, and there is one gentleman who, by common consent, is entitled to the position at the hands of the present Executive. Mr. Wood will stand by his friend who has spared neither time, influence nor money to strengthen him politically, without as yet receiving the slightest acknowledgment.

Another source of trouble is Mr. Hanington. He wants to be Attorney General, but of the nine members of the Executive he is the only one of that opinion. If Mr. Landry could only be got out of the way something might be done, but he is probably the best man of the lot, and he does not propose to give up. Hon. Mr. Young went to St. John yesterday morning to see if some solution of the difficulty could not be discovered there. He probably came as he went. It is within the range of possibility that the Remnant may patch up something which will last over the elections, but that they can form a Government which will stand for any time is out of the question. The correct thing for the Remnant to do would be to resign with their leader; but they never did the correct thing yet and we do not expect it now.

THE LOCAL SITUATION.

The local political situation is decidedly mixed. It was expected by the friends of the Government that Mr. Landry would receive the nomination for Westmorland, and this would smooth the way for Mr. Hanington to accept the Attorney Generalship and, temporarily at least, reconstruct the administration. But Mr. Wood was chosen by the Sackville Convention, and this brings the two Westmorland members of the Executive, not exactly into antagonism with each other, but into a position very much like it. Mr. Landry, of course, will object to giving up his portfolio of Public Works. He can claim that he has been subjected to adverse criticism during his official life, and that there can be no reason why he should step down and out in order that his effervescent colleague should gratify his ambition. There is also an indisposition in Government circles to give Mr. Hanington the Attorney Generalship under any circumstances. Though a man of fair abilities he is essentially weak, and his instincts are such that he would inevitably fall as a leader of a party. There is little doubt that a reconstruction would be attempted by taking in Mr. Blair, if there was any use in making such an effort; but this, of course, cannot be for a moment considered possible. If nothing else prevented, the position which Mr. Blair has taken upon the question of reconstruction would affectually operate against his entrance into the present administration. A few days must determine what course will be adopted. The country has a right to expect that the remnant of the Executive which will remain after Mr. Fraser and Mr. Wedderburn have left it, if they intend to try and hold office, will reorganize upon some basis; and that there will not be a repetition of the tactics of last election when a broken down Executive went to the polls. Let the men who have held the reins of power during the last four years either resign or form a square front, and meet the electors upon the record of those years. It is in every way undesirable, in the interests of good government, that some temporary make shift should be resorted to for present purposes, with a view to a further reconstruction after the elections.

THE LOCAL SITUATION.

At the prorogation of Parliament on Wednesday, the Governor General announced that Parliament would be dissolved at an early day; and it is generally expected in political circles that the *Gazette* on Saturday will contain the proclamation. The elections will be held probably on the 21st June.

The following is the paragraph in the speech referring to the dissolution:

I hereby congratulate you on the rapid and successful development of our manufacturing, agricultural and other industries. I am, however, advised that their progress would be still greater were it not that capitalists hesitate to embark their means in undertakings which would be injured, if not destroyed, by a change in the trade and fiscal policy adopted by you in 1878. In order, therefore, to give the people, without further delay, an opportunity of expressing their deliberate opinion on this Policy and at the same time to bring into operation the measure for the readjustment of the Representation in the House of Commons, it is my intention to cause this Parliament to be dissolved at an early day.

In this paragraph the white feather is clearly shown. The Tories are afraid to treat their boasted policy to another year's trial. They admit here officially what they have denied unofficially times without number, namely, that the monied men of the country have no faith in the policy of protection. In effect we are told that if the absurd policy is continued for another year the people will so thoroughly appreciate its fallacies that they will consign it and its originators to oblivion. In the face of this declaration from the throne that, in the opinion of the taxonomists themselves, their policy has failed to inspire public confidence, it is to be hoped that the little Tory organs which have sounded forth the praises of the N. P. and insisted that the people were unanimous, or nearly so, in its favor, will have the decency to keep within the bounds of truth. No other possible explanation can be given of the course which has been adopted than that it is inspired by a fear of the effects of delay. Politicians do not court the risk and worry of a general election, especially so soon after the inauguration of a new policy, the effects of which, if for the good of the country, ought to be much more beneficial a year from now than they are now. The gerrymandering bill is of itself a confession of weakness, such as no Government ever made before.

Dr. Dow has announced his intention of being a candidate at the local elections. The doctor's many friends will regret that, in his present precarious state of health, he has decided upon this course.

We have the authority of Mr. C. H. B. Fisher for stating that he will be a candidate at the election for Parliament, no matter who else may be in the field.

The Government received a complete vote of want of confidence at the Agricultural Board on Tuesday. The resolution is published elsewhere.

THE GOVERNMENT AND MR. BLAIR.

That a journalist should acknowledge an error is so utterly beyond the comprehension of the *Capital* that it devotes half a column to the fact that the *HERALD* corrected its statement as to the offer of the Attorney Generalship to Mr. Blair. The opportunity to say some ugly things about the *HERALD*, of course, could not be overlooked; but we would suggest that the *Capital* might have made the most of it without in its turn publishing what is ought to be correct, if it had any decency left. This paragraph from the article in question is untrue:

"He (Mr. Blair) told a leading member of the Government yesterday that it was not fair either to himself or to the Government; and that the editor of the *HERALD* would have to correct it in his paper this morning."

Mr. Blair in a conversation with Attorney General McLeod said, simply, that the *HERALD* had not represented the matter exactly as it occurred, and that Mr. Lugin would correct it the next day. As a matter of fact Mr. Blair did not ask the correction to be made. He did not have an opportunity of doing so; because the editor of the *HERALD*, having learned early on Monday morning that members of the Government had denied the statement in question, went himself to Mr. Blair, and having ascertained exactly what had taken place, made the correction of his own accord. But, after all is said, how far astray was our first statement? It cannot be truthfully denied that a member of the Executive stated to the editor of the *HERALD*, on two occasions, that it would be necessary to offer the Attorney Generalship to Mr. Blair, and, expressing a friendly feeling for him, asked whether it was likely that he would accept the office. It cannot be truthfully denied that this same member of the Government saw another friend of Mr. Blair, and consulted with him as to the probability of Mr. Blair's accepting the office. Neither can it be truthfully denied that the said member of the Government afterwards saw Mr. Blair and talked the situation over with him, and although he did not go to the extent of saying that the portfolio was awaiting his acceptance, he approached as nearly as he could to such a proposition without committing himself. Mr. Blair not being prepared to entertain any proposition the matter then dropped. Now, we admit that Mr. Blair had no right to be consulted, and having some little regard for the truth, did not hesitate to acknowledge our error; but we ask any one who knows the ways of politicians if the facts above detailed do not come as near an actual offer as politicians ever do?

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The *Telegraph* takes strong ground against the new Government, and points out with much force the unusual course taken in filling up the vacant department. In reference to the appointment of Mr. McLeod to the office of Attorney General it says, "It is a burlesque on the usual and time-honored practice to make any young lawyer, who may enter the House of Commons while Mr. Hanington is in it on the Government side and Mr. Blair on the opposite side of the House," and it thinks that Mr. McLeod should have been offered the Department of Public Works. It considers the present arrangement as "perhaps only a temporary expedient to tide over a difficulty." This is the view which impresses every one who takes an independent view of the matter. A Government composed of Messrs. Hanington, McLeod, Landry, Adams, Marshall, Crawford, Perley, Colter and Young, cannot be considered strong with such men as Messrs. Elder, Blair, Black, Kilham, McLeod and others whom we might name are in the House. Although Messrs. Hanington and Landry had held seats in the Executive during the last four years it is well known that they were unable to retain the support of their colleagues from the County of Westmorland. Mr. Adams received the support of Mr. Davidson, but the opposition of two of his colleagues. Mr. Marshall has no support in St. John. Mr. Crawford had one of his colleagues against him and one favorable to him. Mr. Perley who brought out a candidate in Sunbury to take the seat made vacant by the death of Mr. Covert had the misfortune to suffer a crushing defeat. Mr. Colter was simply a supporter of Mr. Fraser and never claimed to have had any following in the House. That is outside of themselves the members of the present Government could claim in the late House only two members as their supporters, and one of them, Mr. Davidson, was rather a supporter of Mr. Fraser than of the Surveyor General. The strength of the late Government consisted in Mr. Fraser's personal influence and Mr. Elder's friendship. The present Executive has lost the first of those altogether and has converted the second into open hostility. The elections will not likely change the complexion of the Legislature favorably to the administration, and if it does not the Government must go to pieces.

NOT TORIES, IF YOU PLEASE.

The *Moncton Times* denies that Mr. Josiah Wood has been nominated. "Mr. Wood was nominated by the Liberal Conservatives," says our contemporary. We are told that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," and by a purity of reasoning we may conclude that a Tory by any other name would be a Tory. So if our Moncton contemporary would rather be called a Liberal-Conservative, we suppose that the least we can do is to please him. But is he not rather going back on his friends? Sir John, the head front and brains of the party, is not simply a Tory, but a Tory of Tories, by his own admission. In York County Mr. C. H. B. Fisher was grievously "sent upon" by the men the *Times* delights to honor, because he insisted upon being a Liberal-Conservative and not a Tory. The Quebec friends of our contemporary are Tories and glory in being Tories. Therefore we ought to be excused for having applied the name to the members of the same party in Westmorland. The name Liberal-Conservative is not a bad one for the party; for they have been extremely liberal with the people's money, and being conservative in the matter of pap and patronage.

PATCHWORK.

We read every now and then of a wonderful patchwork quilt made by this or that old lady, and in common with the rest of our common humanity we marvel at its astonishing construction. Patchwork is not uncommon in politics; but somehow the stitches never hold very strongly and it becomes necessary to keep mending and mending every little while, until at last the whole fabric falls to pieces. We have had a sample of this sort of work in our local Government during the last eight or ten years, until at last a state of things has been reached when the last possible mending has been done. If it gives way once more there is an end of it. And it is sure to give way. No man seriously believes that the Government as reconstructed can hold together any longer than until the elections are over. We have a combination with which neither Messrs. Elder and Blair, and their large and influential following, have any sympathy. Indeed, it is impossible that these gentlemen can be in sympathy with an administration so extensively Tory in its composition. We do not dignify the fact in York County that Mr. Colter has been strengthened by his appointment to the office of the Board of Works; but the consideration arises whether it is likely that he will be able to hold the office after the elections if he is returned, or whether he will not find himself compelled to give way to admit in his place a stronger man, that is, a man who can command more support in the new House. But while Mr. Colter is thus strengthened in York, it gives the honorable gentleman his political coup de grace. Messrs. Sterling and Glazier, wherever they go, meet with the strongest evidence that the people have grown tired of the one-man rule in local politics which has prevailed in Sunbury; and the strong proof that his influence in the Government is gone, which is given by the ignoring of Mr. Perley's claims to a department, renders his defeat almost a foregone conclusion.

A FEW FACTS FOR THE ELECTORS.

The taxes paid by the people of Canada in 1878 amounted to a little over \$22,000,000. This year they will exceed \$33,000,000.

To make the rich manufacturer richer the people are paying over \$10,000,000 a year directly into the treasury more than the Minister of Finance said was needed to meet the expenses of the Dominion; and in addition they are paying fully an equal sum in the enhanced price of manufactured articles; that is to say, the N. P. is costing the people of Canada over \$20,000,000 a year.

Of this immense sum the farmers pay the largest proportion and receive in return absolutely nothing.

The rate of unnecessary taxation, direct and indirect, upon the people of Canada is fully \$2 per week to every family in the Dominion.

In addition to saddling the country with this monstrous burden the Tories have done their best to make it perpetual by multiplying offices and increasing salaries. Take one instance out of many, that of the County Court Judgeship for Mr. Wedderburn, an appointment which was entirely uncalled for, but which was given to reward Mr. Wedderburn for his subservience to the Ottawa Government, while he was professing to discharge his duties in the local Government.

The Tories have engrailed upon the western portion of the Dominion all the evils of European landlordism. They have spent millions of dollars and pledged the country to the expenditure of millions more, to build up a great country on the prairies, the whole trade of which they hand over by Act of Parliament to the foreign syndicate which is constructing the Pacific Railway.

The Tory Minister of Railways, of his own motion and without a shadow of a reason, gave to A. Onderdonk & Co. less than \$200,000 of the people's money. Here is a sum nearly equal to the whole 80 cents per head subsidy for this Province willfully thrown away.

These are only a few of the facts which the Tory candidates will have to justify.

It was reported in the street yesterday that Mr. Fraser had retired from the Dominion contest. Tracing the report to its source we learned that there was this much foundation for it, that Mr. Fraser had stated that he would not engage in a triangular conflict, and if Mr. Fisher did not retire he would not be a candidate. It now remains to be seen whether Mr. Fraser or Mr. Fisher has the most back bone.

The Queen's County Tories, at their convention yesterday, nominated S. I. Peters for the House of Commons, and T. H. Pearson and Reed Slipp for the local. The Liberals are jubilant over these nominations and feel confident of victory. A correspondent comments on the nomination elsewhere.

Mr. JOHN COSTIGAN has been appointed Minister of Inland Revenue. We tender Mr. Costigan our warmest congratulations upon this long deferred act of justice towards him. The appointment creates no little speculation as to what other changes it signifies.