# THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1893

## SESSIONAL NOTES.

With the exception of the budget debate, on Wednesday evening and the advancing of some private bills, the time of the House was taken up on Wednesday and Thursday in discussing the bill to disfranchise the Dominion officials, which was reported from committee on Thursday evening.

Hon. Mr. Gordon's contribution to the debate on this bill was, as that Hon. Gentleman's remarks always are, of the highest order of merit. As will be seen from the report of his speech, he quoted from the old play, where Timor the Tarter is admonished by his minister that his subjects, whom he tramples upon may finally turn against him. But the tyrant sneeringly replied that only meant he did "trample them enough." That was the course he thought the Leader of the Government was pursuing. He pointed out what herculean labors had been performed by Coles, Whelan and other leaders of the old Liberal party in order to obtain for us the privileges we enjoyed, and here was a Government calling itself Liberal, depriving our people of these cherished privileges. When he looked at the blue eye and bland smile of the Leader of the Government, he found it difficult to believe he was a tyrant; but he had been told he was a tyrant and his actions in the House seem to justify the statement. After all, when he took a look at the history of the past, he found that all tyrants, from Pharaoh, who compelled the Israelites to make bricks without straw, down to Henry VIII. and even later, were fair, blue-eyed men. The depriving of the Dominion officials of the right to vote was placing them on the same plane with paupers.

The Leader of the Government and other members on that side of the House, during the discussion on the disfranchising bill said time and again, that members of the Dominion civil service had asked to have their voting privileges taken from them. The members of the Opposition repeatedly challenged them for the proof of these assertions, and on Thursday afternoon adduced the most uncontrovertible evidence to the contrary, when Mr. Shaw presented to the House a petition bearing the names of one hundred and twenty-six Dominion officials of the different branches of the service, praying that they be not deprived of the right to vote for members of the Provincial Legislature. These names, Mr. Shaw pointed out, had been signed to the petition inside of two or three hours, and proved most conclusively the fallacy of the Government's contention that those officials desired to be deprived of their votes. Many of the names to the petition were those of men known to be strong Liberals, a circumstance which still further demonstrated the untenableness of the position assumed by the Government. The presentation of the petition was a surprise to the Government and fell like a bombshell in their ranks; still they brazened it out, and without the slightest scintilla of argument announced their determination to carry the bill through the House. Dr. Jenkins characterized the bill as a retrograde movement, which must necessarily be the political death of those who introduced it. He quoted the Hon. Edward Blake's words to the effect that not only should one man have one vote; but he should be compelled to record that vote. According to this bill, the idea of the Government was one man no vote. Instead of protecting the voter, the bill killed the vote. Hon Mr. Gordon said he would not believe, till he saw the vote, that fifteen men could be found in the House, who would vote for the bill. It was a blow at the liberties of a great body of our people. Coles and Whelen went back to antiquity for precedents when framing our coustitution. Among the institutions of ancient Greece was the amphictyonic Council, in which any man who brought in a measure to deprive a fellow man of his liberty was commanded to put a halter around his neck, on the instant, and the officers of the council were told to do their duty. He was not aware that any such regulation existed with us. Perhaps it is a pity that such is not the case.

The Government tried to make it appear that disfranchising the officials of the civil service was as justifiable as depriving the judges of the right to vote. As Mr. Shaw pointed out, there is no analogy between the cases. The judges are called upon, by virtue of their office, to ajudicate in all kinds of cases. Frequently election cases are brought before them, when they have to decide whether such and such votes are good or bad, and they are expected to deal out even handed justice to all. The very nature of a judge's office seems to require that he should be removed from even the suspicion of party bias. Then again, as pointed out by the member for New Perth, on the plebiscite vote regarding prohibition, the disfranchising of six or seven hundred voters would preclude a full and fair test of public opinion. Moreover, at some future time, a question of vital interest may arise, when people for the time would sink political differences and unite to give an expression of opinion as to how they considered their interests and those of their children might be effected. Such a question as was raised here in 1876, for instance. Mr. Cummiskey unwittingly let the cat out of the bag when he blurted out that, in view of the fact that the two political parties were so close and the officials mostly voting for the Conservatives, it was necessary to deprive the latter of their votes. Everybody knows that is why they are disfranchised; but nobody expected a supporter of the Government would give it away so easily as that. But murder will out.

## THE BUDGET SPEECH.

PREMIER PETERS made his annual financial statement in the House of Assembly, on Wednesday evening last. It was a long and labored effort to conceal the shortcomings of the Administration; it was two hours of special pleading and specious argument, by means of which the Hon. gentleman strove to cover up his own tracks and draw a red herring across the trail. He devoted the greater part of his speech to reviewing what had been done by preceding Governments, and to telling the House "what I found," and "what I did" when "I came into office," to use his own words. This circumlocutory style of presenting the budget was, no doubt, adopted with the hope of diverting the attention of his hearers from the real condition of the Provincial finances.

DESPITE the verbal frippery with which he surrounded every statement he made to the House, the Leader of the Government was unable to disprove that the two Conservative Governments which immediately preceded the present Administration, greatly reduced the annual expenditure of the Province, while relieving the people from taxation; and that they left the balance to our credit at Ottawa much larger than when they came into office. These are facts which must appear anything but agreeable to the present Government, when contrasted with their own actions during the brief period they have been in office. It is true that both the Sullivan and McLeod Administrations occasionally had deficits; but they were prevented by a hostile council from carrying out measures of reform and retrenchment. The present Government, however, with a majority in both branches of the Legislature has, each year, had a deficit, and has besides saddled a permanent debt upon the Province. Judging their future by their past record, the deficit for the present year will probably be the largest in our political history.

THE fallacy of the Premier's statements and the speciousness of his arguments were plainly apparent, when he came to deal with the question of revenue for the current year. His estimate of revenue from all sources, as will be seen in the report of his Speech, was $264,350. The estimated expenditure, for the year amounts to $283,945. Now, admitting that the revenue, as here estimated, may be realized and that the expenditure shall not be greater than the estimate, we have, to begin with, a deficit of nearly $20,000. But it is altogether unlikely that either one of these conditions shall be fulfilled. In the first place, there is at least one item of revenue which is not likely to be realized that is the sum of $60,000 from the Land Office. It is well known that the receipts from that office must each year grow less and less. The amount received last year was $43,000. In the face of this how can the Leader of the Government have the assurance to tell the public that he expects $60,000 from that source during the present year? Nor is the Land Office the only place where there is likely to be a falling off. The total revenue receipts last year were $245,652, and how can a greater amount be hoped for, during the present year? Again, in the matter of expenditure, it is not all likely that the Government will be able to keep within the bounds of the estimate. There is no provision made for election expenses, and it is well known that a general election must take place before, the usual time for meeting the Legislature comes round again.

As will be seen in the report of his excellent speech, the Leader of Opposition pointed out that it came with a very bad grace from the Leader of the Goverment to refer to deficits by the late Conservative Administration of the Province. The Hon. Mr. Laird exceeded his estimated annual expenditure by $100,000, and Mr. Davies, when he was in power, fell still wider of the mark. And with these examples before him, Mr. Peters had fallen behind $35,000 last year. There was, therefore every reason for believing that the deficit this year would be much greater. There are two items in the estimates of expenditure worthy of some attention. These are the $18,000 for a new steamer for Southport Ferry, and $1,000 for the purchase of Paris Green. The Government seems desirous of lavishing the public money for providing means of crossing the Hillsborough River. The announcement is made that the building of a bridge across that river is quite practicable and may be actualized at no distant day. In the meantime a ferry boat is to be provided. There is a general election coming on, and it is thought well to dangle all these baits before the eyes of the electors on the south side of the river. But what on earth is to be done with one thousand dollars worth of Paris Green? Do they expect an unheard of army of potato bugs this year, and do they hope to purchase votes by distributing the bug poison; or do they contemplate poisoning the Conservative voters, if they cannot overcome them in any other way?

# PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

(Continued from first page.)

union on account of our long term criminals; at another time $1,100.75 on the same account, and at another $4,075 20 Then they secured $77,000 on account of wharves and piers. They also procured the steamer Stanley to keep up communication with the mainland, and had $500,000 added to our capital at Ottawa or an increase of $20,000 a year to our subsidy. How dare any one say in the face of these facts that our claims were not properly pressed—that we went about the work in a milk and water way. The idea was ridiculous. It was a despotic gov't. that would deprive any man of the heaven-born privilege of voting at elections. Every man should have an equal voice in the affairs of the country. We would be unworthy sons of worthy sires if we did not do all in our power to prevent the outrage the Government was about to perpetrate upon the Dominion officials. He believed in the broad principle of one man one vote—that every man should have equal rights and privileges. In the Home Rule Bill Gladstone places the qualification for a voter for the Senate of Ireland at $100, but our great Liberal Government decrees that the qualification for a Legislative Council voter shall be property to the value of $325—and gives the property holder two votes against one for the young men. Contrast the Liberalism of Ireland of broadening the franchise the Local Government are restricting and contracting it—are placing the Government of the country in the hands of a few. Not satisfied with this, they were also cutting up a portion of King's County for political purposes, to keep himself and colleague out and provide a seat for another scion of the Peters family—Mr. Arthur Peters. He denied the assertion that Dominion officials were prevented from voting according to the dictates of their own consciences, and for the men of their choice, and claimed that it would be derogatory to the principles of British freedom to prevent these men from voting. They value the privilege as an inheritance that has been transmitted to them by their forefather—a privilege that was not obtained without a struggle. Then he briefly considered the financial position of the Province, pointing out how, under the management of the present administration, the debt was being largely increased each year. With the debt increased by hundreds of dollars yearly, and the young men disfranchised, Maritime Union would likely ensue. The political history of Ireland was one that the people of this Province might well study. The end and aim of the present Government appears to be to shackle this Province in the same way as Ireland is shackled—that our legislature may be lost in the same way as Ireland lost hers. We should guard with most jealous care the Legislature we are now sitting in and see that our rights and privileges are not taken away. He considered it his bounden duty to protest against he iniquitous course of the Government as forcibly as he could.

Mr. Warburton followed in support of the measure.

WEDNESDAY, March 29.

In the afternoon, the act incorporating the New Perth Hall Company was read a second time in committee with Mr. Rogers in the chair. Bill reported agreed to.

The bill incorporating the the Red House Dairying Company was read a second time in committee for the purpose of considering certain amendments made thereto by the Legislative Council. The amendments were reported agreed to.

The act incorporating the Dunk River Cheese Factory was read a second time in committee with Mr. Robertson in the chair, and reported agreed to.

Committee on the bill disfranchising Dominion officials was resumed.

Mr. McKay said he did not think the experience of the past few years has proven that we have benefited by having the Local Parliament not of the same political stripe as the Dominion Government. The Sullivan Government boldly pressed our claims upon the Dominion Government and obtained a rebate of over $100,000, thereby saving the Province from direct taxation. They were very energetic in pressing our claims, and their efforts were attended with success, as was already known to every person. They also procured the winter steamer Stanley, which has done excellent service. In the light of these facts he could not see the force of the argument of the Leader of the Government, that the two Governments should be separate. He had no evidence whatever that the present Government were making any move in the matter of pressing our claims. Then he took up the claim of the Leader of the Government that the Dominion officials should not be allowed to vote because they were not allowed to vote as their consciences dictated. There was not the slightest evidence of the truth of the assertion that any undue influence was ever brought to bear upon the officials to prevent them from voting as they desired. He thought it unfair that these officials were to be deprived of their right to vote, and argued that the Government was actuated by a determination to obtain an unfair advantage. When the Dominion Franchise was changed, the Dominion Parliament permitted her young men to continue in the possession of their votes. A special clause was enacted on their behalf, because in was held that a man once a voter was always a voter. But a party in power in this Province—in power as a result of a political shuffle—have determined to take away the franchise rights of Dominion officials. The outrage will re-bound upon those who have committed it.

Hon. Mr. Gordon said, though unwell, he must, in justice to his constituents, raise his voice against the iniquitous measure before the House. It was proposed to take away the electoral rights of a portion of the Province. There is no good or sufficient cause for this—only a suspicion on the part of the Government; that a majority of the class to be disfranchised is against them. Surely hon. members opposite have not studied the bearings of this question, or have forgotten the sufferings of those who in this Province struggled in behalf of electoral freedom. Three members of this House were imprisoned during the continuance of that struggle; two fought a duel. The labors of Coles and Whelan should not so soon be forgotten. The records of the Province for sixty years may be searched in vain for legislation such as that introduced by the Leader of the Government this year—the production of a tyrannical government. To look at him you would not think the Leader of the Government was a tyrant, though it is a remarkable fact that almost all tyrants, from Pharaoh who compelled the Israelites to make bricks without straw, to Henry the Eighth, were fair men to look at. The acts of the Leader of the Government are evidently tyrannical; and his persistency in respect to them recalls the following lines from "Timor the Tartar":—

"The trampled worm will turn, they say,—sniff!
That only means I haven't trampled him enough."

The policy of the Leader of the Government is well described in the words of Macbeth:—

"for mine own good
All causes shall give away; I am in blood,
Stept in so far, that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o'er,
Strange things I have in head, that will to hand,
Which must be acted ere they may be scanned."

Incidentally Mr. Gordon said that the Leader of the Government had ridiculed and misrepresented Georgetown—and ignored his own friends there, having referred to the Liberal-Conservative vote as the whole vote of the constituency, and he concluded by declaring that Dominion officials are gentlemen whom the Government are going to place upon the same political plane as paupers.

Mr. Arsenault, Mr. Mathieson, Mr. Rogers and other speakers followed, and progress was reported. House took recess after the Premier had begun his Budget Speech.

### THE BUDGET.

After recess, Hon. Mr. Peters resumed the debate on the motion to go into supply. He reviewed at great length the financial records of the late administrations, and labored hard to take from them the credit of successfully pressing our claims upon the authorities at Ottawa. He charged the late Government with continuing the Tax Act until 1882, in the face of their promise to repeal it, and said they had neglected and starved the public works of the Province. He referred also to the report of Messrs. Chalmers and Davison, and claimed that their report showed the debt of the Province when his Government came into power to be $171,931. The present Government thought a change should be made, and that this debt should be wiped out; that revenue and expenditure should be made to meet. The late governments were paying 6 per cent. interest to the banks. We thought we could borrow money at a less rate that that, and so we passed a bill providing for the issuing of $185,000 worth of debentures—about $14,000 more than the amount of the debt. We told the people what we wanted the extra amount for, and showed how it was that by issuing the debentures at 4 per cent. we were saving them 2 per cent. This was the only way they saw out of the difficulty, and it is for doing this that we are charged with piling up a permanent debt. We also made a change in the Land Office policy. We decided to do as well as we could by the people and offer them an inducement to pay up in the shape of discounts. The result was that the next year we received $72,000 against $42,000 the year before. In 1891 we closed out 788 accounts, and in 1892 we received $48,983, and closed out 342. We also improved on the policy of our predecessors in the matter of wharves, and in the management of the Registry office. We also effected a saving of $20 0 in the administration of justice alone. For the present year the estimated expenditure is $283,455. The estimate for education is becoming one of our greatest burdens, and he thought the estimate of $114,000 was very large. He also hoped to be able to give every part of the Province a road machine, and three new machines were to be bought. The estimate of $18,000 for a new steamer was timely, as the steamer was very necessary.

The revenue for the year he expected to be as follows:

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| Subsidy from Dominion | $183,500 |
| Land Office | 60,000 |
| Prov Sec's and Treas. | 1,100 |
| Prothonotary | 3,000 |
| Ferries | 6,000 |
| Licenses | 900 |
| Asylum | 1,500 |
| County Courts | 2,000 |
| Private Bills | 110 |
| Prince of Wales College | 200 |
| Registry Office | 5,000 |
| Fines and Penalties | 350 |
| Vendors | 100 |
| Casual revenue | 600 |
| | $264,350 |

The policy of the Government in the future would be the same as in the past. If it became necessary to take practical steps in order to make revenue and expenditure meet he for one wouldn't be afraid to take them.

MR. BENTLEY'S REPLY.

Mr. Bentley followed in reply. He said we had listened to a long speech from the Leader of the Government, in which he had tried to present the case in as good a light as possible. It is the business of the lawyer to make his case look as well as possible, and the Leader had made the most of the time at his disposal. But were all his statements true? It is our business to look into the matter and see if the statements he makes are all right; to look into the speeches made by him in the past and see if he has kept the promises he made. Last year, said Mr. Bentley, the Leader of the Government in his budget speech told us that when he came into power he found a debt of $171,931, which he engaged to wipe out. But was there a debt of $171,931 on the 4th April, 1891, as stated by the Leader of the Government? There was not. The report of Messrs Chalmers and Davison did not show that there was a debt of $171,931, although the Leader said it did. It showed that the liabilities of the Province on that date were $171,931, and not that the debt amounted to that sum. Everyone knows that there is a great difference between the debt and the liability of the Province. Their report shows that the actual debt of the Province at that time was only $102,000. Now how did the Government go about paying off the debt? By creating another and a permanent debt, by selling debentures amounting to $138,400! How in the name of common sense could they pay a debt of $171,931 with $138,000 and have a surplus? The Leader of the Government also promised to take hold of the Land Office and make it yield a large revenue for many years to come. Let us look at the facts. The balance due the Land Office on the 31st December, 1890, was $411,880 67; new accounts opened in 1891, $6431; interest on balance due Dec 31, 1891, $17,396 93; new accounts opened in 1892, $9,735 72; interest on balance due Dec 31, 1892, $16,244 98—a total of $461,686 30. The balance due the Land Office, as reported by the Commissioner on Dec. 31, 1892, was $324,889 67; the amount reduced by collections and discounts, $136,796 61. The cash collected in the two years, 1891-92, was $116,770 29; and the loss by discounts and otherwise was $20,016 31! The amount actually sunk in discounts and collections in 1891-92 was $137,786 68. The amount which should be used as ordinary revenue was $33,641 91. The amount of capital used in 1891-92 was $103,144 70. The Leader also promised that he would abate the exodus. But the only effort he put forth in this direction was the establishment of bun socials in his own district! Again he promised that the Scott Act would be carefully enforced. But the Public Accounts do not show that a single Scott Act fine has been collected during the past year! The Government also made great promises as to what they would do for agriculture. They promised to assist in the establishment of dairying associations and to provide a travelling dairy. Neither of these promises had been fulfilled. The stock on the Stock Farm is, on the whole, inferior to what it was when the late Government left office. There are fewer pigs and horses, and the cattle are not so good. Again, the leader promised to make revenue and expenditure almost meet. The result was a deficit last year of $37,000! He was astray in his estimates to the tune of $35,000! Then, again, he also promised to put another steamer on the Southport ferry, but did not do so. Now, however, that there is an election coming on we are hearing about it again. Why was not this steamer provided last year when she might easily have been procured, and put on the route. So much for the promises made by the Leader last year. He did not keep his promises then, and we have little faith in his keeping those he makes this year. The Leader tells us also that the late Government kept the Tax Act in force until 1882, after they had promised to repeal it. This statement was not correct. The Tax Act was repealed in 1881! The Act was continued in force until the enormous deficit left by the Davies Government was paid off. In 1873, at the time the terms of Confederation were under discussion, Mr. L. H. Davies prepared a statement to the effect that under Confederation the expenditure of this Province would not be over $200,000 a year, and the revenue $232,000—leaving a surplus in favor of the Province of $16,000! Another statement prepared about the same time by Mr. Laird, who is given so much credit to-night, estimates the expenditure of the Province under Confederation at $208,000 a year, and the revenue at $218,000—leaving a balance in favor of the Province of $12,000! A few years later, when the Davies Government came in power, what did they do? This is the way they kept within the amounts estimated by Mr. Davies: The average expenditure in the two years, 1877-78 was $332,857.72; and the average expenditure from 1879 to 1890, was $278,959.01. The average yearly saving, therefore, during the twelve years of the Sullivan-McLeod Administrations was $53,927.71! The expenditures for the years 1891-92 averaged $293,894.90, while the average expenditure of the preceding Administration was only $278,959.01! The increase over the average from 1879 to 1890 was $14,935 96! The Peters Government is rapidly getting up to the the standard of the Davies Administration. Then the Leader talks about the enormous rate of interest paid by the late government. But what are the facts? The interest account from 1880 to 1890 (ten years) totalled up $37,183.12, an average for the ten years of $3,718.31, while the interest paid by the Peters Government last year alone was $6,649.71! This is truly a nice showing for the present Administration! Nearly $3,000 paid for interest more than the average paid by the previous Governments. Now let us take a look at the estimates for 1891-92 and see how they came out. The estimated expenditure for that year was $270 905, and the actual expenditure was $3 4,486.41—only $35,581.41 over the amount estimated! The estimated expenditure for 1892 was $283,744, and the actual expenditure of $283,303.57—a difference of $14,559 57 on the wrong side! And this year they will doubtless be in a similar position. In 1891 the deficit was $30,439.20 and in 1892 it was $37,651.29. In 1892 the estimated revenue was $263,260, and the actual revenue was $245,652.28—a shortage of $17,627 72. The estimated revenue from the Land Office in 1892 was $60,000, and the actual revenue was $43,891.85—a shortage of $16,108 15. If is year the Leader of the Government again estimates the revenue from this source at $60,000, but even his own political friends ridicule the idea of his getting that sum. Now let us take a look at the financial position of the Province. Let us see what the present debt is. The balance against the Province on Dec. 31st, 1892, as reported by the Provincial Auditor, is $48,074 93. Add to this sum the debentures sold during the year amounting to $158,400, and we have a total of no less than $206,474.93. Add to this amount one quarter's salaries of the teachers Dec. 31st, 1892 (say) $28,000, the amount carried over from 1892 (say) $26,000, and one quarter's salary due the teachers to 31st March, 1893, (say) $26,000, and we have a total of $286,474.93. Deduct from this sum the three months' subsidy from the Dominion, $45,882.76 and we show that the actual debt of the Province on 1st April, 1893, is $240,582.17. If in the foregoing estimate we have done the Government any injustice it is their own fault. We have repeatedly asked for a statement of all a mounts due in 1892 and carried over into 1893, but it has not been brought down yet. Now let us take a look at the manner in which the Public Works Department has been conducted. Let us see what permanent works have been established and take a look at the capital account. We look in vain for any permanent improvements that have been made. We find that the whole capital account of the department is composed of some repairs to wharves, bridges, school houses, Government House, etc. He (Mr Bentley) was not aware that one new wharf had been built during the past year. (The Commissioner of Public Works here interrupted Mr. Bentley and said there was a new wharf built but he declined to say where.) The total expenditure for Prince County, Mr. Bentley went on to explain, was $91. Was this for a new wharf? The repairs to the buildings on the Stock Farm, amounting to $564.28, were also charged to capital account. Under the heading of bridges, we also find $15,811.20 charged to capital account. Some of the items were as low as $60. Were these for new bridges? The idea of charging repairs to bridges to capital account. He then went on to point out the manner in which contracts had been let and carried out, instancing several cases where contracts had been let for certain sums, and before the work was completed they cost hundreds of dollars more than the amount of the contract. The opposition had asked the Commissioner of Public Works for information concerning many of these contracts, but it had not been brought down. Until such time as this information was forthcoming, we would have to hold the head of the department responsible for the peculiar transactions of the past year. Now let us take a look at some of the items in the estimates for this year. The sum set down for the administration of justice is $14,587, something less than last year. If anything can be saved in this department, well and good. But we should not economize in the wrong place. He noticed that the salaries of the Keepers of the Jails in King's County and Prince County were to be again reduced. The estimate for education was $114,400. There was no saving there. The salary of the Chief Superintendent of Education was to be $1,200 this year. Last year they reduced his salary to $1,000, contrary to the wishes of the Opposition, and this year he was pleased to see that they were going to put it back to its former figure. The salary of the Clerk to the Superintendent was also reduced last year, and he was sorry to see that there was no provision for an increase in his case. This was not right. Mr. McNeill is a most efficient officer, and his salary should have been put back to its original figure as well as the salary of the superintendent. He thought that the estimate for the Public Lands offices should include half the salary of the commissioner, which it did not. There was nothing in the estimates for Government House this year, although last year the Government could not do too much in that direction. Were they trying to freeze out the Governor? The estimate for ferries this year was $1500 less than their actual cost last year. The estimates for roads and bridges were also insufficient. A very reasonable estimate was that of $1,000 for Paris green. What were the Government going to do with it? They were disfranchising the young men and Dominion officials and perhaps the Paris green was to kill off the remainder of the Conservatives; or perhaps its object was to secure votes. Then there was the $18,000 for a new steamer for the Southport ferry. It was time something were done to improve the condition of things here; but the new steamer might easily have been obtained last year. But what about the bridge we heard so much about? Surely they were not going to give both the bridge and the new steamer! The estimate of $60,000 from the Land Office was only put in to raise the estimate of revenue and make it come up as nearly as possible to the estimated expenditure. No person believed for a moment that any such amount would be received from that source this year. There were some other items in the estimates that might be referred to did time permit, but as the hour was getting late he would reserve any remarks he might have to make on them for a future occasion. Before closing, Mr. Bentley pointed out the absurdity of the Leader's claims for credit in connection with pressing our claims upon the Dominion Government. He showed how the late Government, as a result of their successful presentation of our claims, drained large sums at different times, and contrasted their conduct with that of the present administration, who were, so far as he could tell, quietly resting on their oars and not moving in the matter at all. We had other claims upon the Dominion that should be pressed, and no time should be lost about doing it.

Mr. Shaw and others then repeated several questions, and the correspondence in connection with our claims upon the Dominion Government was tabled.

THURSDAY, March 30.

House met at 11.30.

The Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Rogers jogged the memory of the O. P. W. regarding certain questions they had asked, to which no answers had yet been received.

Mr. Sullivan asked the C. P. W. if it is the intention of the Government to repair Brothers Road on Lot 33, this summer as asked for in the petition of Daniel McDonald and others.

Hon. Mr. McLean said that as soon as the matter was investigated the government would see what they would do.

Committee on the disfranchisement measure was resumed and progress reported.

Mr. Arsenault asked the C. of Crown Lands for a detailed statement of the sale of land in Princetown, the number of acres in each plot sold, and to whom sold and for what price; also what parts of said land of Princetown and Common are claimed by parties in possession for twenty years or more, the names of these parties and how much land each claims; also how much money was paid on the purchase of the land on or before the 31st December 1892; also the plan of said land of Princetown and Common as prepared by Mr. Ball.

The statement was promised.

In the afternoon the disfranchisement bill was considered in committee.

Mr. Shaw presented a petition signed by one hundred and twenty-six of the Dominion officials asking that the right to vote be not taken from them. The petition reads as follows:—

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.,
March 29, 1893.

TO THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT CONVENED:

The petition of the undersigned, employees of the Government of Canada, respectfully sheweth:—

That Your petitioners have learned with surprise and alarm that a measure is again introduced in Your Honorable body for the purpose of depriving Your petitioners of the right to vote at elections of Members of the Legislature:

Your petitioners respectfully submit that as citizens of the Province, they should have a voice in the making of laws which will effect their nearest and dearest interests.

They think that the proposed measure will inflict a great hardship upon them, as their property will be liable to taxation by a Legislature in which they will have no representation.

They, therefore, earnestly pray that Your Honorable body will take the premises into Your favorable consideration and refuse Your assent to the Bill referred to.

And Your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition was laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Farquharson thought it was only natural that the men should sign the petition when their brother officials did; that if they had not signed it they would be looked upon in the same manner as if they had voted against the Government.

Mr. Shaw then spoke ably in defence of the men whose right to vote was to be taken away from them. He thought the large number of names attached to the petition (several of them Liberals) was a sufficient refutation of the Government's assertion that the men wanted to be disfranchised. He also pointed out that, instead of the Dominion compelling the employes to vote Conservative, the Government always encouraged good officials, and instanced several cases where well-known Liberals in the employ of the Dominion had had their salaries increased in proof of the assertion.

DR. JENKINS' SPEECH.

Dr. Jenkins said: The object of the bill before us is to deprive of the privilege of the franchise a large body of most respectable and most intelligent electors—men who dearly value the power of voting, and have protested against being deprived of it. I look upon it, Sir, as an ill liberal and retrograde movement. The Hon. Edward Blake, a man who, though deficient in those attributes which make a popular and successful leader, was beyond question possessed of grand ability, an advanced thinker, of progressive liberal views—he considered it advisable not only to give every man a vote, but to compell him to exercise the privilege—and I believe, Sir he was right. It is the mission of liberals to enlarge franchise; of tories, to limit and curtail it. Had the Government brought in a bill to do away with the system of special voting, which is founded on a vicious principle, and is calculated to infringe the liberty of the people, and has in one, if not more, instances, practically disfranchised a whole constituency, they would have been following Liberal traditions and doing that which would reflect credit on their party. The trend of public opinion at the present day is towards the "one man, one vote" principle. But this House is about to act on the "one man, no vote" principle. My hon. friend from Rustico has alluded to the fact that in the Dominion franchise of 1885 the vote of our young men was retained. I am proud to say, Sir, that it was through my exertions and by unaided efforts that the franchise of the young men of this Province was saved, and more than that, Sir, I was fortunate enough to be able to induce the Government to modify and to a great extent, lower the qualification, thus giving a vote to many who would have been deprived of it by the bill as it stood originally. Now, Sir, if I could induce this Government to protect the electors in the exercise of their privilege instead of depriving them of it, and lift this Province from the rear and ruck of Liberal principles where it now lies by its persistence in the system of open voting, and bring it forward to the van of Liberalism by introducing a bill to provide voting by ballot, to prohibit canvassing, and compel the elector to poll his vote, if, sir, I could prevail on the Government to pass such an act I should be still more proud of that which I had accomplished; and feel convinced that every member of this House in after years, would be able to look back with pride and satisfaction on an act which will do more to protect the voter and purify elections than all the acts to prevent bribery and intimidation ever put upon the statute books. I cannot say that I think the Government is entirely unprovided in bringing forth this measure. It is undoubtedly hard, it is aggravating to a party, to think that the political complexion of a constituency is changed by a forced vote; and though I do not believe that the Dominion authorities have ever forced any man to vote against his convictions, and though I believe that they have never dismissed a man for the simple act of recording his vote, still I cannot honestly say that the vote given by Dominion officials not to some extent a forced vote. There are, no doubt, men vote on one side for the sake of providing a living for themselves and families, who, if they were perfectly free and untrammelled, would vote on the other side. But, Sir, the bill before us does not propose to rectify this state of things by placing the elector in a free and untrammelled condition; it does not essay to protect the voter, but simply cuts the gordian knot by killing the vote. I do not think, Sir, that the Liberal party of to-day will have cause in after years to look back with pride and satisfaction on the consummation of this measure. On the contrary, Sir, I believe that the little gain they may make in the few constituencies affected by the bill will be counteracted by such a revulsion of public opinion throughout the Province as will prove their political death-knell.

HON. MR. GORDON'S SPEECH.

Mr. Gordon regretted that the bill should call for any amendment. The only amendment that he considered suitable was that it should be read this day six months, and he hoped some hon. member would make a motion to that effect. He could not believe that inside this Assembly fifteen men could be found who would vote for the bill. He would not believe it until he saw the vote taken. The boast of Britons the world over is that they are the freest men in the world, personally politically, and intellectually. But by passing this bill we place upon our taste at book an ever-lasting blot. The laws of this Province, were, he thought a credit to the Province. We have no statute depriving a man of his liberty; no statute that does harm to any individual. All our laws are framed for the purpose of protecting the individual. But this legislation is a blow at the liberties of a large number of our people, and it is humiliating to this large body of men that they should be to-day placed in the position of suitors asking protection from this Assembly—asking protection for their lives, but what is immeasurably dearer to man than life—the right to a free vote. Men have sacrificed their lives for this right and would do so again, and it is idea that we should sweep this privilege away by a bill of this nature is a barbarity worthy the dark ages. The laws of England were a thousand years in formation; the growth of many centuries—and every year is added some new principle of liberty. The men who framed our constitution and gave us our laws—those whom Mr. Blake yesterday, Coles, Haviland and others, made appeals upon, which they could hardly do if a rigid foundation. In ancient Greece there

(Continued on 3rd Page.)


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