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The Subscriber offers for Sale one half of the property situated at the mouth of Black River in the parish of Glenelg now jointly owned by him and Donald McLean, and formerly owned by the late Alexander McDonald deceased. For particulars apply to
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ASSIGNEES' NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that George Stothart of Chatham, in the County of Northumberland, merchant, has this day assigned his estate and effects to us the undersigned, in trust for the benefit of his creditors.
The trust deed lies at the office of Messrs Tweedie & Bennett, in Chatham, N. B., for inspection and execution.
Creditors desirous of participating in the said trusts are requested to execute said trust deed within three months from this date.
P. H. C. BENSON, } Trustees.
WM. C. STOTHART, }
Chatham N. B. December 18th, 1893.

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Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, N. B., - - MARCH 22, 1894.

A Proposed Mail Outrage.

Thus far, we have not heard of any action having been taken by the postal authorities in the direction of abandoning their proposal to change the distributing point of the Tracadie and intervening mails on the Miramichi. Tenders have been invited in a semi-private way for the conveyance of these mails between Tracadie and Newcastle, instead of between Tracadie and Chatham as heretofore, and a general protest against the change has been made by the business community, as well as by the newspapers of both Chatham and Newcastle. As far as we can learn, the only man who favors the change is the post office inspector at St. John, who cannot possibly understand the matter as well as the people who will be inconvenienced if his absurd and unbusinesslike proposition is carried out. We do not know whether Messrs. Adams and Burns, the representatives at Ottawa of the two counties affected, were consulted on the subject, but we understand that they were not, and we also have it on fairly good authority that Mr. Adams, at least, has intimated to the Department that the proposed change is ill-advised. If, therefore, it is carried out in spite of the urgent and reasonable protests that have been made against it, we will have to assume that the Department is indifferent to the public interests involved, and determined to insist upon doing a wrong and stupid thing, simply because it acted hastily, in the first place, in not referring so important a matter to the representatives of the counties affected, for their advice.

If the inspector at St. John chooses to make an unbusinesslike recommendation, which cannot, if carried out, fail to put several thousand persons in two counties to great incovenience—ignoring their representatives, as well as the people themselves, and the Department will not listen to the unanimous protest of the people interested, the reasonable assumption will be that officialism has taken the bit in its mouth and defies everything and everybody. It will be interesting to observe whether this blunder is to be consummated on 1st April as advertised—and the date is an appropriate one for such a job—or public convenience and public sentiment respected in the matter at Ottawa.

We observe that the inspector has been impressed with the necessity of making a defence of his blunder in the columns of the St. John Telegraph. He gives two reasons for the proposed change—one being that it is inconvenient to cross the Miramichi for two or three days fall and spring, while the ice is making or breaking up, and, the other, that the Intercolonial Railway has station at Newcastle. He thus proposes to avoid six days' possible inconvenience and delay by proposing a plan by which the communities affected shall have three hundred and fifty-nine days of it; and also to add six miles to the stage-route, ignoring altogether the excellent railway facilities between Chatham and the Intercolonial. There are, it is said, other reasons why Mr. Inspector King is anxious to have a slap at Chatham and its business interests with Tracadie, and they are as unworthy as his proposed change is short-sighted, stupid and unbusinesslike.

Christianity and Temperance.

One of the speakers at the Neal Dow celebration in Chatham on Tuesday evening emphasised the fact that the old General, while a good prohibitionist, was not, so far as he had learned, a member of any Christian church, and he took occasion to intimate that the great moral reform which Neal Dow and his admirers desired to see entirely successful, could only become so when carried forward under Christian auspices. He also noted the fact that prohibition organizations and work had taken the place of the Church and its work with a certain class of persons. This aspect of the subject might not have been the most popular to present, just at the time and place, but it is creditable to the courage and Christian consistency of the speaker that he presented it, for, after all, temperance is only one of the Christian virtues, and if lives of professing Christians were more consistent than they usually are—more closely fashioned and moulded by the teachings of Christ—there would be more practical temperance, and less need of the new religion of prohibition in the world.

Politics and Politicians.

The policy of the opposition at Fredericton is now, apparently, based upon an act relating to lunatics, passed last session, practically with the concurrence of the whole Assembly, although the opposition papers say that if there had been a Legislative Council it would have defeated the measure. It is not clear, from reading the opposition papers' deliverances on the subject, whether this is intended as a post mortem panegyric on the late upper house, or a declaration of the incompetency of Dr. Stockton and Mr. Pitts, leaders of the opposition. It is said that Dr. Alward excuses Dr. Stockton's being a lay figure as a leader, by attributing great industry to him as a constructor of speeches. The Alward idea is that Dr. Stockton and he set out with about equal chances for political alpenstock work, but that while he was absorbed in laying the foundation of a fortune and recovering from the effects of misplaced confidence and some serious errors of judgment in brokerage, the alphabetical doctor had advanced in political status and elocutionary art. An innate but unexpressed knowledge, on Dr. Alward's part, that he knows a thing or two, as to ways and means, more than Dr. Stockton does, and the fact that he had been obliged to even see Mr. Phinney placed before him in the fighting party ranks caused him to indirectly insist on a change for the present session. When Dr. Stockton, during the recess, was made aware of Dr. Alward's discontent, he took occasion, before the meeting of the legislature, to propose a compromise, in which Mr. Phinney should be compelled to take a back seat. This pleased Dr. Alward, of course. Dr. Stockton, however, never imagined that when he proposed Mr. H. H. Pitts as his first lieutenant, and to put him up to reply to the Attorney General's speech on the address, that either Mr. Phinney or Dr. Alward would consent, but, to Dr. Stockton's surprise, they offered no objection, both being jealous of Mr. Powell. Having no serious ground on which to attack the government and being obliged to face the joke of Mr. Pitts as his first lieutenant, Dr. Stockton selected the subject of lunatics as the rallying cry of his forces. It was rather amusing to observe the trouble Mr. Pitts had in his struggle with himself when he was making his speech as first lieutenant of the opposition. There were two things which he was not to proclaim, on pain of being repudiated. One of those was that he had succeeded to Mr. Phinney's place in the party, and the other, that in his new capacity, as first lieutenant, he had anything in particular to say as leader of the organization against schools taught by, or in any way connected with the teaching orders of the R C. Church. So he was obliged to make his fight over the congenial subject of leader Stockton's resolution. When he was in Chatham, less than a month ago, he told persons with whom he met that he was going to "squash Blair" just as soon as the legislature met. He thought Stockton hadn't pluck enough to raise the proper cry, and seemed to think that next session, when he led the opposition, it would be only a matter of "counting noses," after which he would be premier and Dr. Alward Attorney General, although he professed to have a desire to promote Mr. Allen, but realized that if he were premier, Mr. Allen whom he also elected in York, could hardly be Attorney General. The address, however, passed without either leader Stockton or lieutenant Pitts being taken seriously.

We presume that it is the "proper caper" for us to express regret that our remarks of last week in reference to the liberal party, "as at present organized" in Northumberland, has given offence to the World, which has become the organ of that moribund body—a fact readily explained, no doubt by the further fact that its most active leader was one of the principal stockholders and a director of the World Publishing Company, when that paper was established here as the conservative organ of the County. Nobody takes the World or its proteges of the present "Liberal" organization seriously, for we all know that, while they might start out with a show of vigor if a Dominion election were announced, they would be as dead as Julius Caesar if three of their five managers were to decide upon some candidate other than Hon. Mr. Mitchell.

The World, in making a half-hearted defence of its proteges, touches the subject in a very gingerly way, because it knows that there has never been a regularly called meeting of the bona fide Liberal Assocation of Northumberland County since 1887. The gentlemen who mutinied and stole the name and livery of the association in 1891, did so because they were determined to impose a candidate on the party of whom they knew it was not in favor. Having failed to either elect their man or come out of the election with a clean record, they have since devoted their peculiar talents to the political defamation of those who took their own course rather than follow an organization which, as usual, was the political counterpart of the army with which Falstaff declined to march through Coventry. The ADVANCE, in the line of its duty to the public, is obliged, occasionally, to refer to statements or inuendoes inspired by the officers of this organization, in their organ—the World—although we would prefer to let them all pass for what they are worth. Some of these gentlemen, we are told, believe that there is to be a Dominion election almost immediately, and they seem to think that they can best clear the way for their candidate by misrepresenting the ADVANCE and its editor, who are known to be opposed to him. They think the best card to play, just now, is to have the World intimate that the editor of the ADVANCE seeks, himself, to be a candidate for the House of Commons, when they ought to know that the statement is untrue. The gentleman who becomes the leading candidate for the House of Commons in Northumberland in the next election should be the free choice of the leading business people of the County duly convened for the purpose, regardless of party names, or former party affiliations. This, of course, does not suit the World's liberal friends, and especially its former director, already referred to. Other elements combine to make some of these uneasy, for we understand that quite a large number of estimable gentlemen—as well as some who are neither gentlemen nor estimable—having come to the conclusion that there is to be a change in the representation of Northumberland in the House of Commons when the general election comes off are working in their own interests as candidates. It would be amusing to all parties if the canvasses of some of them were published, together with their names, but the old saying about the wastefulness of addressing the usual morning greeting to a certain prominent character before meeting him holds good and it is, therefore, wisest to let them all "gang their ain gait" until they sink beneath the surface when the election storm comes on. The World is busying itself on the subject, as if it ever had or could have any influence in such matters. It is, however, a handy medium or dumping-ground for the views of the half dozen representative sore-heads and political failures of the county, whose highest conception of promoting their own elevation is to proclaim the unworthiness of everybody else. Genuine superiority does not seem to be of any account with them, but to appear good, simply because they think everybody and everything is bad, is their measure of excellence. They will, however, all find that the County takes little stock in either their misrepresentations of others or their own aspirations, and that when an election comes on no self-nominated candidate will be permitted to win—let him be whom he may.

"A Dreamer of Dreams" is what Dr. Stockton is understood to size up his fellow Dr. for, but Dr. Alward, while willing, doubtless, to admit that he has a record for appearing in the Assembly as a somnambulist is ready to quote Scripture to show that the original "Dreamer" came out ahead in Pharoah's time. He might also quote Holy Writ to show that although Paul and Silas were even at a certain starting-point, Silas was dropped, although it is not a fair deal that because Peter lived as a boarder with Simon the Tanner at Joppa, Mr. Pitts, who has proclaimed his business in that line for two years, ought to have been placed by Dr. Stockton ahead of both Mr. Phinney and Dr. Silas in the ranks of the opposition. It is understood that "the Dreamer" believes that the tide of opposition sentiment is setting in his favor, and he is preparing for a grand elocutionery effort, in which he intends to quote an historic tidal utterance to the leader of the opposition as a hint that, unless the tanner is deposed and "the Dreamer" promoted, the waves of the party's disgust will overwhelm and wreck the whole combination.

Mr. Harry Connell, of Carleton County, one of the members of the government without office, has resigned both his office and seat in the legislature. Mr. Connell stands well as a business man and citizen in his county, where he has been accustomed to have his own way in matters in which he interested himself. He is said to have been so headstrong in attempting to have his views carried out, regardless of those of his colleague, Mr. Dibblee, and other friends of the government in Carleton, that a halt was called. The particular matter over which he has abandoned the legislature was an attempt to have Mr. John S. Leighton an ex-member of the Assembly, now registrar of Deeds, dismissed from the latter office. Charges were formulated against Mr. Leighton but they failed on an investigation held by the Solicitor General. It was pointed out to Mr. Connell that it would be a very objectionable precedent to turn men out of offices of trust simply on the whim of even a member of government, but he took the matter so seriously as to resign, saying it was evident that the government preferred his colleague and Leighton to him. It is evident that Mr. Connell is not a practical politician and that he will be much more useful in his private and business capacity in his County than as a representative.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

OTTAWA, March 15.—The fourth session of the seventh Parliament of the Dominion of Canada opened to-day. The weather was all that could be desired, and more than the usual number witnessed the stereotyped yet always interesting proceedings attending such an event.

At five minutes before three o'clock His Excellency the Governor-General, escorted by a detachment of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, drove up to the main entrance to the Parliament Buildings, where he was received by a guard of honor from the Governor-General's Foot Guards under Capt. Roper. His Excellency's carriage was drawn by four horses mounted by postillions.

Alighting amidst the strains of martial music from the G. G. F. G. band and the pealing of cannon at Napeau Point, where the Ottawa Field Battery were stationed, His Excellency proceeded to the Senate Chamber, where he read, first in English and then in French, the following speech from the Throne:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In the Queen's name I greet you for the first time since assuming the high functions entrusted to me by Her Majesty, and it is with feelings of the liveliest satisfaction that I thus meet you, assembled for the labors of another session of Parliament. This feeling of satisfaction is enhanced by the opportunities which I have already enjoyed of visiting, and in my official capacity renewing acquaintance with several of the chief centres of the enterprise and activity of this Dominion; nor need I refrain from assuring you that I have been deeply impressed by the heartiness of the reception accorded to me, as Her Majesty's Viceroy and representative, a reception which has once more manifested the loyalty, the cordiality and the public spirit of the Canadian people. My predecessor was able to express gratification to you last year on an increase in trade and on the continued progress of the Dominion. It is gratifying to me to observe that the expectation which was then formed—that the volume of trade during the then current year would exceed that of any year in the history of the Dominion—has been fully realized, and that Canada's progress continues, with every mark of stability and permanence. It may be observed with satisfaction that a large proportion of this increase is shown to have been due to an extension of our commerce with Great Britain.

It is a cause of thankfulness that our people have been spared in a very great degree from the sufferings which have visited the populations of some other countries during many months past, and that while the commercial depression prevailing abroad could not but affect the activity of business in the Dominion, we have been free from any extensive financial disaster or widespread distress. The revenues of the year have been ample for the services which you provided for, and have met the expectations on which the appropriations of last year were based.

The peaceful conclusion, by the award of the arbitrators at Paris, of the controversy which had prevailed so long, with respect to the seal fisheries in the Pacific Ocean, and the rights of the British subjects in the Behring sea, has removed the only source of contention which existed between Great Britain and the United States with regard to Canada. There is every reason to believe that Her Majesty's Government will obtain redress for those Canadian subjects of Her Majesty who were deprived of their property and liberty without just cause, while the controversy was in progress.

At an early date a measure will be laid before you, having for its object a revision of the duties of customs, with a view to meet the changes which time has effected in business operations of all kinds throughout the Dominion. While my ministers do not propose to change the principles on which the existing enactments on this subject are based, the amendments which will be offered for your consideration are designed to simplify the operations of the tariff, and to lessen, as far as can be done, consistently with those principles, and with the requirements of the treasury, the imposts which are now in force.

There will also be laid before you a measure on the subject of bankruptcy and insolvency, which will, it is hoped, make more adequate provision than now exists on that subject for the increasing trade and commerce of the country, and for the greatly expanded trade between the several provinces of Canada. A measure will also be submitted to you making more effective provisions for our lines of steam communication on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, for improving the law with regard to Dominion lands and with regard to the management of Indian affairs; also, a bill respecting joint stock companies; another with respect to the fisheries, and several less important measures, which experience has suggested with regard to various matters under your control.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The public accounts will be submitted to you at an early date, and also the estimates of the expenditure which has been considered necessary for the ensuing year.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

While it is hoped that the public measures which will demand your attention will not be very numerous, some of them will be of great weight and importance, and it is my earnest hope and prayer that the care and zeal which you will apply to the deliberations of the session, may be aided by the abundant blessing of the Almighty.

MEMBERS INTRODUCED.

After the proceedings in the Senate were over, Sir James Grant was introduced by Sir James Thompson and Mr. Robillard. Sir James was received with Conservative cheers. Hon. Joseph Martin was introduced by Hon. Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. L. H. Davies. Mr. Martin was received with Liberal cheers.

Dr. Landerkin—"Mr. Speaker, is this the Yellow Martin?" (Laughter.)

Mr. H. S. Harwood, of Vaudreuil, was introduced by Mr. Laurier and Mr. Tarte, and was received with Liberal cheers, Mr. Haslam, of Vancouver, was introduced by Sir John Thompson and Mr. Mara. The address will be taken into consideration to-morrow.

JUDGE PALMER'S RESIGNATION.

Replying to Mr. Davies, who referred to the St. John Globe's charges against Judge Palmer of New Brunswick and the resignation of that gentleman, Sir John Thompson said that he agreed with Mr. Davies that this was a question of great importance. It would be more satisfactory to discuss the matter when the papers on the subject were on the table; but speaking from memory, he said the comments of the St. John Globe had been brought to his notice by a copy of a paper having been sent to him when he was out of the country. He was not aware that his attention had been called to the matter except by that newspaper. A statement had been made to him indirectly on behalf of the judge, which was one which absolutely denied the truth of the statements involved, and explanations were made which had satisfied him (Sir John) that the judge impugned intended to vindicate his character if any attempt had been made to follow up the charges in the regular way. There had been no personal responsibility assumed by the writer of the article attacking Judge Palmer. The judge had tendered his resignation and that resignation had been accepted. The circumstances under which it was accepted were these: The judge had reached the age of 74 years. He had been within a very few months of fifteen years upon the bench as a judge of the province of New Brunswick. A medical certificate had accompanied his resignation that his eyesight had failed. Under the circumstances they felt fully justified in accepting the resignation.

Dr. Landerkin asked the Government when the report of the Prohibition Commission would be submitted to the House.

Sir John Thompson replied that it would be laid on the table very soon after the Speech from the Throne had been considered.

Mr. Charlton is again to the front with his Sabbath Observance bill, and another to repeal the Franchise Act.

Mr. Weldon will introduce his bill of last session to prevent bribery in elections.

Mr. Lariviere will move for a batch of returns and papers in regard to the Manitoba school question. Mr. Tarte had also given notice that he will ask for correspondence on the same subject.

The large and brilliant assemblage of ladies in evening dress on the floor of the Senate, included the elite of the capital and distinguished ladies from elsewhere. Lady Thompson appeared in court mourning, a gown of black silk velvet lined with satin.

Lady Tupper wore a dress of black brocaded satin with deep jet lace trimmings, having puffed sleaves of white satin veiled in jet lace, ornaments of gold. She wore black silk gloves and carried a black ostrich fan.

There was a rumor going around parliament square and the hotels to the effect that Kennedy F. Burns, M. P., had been appointed to the Senate. The appointment however had not been made, although it is said to be contemplated.

NEW BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE.

The Assembly Chamber at Fredericton was well filled at the opening of the legislature on Thursday afternoon last. The galleries and lobbies, indeed, were crowded and a number of extra seats were provided within the Chamber proper for immediate friends of members. Nearly all the members were in their places at a few minutes before three o'clock, when Rev. R. W. Weddall, Chaplain, preceded by Mr. Speaker Burchill, entered the room and offered prayer. Then, as the clock struck the hour, the cannon in front of the building announced the arrival of his honor Lieut.-Governor Fraser, who at once entered the assembly room, escorted by Sheriff Sterling, Coroner Dr. Coulthard, Lieut. Col. Maunsel (D, A. G.), Major Gordon (A D. C.), and Surgeon Bridges of the 71st Batt.

The members stood while his honor read the address, which was as follows:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

It affords me sincere pleasure to meet you in Parliament for the first time since entering upon the duties with which I am charged as the representative of Her Majesty in this Province.

I am sure you will join with me in paying a just tribute of respect to the memory of my immediate predecessor, who, in the order of Providence, was only permitted to occupy for a brief period the high station to which he had been called.

It is fitting that we should acknowledge in a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness to the Giver of all good things; that while other countries have experienced and are still suffering the most distressing consequences of a disordered business condition, we in New Brunswick have enjoyed almost complete immunity from the worst phases of these exceptional troubles. It is true that the Shipping and Lumber business of the country have not recovered from the depression to which for some time past they have been subject, but evidence is not wanting that improvement in both these departments of our industrial life may be hoped for at an early period.

During the recess the Earl of Derby, Her Majesty's Governor General of Canada, retired from the position which he had filled most acceptably, and has been succeeded by the Earl of Aberdeen, a representative of one of the most illustrious families of the Empire. Should His Excellency and the Countess visit the Maritime Provinces during the ensuing summer, as there is reason to believe they contemplate doing, I am sure there will be no lack of heartiness and loyalty in the reception the people of New Brunswick will accord their Excellencies, as well on account of their estimable personal qualities as of the high representative character in which they will come amongst us.

In accordance with your desire, expressed by Resolution at the late Session, that an investigation should be had into the administration of the School law and the conduct of the Trustees of Schools in the Town and Village of Bathurst, a Judge of the Supreme Court was commissioned to hold the enquiry and report upon the facts which he should find established by the evidence upon such enquiry. I shall cause the report of the investigation with the evidence taken, to be as soon as practicable laid before you.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you upon the unqualified success with which the policy authorized and approved by you in respect to the management of our Timber Crown Lands has been attended. Notwithstanding the discouraging condition of the Lumber business, and the uncertainties respecting the future policy of the United States as to the free admission of Lumber, you will be pleased to observe, when the report of the land sales is laid before you, that the most sanguine expectations of my Government have been more that realized.

The Commission appointed under the Act of Assembly, Fifty-fifth Victoria, Chapter 18, to examine into and report upon the general subject of the laws regulating the assessment of rates and taxes throughout the province, and of civic and municipal taxation generally, have attended to that duty and have prepared a bill relating to the subject which they recommend for enactment by the Legislature. I will cause this bill to be presented to you and invite your most careful consideration to its provisions

It is a satisfaction to me to have observed the growing interest which attends the sessions and proceedings of the Farmers' and Dairymen's association, and the increasing impetus which the policy of my Government has imparted to the dairy industries of the country. Such marked success will encourage you to continue to and, if possible, increase the liberal grants in aid you have been in recent years extending to this important department of agricultural industry.

So many and considerable are the changes which have of late years been made in the statute law of the Province, and so few of the acts contained in the Consolidated Act of 1877 continue in operation, that my Government will ask you to consider the advisability of authorizing a new revision of the Provincial Statutes. A measure to that end will be laid before you.

The opinion has come to be strongly entertained by the general public that the practice and procedure in Probate Courts, and the law relating to these courts generally, requires to be materially altered and improved. Sharing in that opinion, my advisors have been giving attention to this subject, and have prepared a bill in amendment of the law relating thereto, which will be submitted for your consideration and approval.

I am glad to be able to inform you that the Boys' Industrial Home, established under the authority of an enactment of the last session and concurrent legislation of the Parliament of Canada, and, aided by your liberal appropriation, has been opened under the most favorable auspices, and gives promise of accomplishing the most valuable results. In the interest of that class of the youths of the country who, it is confidently expected, will profit by the associations and training which this institution is able to afford, I would recommend a continuance of the grant which you generously voted last year to this service. It has been found by the governors of this institution that a smaller charge than that now imposed upon the localities from which the inmates have been sent will suffice to cover the actual expense of maintenance of the youths admitted to the Home, and an amending Bill will be introduced at the present Session, reducing the per capita charge upon the Municipalities for such maintenance. I will also cause to be laid before you the report of the Board of Governors of the Home since its opening in July last.

During the recess, my Government has elicited opinions and information as to the working of laws respecting liens of Mechanics and Laborers in certain cases in some of the Provinces of the Dominion and States in the American Union where such laws have been in operation. These reports upon the whole not having been unfavorable, a Bill on this subject has been prepared and will be submitted for your consideration.

Owing to the inconvenience occasioned to many in attending the Sessions of the Assembly at this season of the year, and the impossibility, as the fiscal year is now adjusted, of completing the public reports so as to convene you at an earlier date, you will be invited to consider and determine whether a re-arrangement of the time at which the accounts of the year shall be closed, might not with advantage be entertained. Any resolutions you may be asked to approve, as also any Bill founded thereupon, relating to this question will, I am sure, receive your careful attention.

My Government has not been discouraged by past failures from pressing with continued persistence for a settlement of the Eastern Extension claim against the Government of the Dominion. That claim, the justice of which has been repeatedly affirmed by the Government and Legislature of this Province, has been again urged upon the attention of ministers at Ottawa, and I am not without strong hopes that the careful examination and study to which a sub-committee of the Dominion Cabinet recently submitted the case, has induced a more favourable opinion of its merits than has been hitherto entertained.

I have directed the accounts of the Income and Expenditure to be laid before you, and you will be glad to note that the small floating liability which has been accumulating for two or three years past has been thus year sensibly reduced.

Estimates of the probable Income and Expenditure will be submitted to you, and I think you will find that the Estimates of Expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirments of the public service.

Bills will be submitted to you: To alter the practice of the Supreme Court of this Province and relating to the constitution of that court; Relating to the Registry of Deeds; and other measures of importance, to which I invite your attentive consideration.

Gentlemen, confidently anticipating that the important duties devolving upon you will be zealously and prudently discharged, I leave you to your deliberations.

Hon. Mr. White introduced a bill to amend the Municipalities Act.

Mr. Wells, one of the members for Westmorland, moved the Address in reply, in an excellent speech and was followed by Dr. Stockton, leader of the Opposition, who made a passing reference to the absence of Mr. Robinson of Northumberland, whom he styled the Government whip; he also intimated that Premier Blair was doing the whip's duty, meantime, the result being the resignation of Mr. Connell, one of the members of the Government. He said little had been done for the farmers by the Provincial Government and much by the Dominion, and complained because the evidence and Judge Fraser's report in the Bathurst school matter had not been published, alleging that Mr. Blair had pledged himself last session to have it done. He thought the Speech should have contained something about a license law or prohibition, upon which a vote was being taken in Nova Scotia, and about women's suffrage. He claimed that he and Mr. Pitts had opposed the act of last session respecting lunatics, that the lumber policy of the Government was against the country's interests and closed by moving the following amendment to the address:—

"We take this early opportunity of expressing regret that the act of assembly passed at the last session of this legislature entitled an act further relating to the Provincial Lunatic Asylum and its management, will impose a heavy burden of direct taxation upon the municipalities of the provinces, and we trust your honor may be advised to recommend such changes in the law as will lessen such burden of taxation."

Hon. Mr. Blair, after making appropriate references to the death of Lieut. Governor Boyd and also to the career of ex-Governor Tilley, showed that he had not given any such pledge in connection with the Bathurst schools enquiry, as Dr. Stockton had stated. He pointed out that the hon. member (Stockton) had found nothing in the speech which met with his approval, but this aching void would have been filled if the hon. member had only been allowed to add a clause dealing with woman suffrage and another dealing with the question of prohibition in Nova Scotia. He freely admitted that he was not prepared to go as far as the hon. member in the direction of woman's suffrage, nor did he feel that it was a live issue before the country to-day. Passing on to the Lunatic Asylum matter Mr. Blair showed that Dr. Steeves had misunderstood the scope of the act of last session when notifying the municipalities of their alleged liability for payment of the board of their pauper insane, and said the Government took steps to remedy Dr. Steeves' mistake at the earliest possible moment. On the subject of the government agricultural policy Dr. Stockton had discovered that the dominion government was entitled to all credit. He (Blair) was not going to say the government had accomplished very great things, or that the dominion authorities had not contributed, but he was going to claim that the government were entitled to some credit and he was going to affirm most positively that the dominion government had not done all nor nearly all that had been accomplished in this province. Very limited, indeed, had been the assistance they rendered. Mr. Robertson, a most capable man, had been sent down here from time to time to lend his services, but the dominion had given no bonuses to the cheese factories, nor had they given a dollar in aid of those splendid institutions which had been established in the counties of Kent and Westmorland. Special agents and instructors had been sent over the province by the local government, and he believed that in the coming season something over 20 of these factories would be established in this province.

Dr. Stockton—I did not say you were entitled to no credit whatever; I said if it were not for what the dominion government had done we would not have the results we have to-day.

Hon Mr. Blair said the hon. member had said that only for what the dominion government had done very little if anything would have been accomplished.

Returning to the subject of the amendment offered by Dr. Stockton, Mr. Blair went thoroughly into the asylum matter and showed that it was only the expense of keeping the harmless pauper insane sent from the different counties that the municipalities were to be required to pay for.

Resuming his speech on Friday, Mr. Blair said it was entirely gratuitous for Dr. Stockton to assert that the government had claimed that the financial position of the province had been greatly improved by the lumber policy of the government, for no such statement was made in the speech. The hon. member had endeavored to fortify his very severe criticism of the lumber policy of the government by claiming that the government should have realized from the 25-year leases two and a half times as much as was realized in 1883 from the 10 year leases. If this method of reasoning was sound, the sales of 1883 should have realized $280,000, or 10 times as much as was realized at the previous annual sale, yet the hon. member on the hustings had most heartily justified and approved of those 10 year leases.

Dr. Stockton—I approved of them then, and I approve of them now.

Hon. Mr. Blair said that the question of the exact amount of money that would be realized out of the sale of these lands was by no means the most important consideration in the minds of the government. Their view had been that the time had come when the licensing of the lands should be so regulated as to secure their protection and conservation, while at the same time opening up fresh areas that had not hitherto been operated or occupied. If the government had believed that no more money would have been realized than upon the 10 year lease, they would have adopted precisely the same policy. The hon. member had entirely lost sight of the prime and capital considerations which had influenced the government. The policy of the government had resulted in one half more timber lands being taken up than had ever been taken up before, for which the provincial exchequer would receive the benefit. In fact, the available timber lands of the province had been almost entirely taken up, notwithstanding the uncertainty that existed as to the future of the trade. The hon. member had referred to the absence of a supporter of the government (Mr. Robinson), and concluded that that gentleman was probably disaffected. That was a most inconsequential inference, which could with equal force be applied to any member of the opposition who happened to be absent at the opening of the session.

Referring to the retirement of Hon Mr. Connell, Mr. Blair read correspondence and other documentary evidence bearing out the facts briefly stated in another column.

As to the act which had been passed at last session, Mr. Blair said it was clear and distinct in its terms, and the hon. member (Stockton) himself had admitted that there could be no misapprehension with regard to it. Was it unreasonable that the government should suppose that what was clear to them and to the leader of the opposition as well, ought to be clear to Dr. Steeves? No member of the government was competent to prepare those lists. Who could they have looked to but Dr. Steeves? He was not acquainted with any principle of chivalry that required the government to state what was not true, that the government was to blame and Dr. Steeves was blameless. The hon. member (Stockton) had informed his honor that the house took this "early opportunity" to address him being apparently fearful that no other opportunity would be afforded. Why could the hon. member not introduce a bill on the subject next week, if he was sincere in his professions, or else bring the matter up when the finances were under discussion? It is said that it is in vain the sportsman spreads a net in sight of any bird, and the net that was being spread by the hon. member to catch votes in this house would utterly fail of its object. Was it not absurd that the hon. member should be asking the house to express its regret for passing a law, which he had admitted himself could not be misunderstood, and as to which the wayfaring man though a fool need not err therein.

Mr. Pitts—Dr. Steeves did.

Hon. Mr. Blair said Dr. Stockton was asking the house to stultify itself, to state that the act which they all then understood and now understood, they regretted having placed on the statute book. The hon. member had not even the courage or the sincerity to ask for the repeal of the law. He contents himself with the hope that he honor will be advised to make the taxation a little lighter. He does not mind the baby if it is only a small baby. (Laughter.) He (Blair) thought the most creditable course now open to the hon. member was to withdraw his amendment. The country could then at least do justice to his courage, whereas if his present course was presisted in, they could only do justice to his stupidity. If the hon. gentleman had sincerely and seriously wished to change the law, he would not have resorted to trickery and manœuvering. He would have waited until a proper opportunity had presented itself where he would have introduced a bill to repeal the law of which he now complained. The present motion was futile, for he knew quite well that the supporters of the government were not going to support it.

To the surprise of all but the members of the opposition Mr. Pitts was put up by the leader of the opposition to reply to the premier. Mr. Pitts began by stating he was going to resume the tanning of Mr. Blair's hide. He proceeded to say that those who opposed woman's suffrage would be "swept into the sea of a deserted oblivion;" that he was "loaded for bear" on the Bathurst School question, but would not discuss it; that the solicitor-general had "kicked like a steer" against evidence offered in the Bathurst school investigation; that the attorney-general must not "monkey with this question" etc. He also said the farmers ought to have a few agitators to go around among them to show them that the lumbermen were given the advantage over them; it was a fraud to lease the lumber lands for 25 years; the proposal to revise the statutes was to give Pugsley and Skinner a job. No industrial home was wanted, for we had the University and Normal School. He wanted to keep religion out of the schools, etc.

Dr. Alward followed Mr. Pitts and his magnificent-measured diction soon made the house almost forget the "irresponsible" member's slang and other crudities.

Several members continued the discussion, amongst them, Mr. Sivewright.

Mr. Sivewright said if it should turn out in future that Dr. Steeves' construction of the act was correct, and that it was proposed to take $20,000, or any such sum from the municipalities, he would range himself against the government. He claimed that the leader of the opposition last year had recognized and appreciated the principle of the bill.

Dr. Stockton—That is not so.

Mr. Sivewright—Then, why didn't you call upon your followers to vote it down? It was not until he found that the municipalities, under a misconception of the act, had expressed their dissent, that the hon. member had decided to make it an issue. The fact was that the only consistent member on the other side of the house was brother Pitts, who really did ejaculate his antagonism to the bill. The act was a just one. His construction of it was entirely different from that of Dr. Steeves. His opinion was that those who had no homicidal tendencies, and those who were epileptic, idiotic and imbecile were chargeable to the municipalities. The leader of the opposition was not doing justice to his own intelligence in this motion.

Dr. Stockton's amendment was defeated in the following division:

Yeas—Powell, Stockton, Phinney, Shaw, Smith (St. John), Alward, Pitts, Allen, Gogain, Howe, Pinder, Perley—12.

Nays—Blair, Mitchell, Emmerson, White, Tweedie, Labillois, Lewis, Harrison, Blanchard, Theriault, Russell, Sivewright, Mott, Killam, Flewelling, Scovil, Baird, O'Brien (Northumberland), Dibblee, Dunn, McLeod, Wells, Farris, O'Brien (Charlotte), Hill—25.

The address then passed without amendment.

FREDERICTON, March 20th.

[*Special to the Miramichi Advance.*]

At request of Dr. Stockton, who has been ill, the budget speech was not delivered to-day.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell said that on his way to the house this afternoon he had been approached by different persons who wanted to know whether the large bundle he carried was the budget speech or whether, reports of resignations being in the air, he was about to resign his portfolio. He wished to inform them that it was the evidence taken at the Bathurst investigation and he would now submit it. Continuing Hon. Mr. Mitchell said:—In submitting the evidence taken before the commissioner in reference to the charges which were to be then investigated, I think it right to add that in appointing a commissioner to hold the investigation we deemed it advisable in the public interests to go further than we had originally proposed, and requested and empowered the commissioner to sift out the established facts from the mass of evidence which would be