MC2398

POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING GAZETTE

is published every evening (Sundays excepted) at No. 21 Canterbury Street.

JOHN A. BOWES. Editor and Publisher

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE EVENING GAZETTE will be delivered to any part of the City of St. John by Carriers on the following terms:

ONE MONTH	35 CENTS.
THREE MONTHS	$1.00.
SIX MONTHS	2.00.
ONE YEAR	4.00.

The Subscription to THE GAZETTE is payable ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

ADVERTISING.

We insert short condensed advertisements under the heads of Lost, For Sale, To Let, Found and WANTS for 10 CENTS each insertion or 50 CENTS a week, payable ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.

General advertising $1 an inch for first insertion and 25 cents an inch for continuations. Contracts by the year at Reasonable rates.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAR. 25, 1890.

For the Latest Telegraphic News look on the First Page.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

We publish Mr. Mitchell's budget speech in full in other columns, so that any detailed account of its features in this article seems to be unnecessary. It will be seen, however, that our Provincial finance minister does not hold out any hope of a large surplus, his estimate of the revenue being $645,615 and the expenditure being calculated at $569 less than the estimated income. It will be seen from these figures that the government will be seriously cramped for money during the present year, and that the utmost economy will have to be observed in the expenditures in order to make both ends meet. Here we discern at once the unfortunate result of the St. John elections in depriving us of $22,000 to $23,000 of revenue arising from stumpage which would have been available for the present year's income. We think that the existing state of affairs fully justifies the forecast of THE GAZETTE in regard to that subject, because we find that with this very small surplus the government has been obliged to withdraw the subsidies from the steamship lines running to St. John, and in other respects to curtail its expenditure in this direction. As the province is growing in population and therefore in expenditure we feel satisfied that a return to the former rate of stumpage will be imparatively demanded in the course of a year or two. It is quite true that after next year we may expect an increase of revenue from the readjustment of our subsidies from the Dominion government based on the ceusus returns of 1891. We think that the increase of population that the province will be able to show at that period will add at least $30,000 to our income. But even this will not place us in a much better position than we were in prior to the reduction of the rate of stumpage. The financial situation of this province is one which will require the utmost attention of the government for some years to come, because if we are now contracting a permanent indebtedness which will further our finances for the future it is very clear that a resort to direct taxation will be the final outcome of any unwarranted expenditures. It ought also to be remembered that the income of this province from the Dominion under the present arrangement can never exceed the sum we now receive by more then $63,000, the 80 cents per head arrangement ceasing when our population reaches the number of 400,000. Our territorial revenue, therefore is our only source of revenue, and it is one which will require to be mused and cultivated with great care. We are strongly of the opinion that the government will be forced, in the very near future, to adopt a totally different policy with respect to the Crown lands from that which now prevails, and that it will also be found necessary to bring about a change in some matters with respect to the settlement of this province. We shall resere comment on these subjects, however, for a future occassion when we can treat them at more length. For the present it is enough to say that according to the showing of the budget speech the income and expenditure of the year are so nearly balanced nothing, practically, to come and go upon in the event of any unforseen expenditure being necessary.

"GERRYMANDERING" ST. JOHN.

The Fredericton correspondent of the Sun this morning states that there are vague rumors around the lobbies that the government intend gerrymandering the St. John constituencies in the hope of securing a seat for Mr. McLellan, or some other supporter, in the event of the protest resulting in the unseating of the St. John members. This correspondent states that the government will probably divide the county from the city, and make a constituency out of Musquash and Lancaster for the special benefit of the ex-provincial secretary. This statement is of course inspired with that hatred of the government which is characteristic of the Sun, yet it is quite possible that there may be some truth in the conjecture that this constituency is to be changed.

At the time of the passing of the franchise bill last year, the St. John Union bill was not before the House of Assembly, and in consequence of this no change was made in the constituency of St. John, which stood in the new franchise bill as it did formerly with two members for the city and four for the city and county, the city voters voting also for the county members. No doubt if the union bill had preceeded the franchise bill there would have been a different arrangement, for it is manifestly absurd that the city of St. John should only have two members with a population of 42,000, when the county of St. John has four members with a population of about 53,000. Probably the most scientific way of arranging the matter would be to divide St. John into three ridings: east, centre and west, as is the way with Montreal, Quebec and other upper province constituencies. We presume this plan will be adopted by the government of Canada in arranging the representation of Saint John before the next general election, and if so a similar plan would seem to work well for the local house.

At the present time the city and county of St. John contains 12,821 voters, of whom 10,008 belong to the city and, 2,231 to the county outside of the city. It no doubt may be stated that the county voters have interests separate and apart from the interests of the city of St. John, but this after all is only true in a modified sense and with respect to a comparatively small number of the population. The population of St. John is largely urban in its character, the rural population being comparatively insignificant as compared with those living in the city or its suberbs. Thus of the 600 voters of the Parish of Simonds a considerable portion dwell close beside the city, being separated from it only by an invisable line, and of the 787 voters of the Parish of Lancaster a large proportion live in Fairville, which is also a suburb of St John. This consideration makes it difficult to establish a distinction between the city and country voters sufficient to justify the setting apart of what may be termed the rural parishes into a separate constituency. There could, however, be no objection to the division of St. John into three ridings east, centre and west. Such an arrangement would in no sense of the word be open to the reflection of being a gerrymander. The doing of this is merely a matter of detail, but a fair division would be to make the whole of old St. John on the east side of the harbor one constituency, and make another constituency of the parishes Simonds, St. Martins and Dufferin, Victoria and Stanley Wards, and to make a third of Carleton, Lancaster, Musquash, and Lorne and Lansdowne wards. This plan, or some modification of it, for the purpose of equalizing the number of voters would be entirely fair to everyone, and would not be open to any serious objection from any quarter. We presume that something like this will be done by the government, should it be necessary to change the present system of representation in St. John.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Our esteemed Halifax contemporary the Herald is making a gallant strugle to publish the Legislative debates. Yesterday it published the first half of the Legislative council of the previous Tuesday and the second half of the work for the House of Assembly for the previous Wednesday. At this rate its reports will be about two weeks behind when the session comes to an end. The publication of so under state eloquence must have a wearying effect upon its readers.

Ireland is a country of land bills. Another one has just been introduced by the government of the Marquis of Salisbury. We are without the details of the measure, but it is understood to provide for the purchase of lands from the proprietors who desire to sell out and enable the present tenants to become owners of their holdings. This is a very excellent arrangement, provided it can be carried out without costing the British people too large a sum, and provided the land can be purchased for a moderate amount.

WANT TO SEE THE BILL FAIL.

McKinley and Allison and the Tariff Measure—The Entire Bill to Be Revised.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 24.—McKinley and Allison are candidates for the Republican nomination in 1892. This fact should be kept prominently in mind in all consideration of the tariff situation. McKinley is a high tariff man, and would not easily be anything else. It is natural for him to obey the Ohio wool growers and the Pennsylvania iron, coal and steel men. Allison is a low tariff man, and has always found it difficult to be anything else. It is natural for him to obey the weary farmer, groaning under tariff exaction in his demand, for free sugar, for example. So radical are the differences between these two men that only after many days of wrangling did they succeed in patching up a measure which they felt they could offer to their colleagues as a compromise. The bill thus patched up was not even presented to the committee on ways and means when it became evident that it would be impossible to get the Republican members of that committee to agree upon it. Nothing else was then ready for them to act upon, and they had to report something. They reported the bill in the shape in which it had been patched together by McKinley and Allison, and it was at once evident that it would be impossible to get the Republican members of the house to vote for it in that form. The bill was then recommitted, and the committee began to patch it in the hope that it might be made acceptable to its friends. It was reported back to the house in a form very different from that in which it had been recommitted, but it was evident that it could not be made acceptable to the Republicans in its present form. It was then recommitted for the second time, and the committee set to work to patch it for the second time. It was reported back to the house in a form still more different from that in which it had been twice before reported