

POOR DOCUMENT

THE WEEKLY HERALD.

CHARLES H. BROWN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
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MR. FRASER'S RETIREMENT.

Mr. Fraser has for nearly announced his retirement from local politics, thereby making good the prediction of the HERALD of some three months ago. He has enjoyed office for a number of years, and we readily admit that he has discharged the routine duties of the several positions he has filled with much industry and care. As Provincial Secretary and Attorney General he has been hard worked, and although his administration of affairs has not marked by any high order of statesmanship, but on the contrary has been characterized by a want of appreciation of the necessities of the country, and being temporizing and vacillating throughout, he has kept faithfully at his post and been ever ready to discharge his official duties. While he held the office of Provincial Secretary, although he kept his own hands clean, the public chest was plundered after a fashion which was a disgrace to the Province. At this time the monstrous frauds upon the revenue which characterized Mr. Kelly's administration of public works were committed. The public can scarcely have forgotten those transactions, which created such a feeling of indignation throughout the country, that Mr. Fraser, when he found himself about to assume the premiership, felt it to be necessary to purchase Mr. Kelly's retirement from office by a seat in the Legislative Council. For four years the Department of Public Works had gone on throwing money away right and left, and Mr. Fraser, as Receiver General, came down to the House, session after session, with a financial statement framed so as to conceal the illegal expenditures. His plan was to estimate on ten months' revenue only, and then by crediting himself as Receiver General with a full year's revenue, bring out an apparently favorable balance on the year's operations. It was in the session of 1876 that he was challenged with doing this in the public press, and although he indignantly protested in the House that he had done nothing wrong, he altered his method of making his financial statement the very next year, as the Journals will show, and then the affairs of the Province were seen to be in such a position that Mr. Wedderburn, on taking office, excused himself for his first unsatisfactory exhibit, by saying that the Province had been going behind year after year. The public accounts will show that the years when Mr. Fraser was Receiver General were the most disastrous to the finances of the Province of any since Confederation. For four years he has been Attorney General. During this time he has prosecuted few, if any, Crown cases, and the cost of the Crown business has amounted to many thousands of dollars. The legislation during the latter period has been of a very poor character. The House accepted him as its guide in such matters, as was right and proper, and the result has been that the laws for the collection of debts have been completely unsettled and rendered most unsatisfactory. Although nominally Premier he has not been the Leader of the Government. It has been asserted, and never denied, that he secured Mr. Adams for Surveyor General, by promising him the full control of the Crown Lands. When the question of the Capital was under discussion he consented that it should be an open one and his Government divided upon it. As a local member his record is not very edifying. The one matter that of a bridge across the river at Fredericton. With full power to procure a grant sufficient to build this bridge if he wished, he has not done so; but has even gone so far as to say in his place in the House—it was in the session of 1881—that he did not think York was entitled to a bridge. True at the last session, after the Hon. Mr. Leonard demanded a bridge and Mr. Blair had brought the subject up in the House, a section was tacked upon the Subsidy Act to give a grant toward a bridge here; but the amount is so small that the people will have to put their hands into their pockets if they want to secure a bridge.

We have no desire to withhold from Mr. Fraser any credit which belongs to him; but on the eve of his retirement from local politics and his entrance into a larger sphere, it is fitting that his record should be examined. This may be summed up as follows. He has shown himself to be in at out in office; but he contented during the years when he occupied a subordinate position frauds upon the revenues of the country, to which the history of the Province furnishes no parallel, and his premiership was inaugurated by a sacrifice of political principle, and closed with a complete submission to the dictates of the Ottawa Tories. Giving him every credit for personal honesty and goodness of heart, his career on the whole has been disastrous to the Province financially and morally, if such an expression can be applied to politics.

We have not space to-day to reply to the *Capital's* attack upon Messrs. Pickett, Blair and Thompson. In to-morrow's issue we will ventilate the several matters involved. Our contemporary seems bound to drag as much bitterness into its conflict as possible, and it must not complain if in the reply it has challenged it receives more than it bargained for.

TORY PROMISES.

When Sir Leonard Tilley brought down his protective tariff bill, he promised by the Tories that an era of good times was to be thereby inaugurated and that peace and plenty should hereafter be the lot of all Canadians, as long as, by their votes, they kept a Tory government in power. The new tariff was introduced at a critical moment. All the world over a depression had been upon business. Failures were reported by hundreds and markets for almost all kinds of productions were flat. There were not wanting those political economists, who, looking at the progress of events, foretold that a lull had been reached in the expansive movement of trade and that it was more than doubtful if the world regained for many years the vigor and business life which characterized the years before the depression. This feeling of despondency spread to Canada, and the fact that there was only a limited demand for our staple products abroad blighted trade to a degree which was well nigh alarming. At this moment the Tories came forward with their panacea for all commercial ills, a policy of taxation, and it was promised that it would lead to the establishment of factories by the hundred, that labor should be more abundant and that there should be a home market for everything the farmers could raise. Upon the strength of these promises the people gave them a large majority at the polls. Even at the very moment these promises were being made signs of a revival in trade were becoming apparent. Before the tariff had begun to have any effect whatever the reaction had set in abroad, and the prophecies which had been made of a long period of depression were being proved to be fallacious. The renewed business life of other countries of necessity had its effect upon Canada. The demand for grain, lumber and cattle increased. The exports of the country began to swell and every department of trade felt the reviving effects of the new life. Meanwhile what were the effects of the protective tariff? Foreign trade had increased at a rate sufficient to meet all the legitimate requirements of the revenue at a much lower tariff. The consequence was that millions of dollars were paid into the treasury in excess of what could be spent, even although the Tories were most ingeniously extravagant; the cost of the necessities of life was greatly enhanced, and some lines of trade almost annihilated. A few men who had money to invest in highly protected industries were enabled to amass wealth; but upon the masses of the people the effect of the great unnecessary increase in the tariff has been to diminish the good results which would otherwise have come from the generally improved tone of business everywhere. The promises of the Tories have not been fulfilled. The only thing which would render taxation endurable, namely work provided for our people at remunerative wages because of it, has not been realized, but on the contrary a steady stream of people have passed out of the Dominion. Let the farmers who in a very few weeks will be called upon to cast their votes for or against a government candidate ask themselves the question, what has the taxation policy done for us? and let them vote accordingly. Committees, packed for the purpose, may report whatever they please. Newspapers may theorize whatever they will; but the farmers themselves know that the taxation policy has done them no good, but on the contrary, by lessening the purchasing power of their produce, has worked them a great deal of evil. They will not be deceived by the specious stories of what the future has in store for them. This dose of future prosperity has been administered a little too often. For fifteen years they have been told of what this measure and that policy and the other project were going to bring about, but to-day they are no nearer a fulfillment of the bright promises than they were when Sir Leonard asked them to listen and if perhaps they might even then hear the whistle of the Intercolonial railway trains as they sped down the Keswick Valley.

THE FARMERS AND THE N. P.

On Friday Messrs. Burpee and Irvine spoke a few words in Parliament in reference to the N. P. The occasion was the resolution imposing 12 cents per cwt. duty on all fine salt and 25 per cent. on the bag. Mr. Burpee pointed out that the effect of this tax was to place a burden upon Maritime Province farmers, who were under the necessity of using imported salt. After discussing the matter in hand, he took up the general effects of protection, pointing out that the promises that protection would give a home market had not been fulfilled, and that the only effect of the tariff upon the farmers was to transmit their intercourse with the United States, where their chief markets. Mr. Irvine attacked the duty on salt and the tariff generally. Sir Leonard Tilley does not appear to have attempted any reply. Indeed during the whole session the Tory chiefs have contented themselves with listening to the arguments of the Liberals and, if they answered at all, confining themselves to personal abuse. It would, however, be useless for Sir Leonard to pretend that his tariff is anything else but injurious to the farmers of these Provinces, who pay heavily into the revenue and do not receive the slightest compensatory return.

THE PRISONS OF TORONTO.

We have received the following communication in reference to the relations existing between the Local and the Dominion Governments. It puts the case very forcibly, but not more so than the facts warrant. Our correspondent hears his letter "Confederation Fruit," but we think that the Fruits of Toryism would be a better title:—

CONFEDERATION FRUIT.
Our Local Government have for years been sitting Ottawa begging for, instead of demanding, the \$150,000 due to the people of New Brunswick on account of the Eastern Extension Railway, and in lieu of urging the payment of this just claim of the Province, have been put off by private advancement to several of them individually. For instance—the late appointment to the Supreme Court bench of New Brunswick! The barred advancement of a Provincial Secretary to a County Court Judgeship—shamelessly and most unnecessarily created for such special purposes!

The reversion of the next vacancy on the Supreme Court Bench for an Attorney General and Federal Judge, and the removal of the present Attorney General to a County Court bench, are all instances of a favored and tried Liberal member!!! A Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works' tame submission to the Dominion refusal to do justice to New Brunswick, in consideration of his receiving Dominion aid and influence at the coming election to oust a political opponent!!!

How can the liberties and rights of the people of New Brunswick be protected with such a set of men at her out-posts? May, '82.
NEW BRUNSWICK.
The question which our correspondent asks only admits of one answer, and that is, to cashier the sentinels and post others in their places who will not, in their anxiety to forward their own interests, forget that they owe some duty to the Province. In the face of the facts set out in the above letter what works can be used which would be too strong for condemnation of the administration under which such shameless bartering of the people's interests for personal aggrandizement has flourished. We are glad to feel a strong assurance that a change is near at hand.

ILLEGITIMATE WARFARE.

The custom of writing communications to one's own paper has long been discontinued among respectable journalists. It yet lingers in some nooks and corners where it is practiced by certain individuals who have a little cunning which they mistake for brilliancy. The practice fell into disrepute principally because it is a disgraceful and cowardly way of conducting a paper. If an editor has anything to say the usual course is to publish it in the columns, which are understood to contain his opinions, and for which he is known to be responsible; but for him to write, or allow one of his staff to write communications in, to say the least of it, reducing journalism to a petty low state. Such letters always bear internal evidence of their origin. They lack the spontaneity of a genuine communication, and often the writer betrays himself by forms of expression which smack so strongly of a newspaper office that no one can for a moment doubt the place in which they were written. The anonymous communication is well enough in its place, and that is in the discussion of public questions; but it is entirely out of place in the discussion of public men. One of our contemporaries is very much given to this weakness of putting under the head of correspondence what ought, if it should be published at all, to appear either in the editorial or local columns. It does this for two reasons. One of them is that its editor desires to keep up a semblance of respectability, which he could not do if he acknowledged the paternity of these journalistic abortions, the other is that it knows that statements made in the so-called letters will be allowed to pass uncontradicted by the local press. But it will find, before the election campaign is over, that the gentlemen whom it assails in this underhand way will not allow the really responsible man to shield himself behind a false date, and an assumed signature.

SHAMELESS SPECULATION.

The *Capital* calls a remark in the HERALD that if Mr. Fraser were elected for Ottawa he would be out of politics in a few months, "shameless speculation about the lives of our Judges." The HERALD never had any such contingency as the death of a Judge in view in making the remark, and if the *Capital* man knew anything which he does not, he would know that there are other ways of a vacancy being created than by death. But since that is our contemporary's view of the matter we are able to understand its real opinion of Mr. Fraser's course in resigning his Attorney-Generalship in order to be made a Judge. If it was "shameless speculation" for us to state the fact, what words are strong enough to characterize Mr. Fraser's conduct, that is receiving it from the *Capital's* standpoint? We do not charge Mr. Fraser with any such blood-thirsty designs. There is not the least doubt that he, with us, would be extremely happy if all six Judges lived well into the next century. But he would get the seat upon the Bench all the same within a few months—and the *Capital's* demands of us that we ought to make the qualification—if the Tory Government can manage to keep alive long enough to appoint him.

MANUFACTURERS AND THE N. P.

To hear the Tories talk one would think there had never been any manufactures in Canada before the policy of taxation was inaugurated. The census of 1871 tells us that in that year the products of our manufactures was \$221,000,000, and that 189,000 men were employed in their production. There is no doubt whatever that any increase which has taken place since is not greater than would have occurred if there had been no attempt to establish a system of protection. It might perhaps be admitted that the cotton and sugar interests have developed more rapidly than they otherwise would; but this has been at the expense of the country at large. The Dominion is none the better off because the cotton and sugar lords' are added a few millions to their already well filled purses. Under the old tariff the manufacturers of the country were growing steadily with the country, and this is all that true statesmanship would seek to have them do. It is safer to trust to the laws of supply and demand than to attempt to bolster up any line of business. The result of such a policy is shown in the United States. There the manufacturers succeeded in getting protection, and now, when it is universally admitted that they are able to compete with all the world in manufactured goods, the power of the privilege class, which high duties have created, is so great that it is able to continue a tax of many millions a year upon the people a part of which finds its way into the treasury of the United States, but the rest of it, that is the part which is paid in the enhanced price of manufactured articles, goes directly into the pockets of the capitalists. Such a state of things may exist in Canada one of these days. It is even now imminent. The lay of the people is plain. It is to come out at once and crush the political party which labors to build up monopolies and lays heavy burdens upon the people.

Will the Sun, which says that the HERALD "is assuming all sorts of reasons for the opposition offered to Mr. Pickett," tell the real reasons of Mr. Fraser's candidature? The people of Fredericton, even such of them as express an intention to support him, say that Mr. Fraser has been forced to take the field. They feel that it is necessary to make an excuse for him, and they say that he is tired and ought to have a rest; that he wants to be a judge, and being a very nice sort of man, he ought to be a judge, and that in order to be a judge he had to be a candidate for Ottawa. If these things are not true, then the public here know of no reason why he should leave local politics, especially for the purpose of opposing his life-long political friend, and one whom he supported in 1878. They know Mr. Fraser very well, well enough to feel satisfied that if he could have accomplished his acknowledged ambition of a seat upon the bench, without doing this, he would never have done it. Mr. Fraser will not pretend that he has willingly and of his own accord stepped into the greater field. He has done so because the men whom he has served as local premier have required him to do it. He can well imagine his protests: I have always been a very warm friend of Mr. Pickett." "No matter," replied the Ottawa oracle, "you must oppose him." "But I voted for him in 1878." "No matter you must condemn both him and yourself now." "But he was the man to open to me the door to political preferment." "No matter you must oppose him." "But Fisher won't like it." "Oh, Fisher can lump it." "But he will defeat me." "No matter, you will get your judgeship." John Pickett must be punished for his timidity in refusing to bow the knee to Sir Leonard, and if we can't beat him we can at least give him a good deal of trouble." And so the scruples of the good man were overcome.

MR. FISHER.

Mr. Fisher, we understand, distinctly refuses to abandon the field to Mr. Fraser. He feels that having gone through the labor and worry of an election, after having been recognized for four years by the party as its representative, and after he had declared his intentions of again opposing Mr. Pickett, it is pushing Toryism a little too far to require him to step out in order that Mr. Fraser may make a better showing in trying to earn his judgeship than he otherwise would. We do not agree with Mr. Fisher politically; but we have always given him credit for the plucky fight he made when defeat was a foregone conclusion, and can sympathize with him in the indignation he justly feels when at the eleventh hour, without a word of previous notice, he finds himself set aside by the men who were glad enough to have him take the field and do pioneer duty for their party in York County. What standing the Tory party has in York it owes to the labors of Mr. Fisher. One can see the hand of Sir Leonard Tilley in this work. It is of a piece with his record, to throw aside old friends for new ones if he thinks he can strengthen himself thereby.

It was stated on the streets Monday that the announcement of Mr. Wilmond's candidature for the Commons is premature, and that he will not come forward unless satisfactory arrangements can be made with Mr. W. D. Perley.

The "Sun's" Little Joke.

We always had a haunting suspicion that the St. John Sun was a comic paper, and the following extract from its issue of Monday confirms it:—
There is no lack of talent in York and there will be no scarcity of candidates for the Assembly. E. L. Wetmore, Esq., Q. C., and Daniel Grant, Esq., of Canterbury, are favorably spoken of in this connection. All the signs point to the strong probability that Messrs. Colter, Wetmore and Grant can have almost a walk over, while there will be a lively contest for the fourth seat, with the chances in Mr. Wilson's favor.

This is too funny for anything. Our delightful contemporary should forbear. People who think the Sun is a serious periodical will be apt to question the sanity of its staff editorial; while those of us who recognize its jokes find ourselves sore with laughing.

Our contemporary also says that the electors of York "unconsciously their souls in patience until matters are authoritatively arranged and announced, before they commit themselves to electing agents." It was "authoritatively arranged" at Ottawa that Mr. Fraser should oppose Mr. Pickett, and now it is to be "authoritatively arranged" as to who Mr. Fraser's successor shall be. Is it not enough that Mr. Fraser should play into the hands of the clique that surrounded him for the last twelve years, without his arrogating to himself the right to name his successor? He mistakes the temper of this County when he attempts this sort of thing, and those who hope to have his mantle fall upon them will learn that the electors of York arrange who shall be their representatives and authoritatively announce it at the polls in a manner which has never yet been mistaken. We ask the electors, to bear in mind that the Tory clique, who have controlled our local affairs so long, have been so puffed up by the long lease of power that they claim the country as theirs by divine right.

Our very respectable semi-weekly contemporary could not believe, even as late as Saturday morning, that Mr. Fraser would be out of the local and into the Dominion contest. This is a pretty state of ignorance for the organ of the S. B. of the L. C. P. to be in. However, it makes one point very clear and that is, that Mr. Fisher will be a candidate for Ottawa even if Mr. Fraser does run. We do not see how he can very well help going to the polls, that is if he expects to preserve his standing before the electors, and the Reporter is right when it says that the County of York does not want a representative who will merely stay in his seat till he can get a judgeship; but ought to have a man who will look after the interests of the county for the whole term for which he is elected. Mr. Fisher, in declaring his determination to be a candidate under any circumstances, is probably actuated by the consideration that in a few months Mr. Fraser will be out of the County of York and it would be unwise on his (Mr. Fraser's) part to sacrifice himself merely to lessen the majority which Mr. Pickett is sure to get, no matter who opposes him.

The General Elections.

It is announced that the Dominion elections will be held on June 21st. If this date is correct, and it probably is, there is not much time to be lost in preparing for the struggle. The electors of York, Sunbury and Queens, will remember that John Pickett, Charles Burpee and George G. King will once more contest the Counties which have sustained them so triumphantly in the past. They will come before the people with a record of which they have good reason to feel proud, a record of votes cast in their favor, a record of good government, and against corruption, extravagance and monopoly. They will not appeal in vain to the electors for an endorsement of the manly independence which has marked their career in Parliament.

The Handwriting on the Wall.

Discussing the redistribution bill Mr. Blake said that it was a scandalous attempt by Sir John to falsify the prophecy of the handwriting on the wall which foretold the doom of his administration. His proposition was as follows:—
But the handwriting on the wall is not reversible by any such fraudulent imposture in that way. The shadows have deepened; the handwriting is darker and more dark; the words are plain to be seen. They are to be read in our honest English tongue to-day, and they tell us that an indignant and honest people, of whatever political complexion, is about to resent at the polls the fraud which is attempted to be perpetrated upon it, and to tell the hon. gentlemen that the handwriting is true and his kingdom is indeed finished.

The *Capital*, in its lunatic column, intimates that Mr. George F. Gregory will be a candidate for Ottawa at the ensuing election. Of course no one believes the absurdities which are collected in that ridiculous place, but it may be as well for us to say that we have the best authority to deny most emphatically that Mr. Gregory has any intention of being a candidate at the Dominion election this year.

Mr. JOSHUA WOOD, of Sackville, was nominated by the Westmorland Tories to oppose Sir Albert Smith for Parliament.

POLITICAL NEWS.—MR. R. D. WILSON, JR., will be the candidate for the Tory party in Sunbury County at the Dominion elections.

Hon. Peter Mitchell has determined to oppose Mr. Snowball in Northumberland.

It is fully expected that Mr. P. A. Landry will get the Tory nomination to-morrow at Sackville.

The Reporter gives currency to the statement that its editor will contest York for the local House. The new candidates are considerably embarrassed over the resignation of Mr. Fraser. They don't like to say they are in favor of the Government for they don't know who the Government will consist of. For the same reasons they have doubts about the propriety of announcing themselves as in opposition, and in the hour when both parties are looking for friends it is difficult and unsafe to be "independent."

The David Weston.

This fine river steamer arrived here on her first trip from St. John this season at seven minutes past noon on Saturday, having left St. John at 6 a. m., thus making the trip in six hours and seven minutes, and against a strong current.
Her arrival was greeted with pleasure by our citizens, and her courteous commander, Capt. David Weston, was very warmly complimented on the trim appearance of his boat. The "Wagon" during the winter has undergone extensive repairs and improvements and she is in a better condition now than ever. The most important improvement, however, is seen in the new galleys frame which was put in by the carpenter of the boat, Mr. Michael Casey, assisted by the Chief Engineer, Mr. Wm. Barton, both of whom have seen much service in their line. The fence is constructed of pitch pine, 16 in. x 14, the sheer locks being of the same dimensions. The work was done at Indian-town and reflects much credit on the workmen who performed it. Mr. Barton last autumn, during a trip to Boston, made an inspection of some of the leading steamers and under his directions has been able to adopt many improvements on the engines of the "Weston," which are now in first class order. She has been repainted both inside and out, and her clean, accommodating and comfortable appearance does reflect credit on the Union Line management and her officers as well.

She brought a heavy freight of general merchandise from St. John for our merchants, making the extra trip to lighten the work of the service which since the opening of navigation has been exceedingly heavy. She returned to St. John yesterday and will come up on her first regular trip this afternoon. The "Weston" meets the requirements of the service and is the favorite boat of the route. She is manned by Capt. David Weston, Commander; Mr. Samuel Weston, Mate; Mr. William Barton, Chief Engineer, with two firemen; Mr. Michael Casey, Carpenter; Mr. Wm. Campbell, Steward, with several assistants; besides some deck hands. For safety, comfort and courteous treatment the "Weston" invites the public patronage which has been extended to her since coming on the present route when first built sixteen years ago.

The "Fawn" made her last trip to Fredericton on Friday and returned to St. John Saturday. It is expected she will be able to reach Grand Lake on Wednesday, although a considerable quantity of ice is yet to be seen there.
The "May Queen" has been improved during the winter and will come upon the night route as soon as the freshest subsides.

An Amusing Incident.

Rather an amusing incident took place between twelve and one o'clock Tuesday on York street, although the victim of the joke, like the great majority of the victims of practical jokes, could not see where the amusement came in. A young country chap came straggling along the street about 12:30, as happy as a lark, and loaded to extreme weakness with a Scott Act beverage of some kind. Like the "enterprising burglar" in the comic opera, he "loved to lie-sinking in the sun," and as sleep came before he reached Queen st., he gently sat himself down on the sidewalk, with his back against the wall, near Whittier & Hooper's grocery store. Gradually succumbing to the combined influences of the aforementioned beverage and a drowsiness conked by the genial rays of the sun, his head sank on his breast, then slid down until his ears could not be seen for his knees, and his nose was in the dust. In this picturesque and striking attitude, he very much resembled a rag doll, and a couple of young men passing by put a bushel basket over him, almost hiding him from sight, and doubtless for the purpose of keeping the back of his neck, from getting so much sun, but he slumbered on undisturbed, until, returning from dinner, some other young men discovered his predicament. A well-directed volley of potatoes disturbed his slumbers, and for the few minutes next ensuing a large and highly amused audience viewed one of the funniest tumbling exhibitions ever seen outside of a circus, as the young man rolled and twisted around on the sidewalk in vain endeavors to get rid of that basket. He at last succeeded in disentangling himself from the encumbrance, and rising to his feet declared his willingness and ability to lick the whole street." This announcement was received with roars of laughter, and as no one seemed inclined to accept his universal challenge, he strode off, hot, dusty and indignant, doubtless in search of some soothing Scott Act infusion to modify his injured dignity and ruffled composure.

THE EXHIBITION BELIEFS.—It is suggested that some measures be adopted for the purpose of protecting the Exhibition building and grounds from injury at the hands of mischievously disposed persons. At present it seems a very Castle of Indolence. Doors are hanging ajar with locks and bars burst off, and a great many panes of glass have been broken, while its general air is one of neglect and dilapidation.