

THE HERALD

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JAMES MCISAAC,
Editor & Proprietor

Subscriptions for 1902 and previous years are now overdue, and subscriptions for 1903, are now payable. Our friends will please bear these facts in mind

The Government's Cattle Sale.

The action of the Government through the Commissioner of agriculture, in selling the Stock Farm cattle at private sale to the Dominion Packing Company contrary to the statute and at a price lower than their market value, cannot be too strongly condemned. The statute requiring the surplus stock of the farm to be sold at public auction was violated; the butchers, who are always on the lookout for such cattle for the Easter market and willing to pay a good price for them, were not afforded an opportunity of competing for the purchase of these animals, and the stock was sold at a private bargain and at a low price to the Government's favorites, the Dominion Packing Company. Are we to infer from this that the Commissioner of Agriculture has entered into league with this Company to shut out competition and to reduce and keep down the price of the cattle the farmers of this Province have to sell? Does Mr. Rogers imagine that our farmers are so gullible that he can pull the wool over their eyes in this fashion? Does he think they are not sufficiently intelligent nor sufficiently awake to their own interests to see through his little game? If he imagines anything of this kind we are strongly of the opinion that he will have a rude awakening some of these days. That the cattle were sold at a price below what could be obtained for them is proved by the statement of Mr. Geo. Wheatley, a prominent butcher, who comes out over his own signature and declares five or six cents a pound live weight could easily have been obtained for them had they been put up to competition; and also by the fact that the Packing Company sold two of the cows to a firm abroad for the Easter market at five cents a pound. That the Commissioner is fully conscious that he violated the statute by selling at private sale is shown by the fact that he hastened to have the law amended by striking out the clause regarding this matter as soon as he woke to the reality that he had been caught red handed in transgressing the law. We have these results in consequence of the Commissioner's transaction; a violation of the law safeguarding the people's rights by requiring such sales to be by public auction; an opportunity afforded the Dominion Packing Company of participating in a profitable speculation at the expense of the tax-payers, and a permanent injustice to all having cattle for sale, by establishing a low price to which buyers may confidently refer as a precedent. An interesting and somewhat extraordinary incident in connection with this sale is found in a letter published in the Patriot newspaper under the signature of Mr. E. J. Macmillan, Supt. of the Government Farm. We may assume that this letter was prepared under the direction of the Commissioner, and published by his authority. It says that the decision to sell those cattle "which were being fattened," was arrived at in consequence of the farm being overstocked, lack of stable room and shortage of feed. It also informs the public that the sale was made on the condition of future delivery, when the steamers would again begin to run. The letter acknowledges that before delivery was made the prices had advanced. Now, we invite our readers to pay particular attention to these several statements. We are told the stock was sold because room was scarce and feed short. Yet, the cattle are housed and fed and fattened at the farm for a month or more at public expense, without any consideration on the part of the purchaser. These cattle were sold at a price lower than could be had for them at the time of delivery, even from the Packing Company, and in addition to this a free gift of a month's fattening was made to the purchasers. Surely this was a child's bargain! The light intended to be thrown upon the matter by this letter of

the Superintendent of the farm admirably succeeds in involving the transaction in still greater darkness, and rendering it more and more reprehensible. It would seem to appear that the other members of the Government and the supporters of the Government in the Legislature found it very difficult to endorse the Commissioner's action in this matter. Two Government supporters refrained from voting, and it is not unlikely that others would have done likewise only that they wished to save the Government from defeat. The only members on the Government side who attempted to justify the transaction, were the Commissioner of Agriculture himself and Captain Reid. Now, it comes out that both the Commissioner and Captain Reid are purchasing agents for the Dominion Packing Company, at Alberton and Summerside respectively. In virtue of this knowledge our readers will easily understand how very disinterested both these gentlemen must have been in the discussion of this question. The burden of the song of both these gentlemen in their attempted defence of the transaction was that the cattle in question were very inferior animals; that they were runts. Capt. Reid went so far as to say they were only fit for fox bait. What, are the people of this Province called upon to pay their taxes to stock and support a farm; to pay salaries to a commissioner and a superintendent and to have nothing in return for all this expenditure but a few runts fit only for "fox bait"? This whole transaction is a most glaring instance of trifling with and trampling upon the people's rights and privileges, and the farmers of this Province should not forget to wreak their political vengeance upon the perpetrators.

Sessional Notes.

On Tuesday the 14th after the Government's backdown in the matter of trying the Guardian newspaper, to which we referred in our last issue, the Leader of the Government brought up his resolution respecting our representation in the House of Commons. This resolution, after referring to the resolution passed last year, as well as quotations from the speeches of Hon. Messrs Haviland, Palmer, Wheatley, Grey, Coles and Pope, before the Quebec Conference, and the telegram which passed between Hon. R. P. Haysborne and the Lieut. Governor in 1873, continues:—

"And whereas a committee of the Executive Council of this Province was by our Government delegated to wait on the Government of the Dominion of Canada to press upon them the views of this Province as to the question of Provincial representation in the Federal Parliament as set forth in said resolution.

"And whereas our Government has in accordance with the representations of said delegation obtained the consent of the said Government of the Dominion of Canada to have the said matter referred to the Supreme Court of Canada under the provisions of an Act passed in the 38th year of her late Majesty's reign, Chap. II, intitled "The Supreme and Exchequer Court Act,"—

"Therefore resolved that this House is of the opinion that the said matter should be referred to the said Supreme Court.

"Further Resolved, that a humble request be made through the proper channels that his Excellency the Governor General in Council be pleased to refer the said matter to the said Supreme Court Canada for hearing or consideration under the provisions of the said Act."

In support of the resolution the Leader of the Government pointed out the supreme importance of insisting upon the terms of the contract, as understood at the time, being carried. There was an implied contract that Prince Edward Island should have six members for all time to come. Should Quebec become thickly populated and the unit of representation become greatly enlarged, the time might come when we would not have even one man to represent us in the House of Commons.

Hon Mr. Gordon seconded the resolution. It was to be regretted, he said, that the intention of the people of this Province had not been more explicitly expressed when we entered confederation. Should the courts decide against us we shall be obliged to submit to the inevitable. But no harm can come of pressing the matter. It will cost money; but it would be much more preferable to spend some money than allow ourselves to be imposed upon by the powers that be, at Ottawa. Mr. Mathieson followed and argued the case at some length. It was to be hoped, he said, the Government would justify our hopes. It behooved us to test this matter thoroughly; because if the contention of the Federal Government were allowed without protest the time might come when we would be wiped out absolutely, so far as representation in the House of Commons is concerned. Hon. Mr. Wheatley

and Captain Reid also spoke on the resolution, after which it passed unanimously.

On Wednesday evening the Leader of the Government moved his resolution in favour of increased subsidy from the Federal Government. The greater part of this resolution was a recital of the resolutions passed at the Quebec Conference of the Provincial Premiers in the early part of the winter, to which reference has already been made. In addition to these there was the following:

"And whereas it is proposed to submit the foregoing Resolutions to the respective Legislative Assemblies of the provinces for concurrence, with a view to the amending of the British North America Act in accordance therewith, or the enactment of such legislation by Parliament of Canada as may be necessary to give effect to such resolutions, in case it should be decided that such Parliament has authority to pass such legislation;

"Be it therefore resolved that this House doth concur in the said resolutions;

"And further resolved that an humble address be presented to his Honor the Lieut. Governor, praying that his Honor may cause a copy of this resolution to be transmitted to his Excellency the Governor General through the Honourable the Secretary of State, with a humble request that his Excellency will be pleased to take such steps as his Excellency's advisers may deem necessary in order to give effect to the foregoing resolutions."

The Premier spoke briefly in support of the resolution. He related what had been done at the meeting of the Provincial Premiers and said that if the movement would succeed we stood to receive an additional amount of \$70,000 a year from the Federal Treasury.

Hon Mr. Gordon argued that the Province stood in need of the money and he would be glad to know that the Premier's prospects of success were good. It would be hard for the Dominion Government to withstand the combined attack of all the Provinces. He had no doubt the resolution would receive the unanimous consent of the House. Hon. Mr. Wheatley seconded the resolution. Mr. John McLean followed. He thought that, as the House had been taken by surprise and time had not yet been allowed to look into the resolution, it would be better to adjourn the debate. He fully concurred with the Premier that our claim on the Dominion Treasury are greater now than they were in 1871. The total revenue of the Dominion then was only about \$38,000,000; but now it is from \$55,000,000,000. What is paid in customs and excise duties alone being almost equal to the whole revenue of the Dominion in 1837. The debate was then adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Wheatley then moved the second reading of his bill to grant twenty years exemption from civic taxation to the Dominion Packing Company. He supported his motion with a brief speech. Mr. Hughes (Mr. Wheatley's Colleague in the representation of the City) moved an amendment, seconded by Mr. Palmer, that the bill be read three months hence. An interesting and lively debate ensued. Mr. Hughes pointed out that the proposition had not been submitted to the citizens; gross disregard had been shown to the interests of the citizens in respect to it. He did not deny that the Dominion Packing Company might be a great benefit to the Province, but Charlotte, town was the only place asked to offer inducement. As the representative of the property-holders of the city, he considered it his duty to guard their rights in this matter. He was not opposed to exemption, and did not object to a certain amount of exemption in this case; but the term asked for was too long. He considered the principle of the bill was wrong, as it aimed at taking the control of the matter out of the hands of the City Council. The resolution passed at the citizens meeting he held to be sufficient justification of his course. Hon. Mr. Peters thought there was something wrong in the principle of the bill. It was the prerogative of the City Council, not the Provincial Legislature, to grant the exemption if it were granted. Mr. Palmer seconded Mr. Hughes' amendment. He opposed the bill because it is in the interest of one individual; because the passage of it would be a taking away from the City Council a power that property belongs to that body; because he considered the principle of exemption wrong, and because the citizens' meeting was all but unanimously against the bill. Mr. Simpson did not approve of the bill, but would like to see it go into committee. Dr. Douglas was of the same opinion as Mr. Simpson. Captain Reid was in favor of the exemption. Mr. Rogers moved the adjournment of the debate.

On Thursday evening Mr. Mathieson resumed the debate on the increased subsidy resolution. This, he said, was a matter of the greatest possible importance, involving the financial relations of the different Canadian provinces for years to come. The greatest care should therefore be taken in the action we should take. The resolution as presented had to be accepted or rejected as a whole.

But some of the recitals are evidently defective. The Canada of 1867 is not the Canada of to-day. Our country had grown extensively since then, and the financial arrangements fairly applicable to the Canada of those days will not apply now. He considered the proposed division of the specific subsidy most unjust; but when we come to the question of 80 cents a head the case is different. It has been decided that this Province shall draw subsidy on account of a maximum population of 109,000. But here it is proposed we shall forego our right in this regard, and accept 80 cents per head of the population as shown by each decennial census. This would involve an immediate loss of \$5,000 a year, and in future we are more liable to loss than gain. Mr. Merson argued along the same lines as Mr. Mathieson. Under the proposed arrangement this Province might obtain less and less subsidy from the Dominion although contributing more largely to the revenue. He thought it would be fairer if each of the Provinces were to receive subsidies pro rata with the increase of the Dominion revenue. Then, as the revenue of Canada increased we should obtain increased subsidy under the present arrangement. After Mr. Simpson, Captain Reid and Hon. Mr. Rogers had spoken briefly on the resolution, it was unanimously concurred in.

As soon as the debate on the increased subsidy resolution was concluded Hon. Mr. Gordon Leader of the Opposition moved the following resolution, of which he had previously given notice:—

"Resolved that the House disapprove of the action of the Government in selling by private sale to the Dominion Packing Company certain surplus stock of the Government Stock Farm, that is to say; seven fat cattle for the price of three dollars and seventy-five cents per hundred pounds, a rate far below their market value contrary to the law and to the practice established in such case, and involving considerable loss to this Province and unfair discrimination against other parties engaged in the cattle trade. He supported his motion with a terse and pointed speech in which he laid bare irregularity and illegal proceedings of the Commissioner of Agriculture in the case under review. He considered it was high time for the Legislature to emphasize its censure of private sale of public stock at prices lower than the market will justify. Surely, said he, officials should not be allowed to violate the law with impunity. "Thieves for robbery have authority when judges violate the law." If we allow members of the Government to do without censure that which is not in accord with the law, how can we expect minor officials and private individuals will not do likewise? Mr. James E. McDonald seconded the resolution; and then the fat was in the fire.

Hon Mr. Rogers rose to defend his action in this matter. He pretended to be in a very facetious mood and to make light of the question raised by the Opposition. But the quaver in his voice and his labored attitude as he attempted to break down the impregnable argumentative position that confronted him, plainly indicated his mental agitation. He soon dropped his assumed jaunty air and became very serious. He tried to divert attention from the real question at issue by reference to the price of cattle in Montreal and various other subterfuges; but the ghost would not down.

Mr. Mathieson brought the Commissioner severely to task for his violation of the law, and his foolish bargain in the sale of the cattle. If the Commissioner was satisfied with his own defence, Mr. Mathieson felt sure no one else, even the Commissioner's closest political friends, was satisfied with it. He read the letter of Mr. Geo. Wheatley pointing out that 5 cents a pound live weight was the least such cattle should be sold for, and some of them were worth six cents per pound, according to the market rates. He then quoted from the letter of the Superintendent of the Stock Farm, which attempted to justify the sale to the Dominion Packing Company at private sale. This letter, he pointed out, was a wonderful production. It stated that the cattle were sold as early as possible, because the farm was overstocked, room was scarce and food was short. Yet, in the face of all this the cattle were sold, at private sale, at a low rate and for future delivery. What a child's bargain! The transaction involved a ridiculous contradiction. The cattle were sold under the conditions named ostensibly because room was wanted and feed was short. In face of this the cattle were kept for a month and fed, free of charge at the farm, after they were sold. They might have been kept there till the present time if navigation

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A COMPLETE SUCCESS.

Dr. Adolph Lorenz arrived in Chicago on Friday last and removed the cast from the leg of Lolita Armon, daughter of Oden Armon upon whom an operation for congenital dislocation of the hip was performed last October. The limb was found to be in perfect condition and patient was able to walk around the house without difficulty. The operation was a complete success said Dr. Lorenz "but I shall have to be in constant attendance upon the little one for three or four weeks before I can be certain of a positive cure. After his s-jura in Chicago Lorenz expects to make a short western tour."

TENDERS.

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned up to the 9th day of May next for the painting of the exterior of St. Andrew's Church; also for shingling roof of same building—Tenders to be marked "Tenders for St. Andrew's Church."

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

A. P. McLELLAN, P. P. St. Andrew's, April 23, 1903—31.

Liberal-Conservative Convention.

A Convention of the Liberal-Conservative electors of the Second Electoral District of King's County will be held at Morell Hall on **Wednesday, the 29th day of April**, inst., at 1 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of SELECTING CANDIDATES to contest the district at the next Provincial Election. A full attendance is requested, and each poll is represented by TEN DELEGATES.

L. P. DOYLE, Convener. Hd. St. Peter's Bay, April 15th, 1903—21

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Oct. 22, 1902—301.

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Notice of Application.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Parliament of Canada now in session for an Act empowering the applicants to construct and operate telephone and telegraph lines throughout the Dominion of Canada.

Dated at Ottawa, 27th of March, 1903.

KIDD & THOMSON, Solicitors for the applicants. April 15, 1903—91

Irish Table Linens.

AT SPECIAL PRICES.

Regular 25c quality	for 17c
Regular 25c quality	for 20c
Regular 28c quality	for 22c
Regular 30c quality	for 24c
Regular 34c quality	for 27c
Regular 54c quality	for 32c

And up in all qualities to Regular \$1.70 quality for 1.34

We buy the Linens direct from best Irish manufacturers, and call special attention to the fine finish and beautiful design.

White Aprons.

Regular 32c quality	for 25c
Regular 38c quality	for 31c
Regular 55c quality	for 40c
Regular 70c quality	for 56c
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\$0.75 quality	for \$0.59
1.10 quality	for 0.88
1.30 quality	for 1.04
1.50 quality	for 1.20
1.75 quality	for 1.40
2.20 quality	for 1.76
2.25 quality	for 1.80
2.61 quality	for 2.12

And up to the best at 4.90 quality for 3.92

Slumber Robes.

\$0.88 quality	for \$0.70
1.00 quality	for 0.79
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1.35 quality	for 1.08
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And up to the best at 3.55 quality for 2.84

In many different styles.

Table Napkins

AT SPECIAL PRICES.

We offer a bargain in three Special Lines at \$1.10 \$1.30 and \$1.75 per doz. worth 30 per cent. more, and many other qualities from 68c doz. to \$4.90 per doz.

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SPECIAL VALUE AT 25c. per pair.

Honeycombe Quilts

BEST ENGLISH MAKE.

Regular \$0.98	for \$0.73
Regular 1.25	for 1.00
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All up, all sizes.

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Two Special Values at 75c. and \$1 pair

Three yards long.

And many different qualities from 33c to \$2.25 per pair.

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Worth 25 per cent. more.

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