THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1889

ALL matter for publication in the HERALD should be in this office by noon on Tuesday. Persons wishing their advertisements changed, must advise us Saturday forenoon.

The Liberal-Conservative Party have taken the room in the Market House, formerly used as the City Council Chamber. This Room will be open throughout the Campaign.

THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY.

PREMIER McLEOD'S card to the electors of Charlottetown, Common and Royalty, will be found in another column of this days HERALD. In this card is outlined the policy of the new Administration; and we think, it is such a practical and business-like policy as should command itself to the people of this Province.

The first plank in the Government's platform, as will be noticed, relates to agriculture, and as our Province is essentially an agricultural one, the determination of the Administration to adopt such measures as will render more remunerative the labors of the husbandman, should be a source of satisfaction to the community in general. The announcement to provide instruction in agricultural chemistry, and the establishment of a course of popular lectures on agricultural subjects, will, we feel sure, receive the hearty indorsation of the people of town and country. Of late years, a great interest has been taken in these subjects, and the lectures delivered here last Autumn, by Professor Saunders, awakened a widespread interest; and the introduction of these subjects, by the Government, would be of lasting benefit to our people.

The second question referred to in the Premier's card is also one in which the people are deeply interested; viz. the keeping in repair of the wharves. These wharves, many of them, at least, became the property of the Dominion at Confederation; but, up to the present, the Federal Government have not taken some of them over, notwithstanding their responsibility. The Administration are therefore acting wisely in determining to keep them in necessary repair and making a demand on the Government at Ottawa for a refund of the money spent in this way.

The Government announce their intention of pursuing the policy acted upon in the immediate past, of vigorously pressing to a settlement, all claims against the Federal Government. This policy has already been productive of much benefit to the Province, and its continuance is in the highest degree commendable. Economy has been characteristic of the Government that ruled the Province for the past ten years, and we might naturally expect the Administration of Hon. Mr. McLeod, would also be economical. But in order that no doubt may exist on this point he announces that rigorous economy will be practised in the expenditure of public money, without impairing the efficiency of the public service.

Should it happen that, pending the adjustment of our claims against the Dominion Government, the annual resources of the Province may not be sufficient to meet all necessary expenditure, the Premier promises that such measures will be taken to supplement the revenue, as will bear least heavily on the people, and will be, at the same time, just and equitable. Finally such changes are promised in the public service as will secure its efficiency and greater security to the public interests.

On the whole, the policy outlined in the Premier's card is well adapted to meet the needs of the Province, and it will be strange indeed if it does not receive the hearty endorsation of the electorate of Prince Edward Island.

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

ON the 30th day of this month our electors will be called upon to decide who shall conduct the public business of this Province for the next four years. In order to make a proper choice in a matter of such importance to themselves and to the Province, they should carefully investigate the conduct and compare the records of the respective parties seeking their suffrages; for their only means of judging of the future is by the past. We will here present a few facts and figures, so plain and easily understood, as to be within the comprehension of all and which abundantly prove that the Conservative Party, at present in office in this Province, are, in the highest degree, deserving of the people's confidence.

When the Conservatives came into power in 1879, they found that their predecessors, the present Opposition, had been spending, on an average, during their term of office, $330,200 per year. The Conservative Government, at once, reduced the expenditure, by the reduction of their own salaries, and the curtailment of unnecessary expenses, by an average of $59,000 per year, effecting a saving to the Province, in the nine years, for which we have the Public Accounts, of $531,000. During the same period they saved to the people, by exemption from taxation, about $300,000, taking the average yearly amount collected by the Davies Government, as the basis of calculation. Adding these two items together, it will be seen that, in eight years, the late Government left in the pockets of the people, upwards of $830,000, that would have been extracted therefrom, by the Davies Government, if the Province had been so unfortunate as to have had them in power during that period. At the same time, the late Government spent, on an average, $30,000 a year more for Education, than their predecessors, or about $270,000 in nine years; the expenditure for this branch of the Public Service, being entirely uncontrollable by the Government. This is not all the late Government did for the benefit of the Province. They went to work to collect amounts due the Province, from Ottawa, and, notwithstanding the efforts put forth by the Opposition, to thwart them, they obtained, in refunds, the sum of $120,000. If we add this to the $830,000, referred to above, it will be seen that the Province was directly benefited, by the Conservative Government, during nine years of office, to the extent of upwards of $950,000.

These are plain figures, that can be easily verified, and they show that the late Government, during nine years of office, saved to the people of this Province, nearly One Million Dollars, that must necessarily have been taken from them, had their immediate predecessors remained in power. This money has been deposited, by the people, in the Savings Bank, or has been applied to the improvement of their farms and buildings, or the extension of their business. These facts, of themselves, should be sufficient, and, we feel pretty confident, are sufficient to gain for the Conservative Party, a renewal of the people's confidence.

Besides all this, the Province otherwise largely benefited during the term of office of the late Government. The amount to our credit at Ottawa has largely increased since 1878. On the 31st December, 1878, the balance in our favor was $793,356 12. On Land purchase account $113,516.02; making a total of $906,872.14. On the 31st December, 1888, the balance in our favor at Ottawa was $975,791.83, and on Land purchase account $51,757.57, total $1,027,549.40. If we add to this the $500,000, which represents the capital of $20,000 additional annual subsidy, the amount to our credit at Ottawa will stand $1,527,549 40, or about $600,000 more than it was on the 31st December, 1878. The annual subsidy from Ottawa has, of course, increased, as the capital has increased In 1878, the amount of subsidy received was $159,005 38, while in 1888 we received $193,529 77, or an increase, in ten years, of $34 524.35.

In view of this record, it would be difficult to understand why the people of this Province should not return to power the Conservative Government led by Hon. Neil McLeod.

POLICY OF THE OPPOSITION.

Now that the Premier has enunciated the policy of his Government, it would be most interesting to know, on what grounds the Opposition ask for the people's support. For the past ten years, they seem to have been actuated solely by a desire to oppose, for opposition sake, every measure introduced by the Government for the benefit of the Province. If that is the course they mean still to pursue, they are likely to be about as successful, as they have been in the past. The people believe in something, a little more statesmanlike than that.

Do they imagine that an appeal to their record as legislators is sufficient to ingratiate them with the electorate of the Province? The people have a distinct remembrance of the brief space the Province was so unfortunate as to have the present Opposition in control of its public affairs, and they shudder when they look back upon that period of extravagance, incapacity and maladministration. Their mis-management of the public business so aroused popular indignation that, from one end of the country to the other the people demanded that the Davies Government should hand back to the electorate the trust they had so shockingly outraged. Yielding to the inevitable they passed to the sombre shades of opposition, where they have since remained; and, judging by the contentment of the people, in consequence of the change, there they are likely to remain for a long time to come.

Are we to consider the declarations of the Opposition press as embracing the fundamental principles of their policy? These consist of an interminable series of misleading, false, and insulting, statements, relative to the conduct of the Government that has, for the past ten years, ruled this Province. No statement, however false, or grossly exaggerated, but finds a place in the columns of the Opposition press, so long as it mis-represents the Conservatives. No nameless scribbler, no matter how crude and vile his production, but is readily given a place in their columns Any masked fraud, whose proper name these journals would be ashamed to publish, is readily afforded an opportunity of abusing the Government and its friends.

This is all the evidence we have of the policy upon which the Opposition expect the people to vote for them. We are strongly convinced the electors of this Province will give their support to no party having no stronger recommendation than the unsavory political record of the Opposition, and the base insinuations of their reckless press.

THE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

ON our first page to-day, will be found the preliminary report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Land Office defalcations. The report speaks for itself, and is a plain statement of facts which leaves not the slighest shadow of doubt as to the author of the defalcations. This report, it must be remembered, does not embrace the entire work of the commission; but refers only to the deficits brought to the notice of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to which the attention of the Commissioners was particularly directed at the time of their appointment.

All desirous of having a correct notion, as to how the deficits, in the Land Office occurred should give this report a careful perusal. The commissioners recommend a different system of bookkeeping from that which has hitherto been in use in the office. It will be noticed that in this recommendation, the Commissioners distinctly set forth that the system now in use is that which has been used in the Land Office since its organization. This effectually disposes of the insinuation of the Patriot, that the books were not kept the same under the present Commissioner, as they were under his predecessor. The defalcations could take place at any time, that an official, situated as was the late Assistant Commissioner, might feel disposed to make them.

This report reflects credit on the Commissioners, and will, we feel sure, be satisfactory to the public, as placing before them in a clear and concise form, information of the most important nature, bearing on a subject in which the people are deeply interested.

THE Patriot admits that the Sullivan Government received $108,553.08 from the Dominion Government, as refunds for piers, prisoners and pension claims. It is satisfactory to find our contemporary even admitting that the late Government did some good.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

BEGINNING OF THE CAMPAIGN.

INLAND REVENUES.

GREAT BRITAIN, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC.

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS.

MR. WIMAN'S DISGUISE.

SAVED EIGHTEEN LIVES.

BROTHERS WHO HAD NEVER MET.

AFTER AFRICAN MACKEREL.

To the Electors of Charlottetown, Common and Royalty.

A FAMILY DEPLETED.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Special Notice.

FOR LADIES ONLY.

BEER BROS.

SPECIAL FOR MEN.

BEER BROS.

A COOK BOOK FREE

BEST ON EARTH SURPRISE SOAP THE GREAT TIME SAVER TRY IT