POOR DOCUMENT

THE WEEKLY HERALD

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## THE LOCAL CONTEST.

A correspondent, writing from Keswick, says that we ought not to object to Mr. Wetmore promising to give the Government a liberal support, because this same Government has always liberally supported him and his friends. We can assure our friend that we do not object to Mr. Wetmore supporting the Government: our objection simply goes to the electors supporting Mr. Wetmore, so long as he takes the position he does in politics. The HERALD confesses to a most kindly feeling for Mr. Wetmore, but it cannot approve of his candidature, because, as we have already said, it represents ultra toryism and clique government. His own personal record is no doubt very good, and he comes of a respectable family, one which has enjoyed government favor for many years. The people in the country look upon him as representing the principles of dyed-in-the-wool toryism, and the circumstances under which he has taken the field corroborate this opinion. He has pledged himself to do all in his power to maintain the tory clique which has managed to secure control of the local Government, and under whose baneful administration provincial affairs have been going steadily from bad to worse. He is pledged to sustain a leader who lays down, as the first plank in his platform, that it is right that the Province should be governed by Westmorland. If Mr. Hanington is returned it will be because of the French vote in Westmorland; so that if he is allowed to work his sweet will, and Mr. Wetmore promises, if elected, to help him, then New Brunswick will, so long as Mr. Hanington can hold the reins of power, be governed in accordance with the wishes of the French Tories of Westmorland. Sir John Macdonald threatens Ontario that he will control that Province by the French vote in Quebec; and our premier, with characteristic presumption, signalizes the beginning of his brief reign by a boast that by the votes of his French supporters in Westmorland he proposes to control New Brunswick. We are in favor of fair play to the French people. They never have had it, and they have been shamelessly insulted by this Government, which ignored their representative men for the sake of getting a possible rival out of Mr. Lindsay's way. But while we entertain these views, we object to any Government the premier of which asserts it to be the right of a couple of thousand of Frenchmen to have "a preponderating influence in the Executive." The people of York County will not disfranchise themselves by returning men who have pledged themselves to submit to this domination; and Messrs. Wetmore and Estabrooks have done so. As to Mr. Colter himself he has pursued a very extraordinary course. The people generally were disposed to let him hold the office of Chief Commissioner as long as the Government kept together, and he should have been content with that; but now that he has undertaken to say to the electors that they must accept Mr. Wetmore, he has raised a feeling of opposition which he will find it hard to overcome. Two candidates were in the field pledged to give the Government a liberal support, and three others who have as yet not declared themselves in opposition. Under these circumstances the question may well be asked, why does Mr. Colter single out Mr. Wetmore, and insist that the electors shall take him?

In 1878 Mr. Colter was elected because the people were opposed to the combination of which Mr. Wetmore is a representative. Are we to understand by this new alliance, which he has formed, that he too has come under the control of the clique. If so, then he should be defeated. Additional probability is given to this suggestion by this fact that these allies are canvassing for Mr. Fraser wherever they go. It has been stated that Mr. Colter was made Chief Commissioner solely in order that he might use the influence of the office in aiding Mr. Fraser in his effort to supplant Mr. Pickard; and while we were unwilling to believe this, giving Mr. Colter credit for more manliness, he himself, by his open advocacy of Mr. Fraser's claim to the seat in Parliament, forces us to the conclusion that the statement is correct. To what extent the Ottawa Tories have pushed their interference in local affairs no one can tell. We see it cropping up anew every day. Mr. Wedderburn used to be a loud advocate of Provincial rights; but of a sudden he became dumb, and behold in a few days a new Judgeship was created for him. Mr. Fraser is ordered out of local politics and into the Dominion arena sorely against his will. The local elections are held back so as to aid the Tories in capturing New Brunswick; and the departments are distributed with the same object.

The people of New Brunswick must arise in their might and crush this hydra-headed Toryism. The country is not safe in which it has the semblance of life. Have the people struggled in vain in days gone by? Have the battles for responsible government been fought to no purpose? Are the local affairs of this Province, the control of which is given to the people of the Province by an Act of Parliament, to be administered in obedience to a Tory premier at Ottawa, who is maintained in his position by the votes of the Quebec *bleus*? Let the people of York answer, as they answered the questions put them by Wilmot and Fisher in days past, by a grand assertion of their right of self government, freedom from cliques and outside domination.

## THE CLOVEN FOOT.

The *Maritime Farmer*, owned chiefly and controlled entirely by Julius L. Inches, Secretary for Agriculture, published with his full knowledge and approval the following paragraph:

The Principal of the Normal School, we understand, is making himself particularly busy in the present election contest. We are told that he has declared opposition to Sir Leonard Tilley and the Dominion Government; and he never loses an opportunity of expressing his abhorrence to the Liberal Conservative party, that he declaims against Mr. Fraser, the Local Government, who are his masters; against Mr. Wetmore, the *Maritime Farmer*; and, in fact, against everybody who is opposed to Messrs. Pickard, Gregory & Blair, who, in Principal Crocket's eyes, are *par excellence*, the only respectable politicians in the country. We are also informed that a few days ago he delivered a tirade from a platform in the Normal School against the Dominion Government, and that when one of the Student-Teachers wrote on a blackboard, the words "Hurrah for Tilley;" the Principal grew furious, and is described as having turned livid with rage. Now, if Mr Principal Crocket is not guilty of these things—as we believe he is—he can give his denial in the paper under his control, and which he has the credit of editing. But we may tell him in advance that his political attitude has become so public already, that a denial will have no effect whatever. We do not propose to let the matter drop here, and if Mr. Crocket has any regard for the permanency of his position, he will take our advice and attend to his official duties alone.

It is difficult to find words to express the indignation which this unwarrantable and unprecedented attack has called forth in this city. The question is on every lip—Is Julius L. Inches to govern this Province, or have not the people still something to say? Does this one man so control the Government of this country that at his word a valued public servant is to be dismissed? If it has come to this pass, and the claim of absolute power is so unblushingly put forward that it must be based upon a knowledge that he holds the Local Government in his hands, then it is more than time that the people of New Brunswick asserted their dignity and hurled the dictator from power. The cloven foot is at last visible; the mask is dropped; the usurper is revealed. All that was ever said or written in respect to clique denominatinn is more than proved by this unblushing assertion of a right to contro' the powers vested in the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The time has gone by when such arrogance as this will be tolerated in New Brunswick. The electors everywhere will repell this brazen presumption with the contempt and indignation which it deserves. While we feel every sympathy for Mr. Crocket, who has been so vilely and falsely assailed, against whose administration of his official duties not one word can be said, whose record as a man and a citizen is vastly better than that of any of his slanderers and whose retirement from the educational service of New Brunswick would be a Provincial loss, we are more concerned with the spirit which prompts the *Farmer's* attack. As the public well know, personal spite is at the foundation of it, and the chief wire-puller of the clique has determined from motives, which will not bear the light of day, to bring about his dismissal from office. For this purpose he deliberately coins, or causes to be coined, falsehoods of a most outrageous character, and then with profound impertinence threatens to dismiss from office the gentleman whom he has slandered.

Let our readers, let the people of New Brunswick everywhere, understand the full significance of this threat. It proves that the whole power of the local government is to be brought to bear to crush the Liberal party. New Brunswick has no longer a government of its own; but is ruled from Ottawa. The HERALD sounded the note of alarm long ago, and it is not our fault if the people are taken by surprise. Every power which the local government can bring to bear will be used to elect Tory candidates for Parliament. Are the people prepared for this, or will they not assert that the interference of the Federal government with the affairs of this province must be stopped at once and forever? But the most astonishing part of the pretensions of Mr. Inches is that he will dismiss Mr. Crocket for having spoken against Mr. Wetmore and the *Maritime Farmer*. Has it come to this that he can bring out a candidate and threaten with dismissal every government officer who does not accept him. Truly the Secretary for Agriculture is stepping outside of his commission. Perhaps it would be as well for him to have a care for himself. It is by no means settled who is to have the power of discussing officials in New Brunswick, or who is to be dismissed; but this we do know that there is a power in this land greater than the clique, and on the 22nd of this month it will make itself felt.

Is New Brunswick to be ruled by one man? If so let the people know it, and let us do away with the farce of elections, abolish the Legislature, send the Lieutenant Governor adrift, and install the Secretary for Agriculture in Government House, with direct telephonic communication with Ottawa. Truly we are fast coming to this, when an inferior officer in a department claims the right to strike down a valuable public servant for the crime of speaking against a paper which that officer controls.

## SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

We put some questions to the organs of Mr. Fraser the other day. One of them dodged them; the other attempts to answer some of them. It informs us that Mr. Fraser approves of the tax on iron, which it says by some marvellous trick is made cheaper by being made more expensive. When the *Farmer* explains this paradox it may hope to convince the farmers and the workers in iron, upon whom this tax falls, that they ought to vote for Mr. Fraser, who advocates its increase. The weekly organ dismisses the interference with provincial rights, gerrymandering, the Ontario boundary, and the domination of the French *bleus*, as matters which do not concern York. Thus it admits that these things cannot be defended. But do these things not concern York? Is not York a part of Canada as much as Ontario is? Have the electors no interests in the preservation of the constitutional rights of the Province? Have they no interest in preserving the constituencies from disfranchisement? Are they not concerned in the protection of Canada from the rule of the French Tories? Here are questions which have agitated Canada from one ocean to the other, which have excited the attention of the press and the public men of the United States, in which are involved principles of vital importance; and the chosen organ of Mr. Fraser tell the electors of York, men who have always taken, as their fathers did before them, a profound and intelligent interest in public affairs, that they are not concerned about them. This insult to the intelligence of the people is paralleled only by the melancholy spectacle of a candidate offering as the supporter of a Government whose principal acts he is utterly unable to defend.

In reply to the question about the $209,000 which Tupper gave Onderdonk, the *Farmer* says that Mr. Fraser will say that the Government saved a much greater sum by setting aside the lower tender? Will he? Then he will say what is not true, and which was conclusively shown in Parliament to be untrue; and, what is more, the electors of York are too well informed of what has transpired at Ottawa to believe him when he utter such an untruth. Mr. Fraser is going to justify the waste of $15,000,000 in land and money by the refusal of the Government to accept the offer of the Canadian company to build the C. P. Railway by showing that they were "a sham syndicate." We have only one member of that "sham syndicate" in the Province. His name is Alexander Gibson. He is one of the men whom Julius L. Inches and John James Fraser call "shams." His mills, we suppose, are all a sham; his vast lumber domain a sham; he sends fleets of sham vessels from St. John laden with sham deal, and employs thousands of sham men and buys millions of dollars' worth of sham produce to get out sham logs. He was the chief agent in building a sham railroad, some 200 miles long; he pives thousands of sham dollars away every year; and he has a sham credit of unlimited extent at any bank in the country. Alexander Gibson has credit enough in the money market of England to have taken the subsidy, for which he and others offered to build the railway, and without another name than his own in the undertaking, to have built the Canada Pacific Railroad; and he has business ability enough to have made money at it. To-day he does more, ten times as much, to maintain the cities of St. John and Fredericton and the river counties than all the protected industries in the Maritime Provinces combined do for the localities in which they are situated; yet Messrs. Inches and Fraser, who yesterday lived only in his shadow, to-day publish him to the world as a sham, and Mr. Fraser is to show him to be one.

The *Farmer*, in conclusion, asks a question of its own, as follows:—"Who is the most proper and fit person to represent the county, who is best able to hold his own and York's honor among the great men at Ottawa?" The answer is easily given. The man who is the best fitted to represent this county is the man who goes to Parliament to represent the county, and not in search of a judgeship for himself and patronage for the hungry clique around him. The man who is best able to hold York's honor is he who is the best able to sustain his own—the man who for fourteen years has stood manfully by his principles and so discharged his duty that not even his bitterest enemy can charge him with wilful wrong; not the man who, bribed by a promised office, deserts his old time friends, abandons the principles he has supported for a lifetime and surrenders his independence to the control of the Ottawa Tories.

IF we ever had any doubts of Mr. Elder's election in St. John, they would be removed by the course which the *Sun* is pursuing towards him. A more astonishing and absurd series of attacks were never made upon any public man

## THE OPPOSITION PLATFORM.

What does the platform of the Opposition in local politics signify? It signifies more money for the people who need it most and less spent in the useless trappings of imitation state ceremonial, and cumbrous legislative machinery. It signifies the reduction of the cost of public service by the striking off of whatever is merely useful, or not absolutely necessary, in order that the necessary services of the country may be efficiently maintained. Which is of the greater importance to the settler in remote sections, that the grants to maintain the road to his farm should be unimpaired, or that the Lieutenant Governor should buy his own fuel out of his salary of $9,000 a year? Which is the better for the country, that new settlements should be opened up or that a dozen and a half irresponsible legislators should kill time for seven weeks every year in the cosy retirement of the Legislative Council? Which is the wiser plan, to reduce expenditure on those things which affect the few or cut it down upon those services which are for the benefit of the many? For fifteen years the local government has gone on wasting money without limit. During that period, that is since Confederation, in the scandalous frauds which flourished in the Public Works Department, in the Immigration swindle, in the useless expenditure for the maintenance of a sort of mock imperialism which excites the ridicule of every person who is not getting money out of it, there have been wasted over a million dollars, or enough to have met all the subsidies which have been paid to railways since 1867. Instead of this the money has been absolutely thrown away, and a large permanent debt been placed upon the Province. With prudent management the finances of this Province might to-day be in a position to be compared favorably with those of Ontario. Instead of that the revenue is mortgaged to pay interest upon a debt and the efficiency of the public service is impaired. The local opposition appeal to the people to sustain an effort to reduce the extravagant cost of administering the Provincial Government, to take the money which is now thrown away in keeping fifth wheels on all the Government coaches and expending it for the benefit of the people in country districts, and to promote a pure administration of affairs.

There is another issue involved, which in point of importance transcends any other. It is, whether Sir John Macdonald is to rule New Brunswick by the aid of his solid phalanx of Quebec Tories. We have abundant proof that he is determined to do this, and that Messrs. Hanington, Tandry & Co. are his willing tools. In a score of ways they have betrayed the people already, and if, as we are glad to say is in no wise probable, they are given a new lease of power, then for five years New Brunswick will be ground down under the iron heel of Tory despotism, and be ruled by men who have no sympathy with her institutions, but regard her as a legitimate field for plunder. *If the people of New Brunswick wish to preserve the right of self-government, let them vote down the Tory faction which has its hands upon the throat of the Province.*

## THE NEWS FROM THE COUNTRY.

Our advices from the country continues to be most favorable. Mr. Pickard's friends are rallying to his support in a manner which will ensure his election by a noble majority. He has held many meetings, and has discussed the various public questions which are before the people with a great deal of ability, and what is better has carried conviction to the minds of many who were in doubt before. The more the record of the Tory Government is canvassed the more discreditable it appears, and their last game of forcing Mr. Fraser into the field is everywhere received with expressions of indignation. The people of York have been educated to take charge of their own representations, and they who think otherwise will learn, when the votes are counted, what a mistake they have made.

A gentleman who has just returned from the country districts, says that in local politics the indications all point to Mr. Blair leading the poll, with Mr. Thompson second, Mr. Colter third, and Mr. Wilson fourth. It is conceded on all sides, except the clique, that if another pronounced Opposition man were in the field his return would be as nearly certain as the result of any election can be before the votes are counted. There is a strong Opposition feeling all over the County, and we regret there is not an opportunity for it to make itself manifest by returning a full ticket.

GERRYMANDER.—Fearing our numerous readers may not understand the word "Gerrymander," which we now hear so often spoken, we give its definition from Webster's dictionary, the only dictionary, we believe, in which it is found:—"Gerrymander, to divide as a state into local districts for the choice of representatives, in a way which is *unnatural* and *unfair*, with a view to give a political party an advantage over its opponents." The italics are ours. Such has been done in Ontario. Read Mr. Tilley's speech at Restigouche the other day and see how near New Brunswick escaped in some of her Liberal localities.

## Our Catechism.

What Government pledged Canada to the construction of the Pacific Railway?

The Tory Government, which agreed to build the line in ten years in order to induce British Columbia to enter Confederation.

Did they make any effort to carry out this bargain?

Yes, they promised to give a contract to Sir Hugh Allen.

Did Sir Hugh pay them anything for this promise?

He gave the Tory leaders over $3,000,000 to buy votes with.

What was the result of this?

The crime against public morality having been detected the criminals were hurled from power.

What was the policy of the Liberals in the construction of this Railway?

To build it as rapidly as the circumstances of the country would permit.

About what will it cost in money to build those portions of the Pacific Railway to be built by the Company?

About $22,000,000.

How much cash does the Government give the Company?

$23,000,000.

Does it give anything else?

Yes! About $100,000,000 worth of land.

Does it give anything else?

Yes! A large number of miles of completed railway, which will cost about $30,000,000.

Does it give anything else?

Yes! Exemption from taxation.

Anything else?

Yes! A monopoly of railway construction for twenty years.

Anything else?

Yes! Exemption from duties on imports used in the construction of the road.

Then the Government gave the Company more than enough money to build the road, besides a vast land grant and valuable franchises?

Yes; and they have also at the bidding of the Company endeavored to control the Legislatures of the Provinces.

Was any other offer made the Government?

Yes; a Canadian Syndicate offered to build the road for less money, less land, and without any special privileges, exemptions or monopolies.

Why did the Government refuse to accept the lower offer?

I do not know; those who know why they stood by Sir Hugh Allen must judge for themselves.

Who imposed a duty on breadstuffs?

The Tories.

Who pay it?

The people of the Maritime Provinces.

How much do they pay?

Over one thousand dollars a day.

What was the rate of increase of expenditure during the Mackenzie regime?

$47,460 a year.

What has it been during the four years of Tory rule?

$1,124,210 a year.

Did New Brunswick pay more or less money into the Dominion Treasury last year than she received?

$650,000 more.

Where is the enormous sum spent?

In maintaining an extravagant sett of officials and in paying for the development of the West.

Does New Brunswick receive any benefit from the West?

Not a dollar; but on the other hand is injured by it?

What is the policy of the Liberals as to breadstuffs?

That they should come in duty free.

What is their policy as to fuel?

That it should be duty free.

What in respect to the clothing used by the poor?

That it shall be made as cheap as possible.

What is their policy as to farming and lumbering?

That these shall be fostered and encouraged instead of being taxed to the utmost as they are by the Tories.

## At His Old Game.

Sir Leonard Tilley went up to Queen's County the other day to tell the people that his namesake and the policy he advocates is what they are languishing for. We can imagine we hear the great N. P. (non-performance) knight talk to the electors of Chipman. His famous Keswick speech re-vamped would do admirably for the occasion, "Return Samuel Leonard Peters and the trains of the Central Railway will go thundering by your doors leaving a barrel of flour at this man's door and a barrel of meal at that." It was by such a string as this that the great Non-Performer beguiled the people of Keswick in 1865. But the people of Queen's know what his promises are worth, and they will show him on the twentieth that he has endeavored to play upon the credulity of the public once too often. Queen's is Liberal to the core and instead of endeavoring to convert it to toryism Sir Leonard had better set himself to work to justify his having thus pictured his native province as a bankrupt and a pauper province.

A FAMILY QUARREL.—Two highly respected representatives of the opposing Tory factions, grew so warm in a discussion of the respective merits of "the clique" and the party, on Queen street, Friday, that Sergeant Vandine had to interfere to prevent a resort to the manly art.

## WHY THEY SHOULD ELECT HIM?

Mr. Fraser endeavored to tell the people of Stanley why they should elect him. It was because York needed a man who could do battle for her rights upon the floors of Parliament, and for this duty, he, John James Fraser, was in his own opinion emphatically the man. Mr. Fraser seems to lose in the country that native bashfulness which his weekly organ says prevents him telling of his wonderful success when in town; just as he gains that confidence in his own abilities, which deserts him when he is confronted by his adversaries in the Assembly. Those who have heard him do battle for his own administration will agree with us that it was a most watery conflict which he waged. How grandly his lachrymose protestations of honesty would sound in Parliament. Mr. Pickard makes no claim to be an orator, but we are confident that the country people, who have heard them both, will pronounce him quite as fluent and quite as easily followed as the ex-Attorney General. But Mr. Fraser wants to go to Ottawa to do battle for our rights. He has been at Ottawa before, and then he was backed by the whole Local Legislature, and we know the sort of battle he did then. They were brave men, were Mr. Fraser and his colleague in the Assembly Room here. The chandeliers used to shake with their frantic eloquence; but when then they got to Ottawa all was changed. Mr. Wedderburn was told to run home and get ready for the new County Court, and "friend John" was told to "bide his time" until the sign came right for a Supreme Court judgeship. The Province was betrayed in the Penitentiary matter, was deceived in reference to the Eastern Extension claims, and yet Mr. Fraser was its champion then. What right has he to ask the people to believe he will do any better for them in a new capacity? York County has wanted a new bridge across the river St. John at Fredericton; but Mr. Fraser, though he had the power to get it, did not do so. The only point in which his friends will admit he is weak is in what they call "back bone;" and yet he wants to be again chosen as a champion. It is well known that he seeks retirement from public life; and a man who goes to Parliament looking out for an office for himself cannot have much time or inclination to fight the battles of his constituents, especially as thereby he is sure to come into antagonism with the powers that be.

## THE NEW ISSUE.

That "Whom the God's destroy they first make mad," has passed into a proverb, and its truth seems to be exemplified by the reckless manner in which the Tory clique have forced the issue at the ensuing local election. We can call the public to bear witness that those who favor the Local Opposition have in all they have said or done in this conflict, endeavored to stand upon a broad platform. Although they were confident that one hidden hand manipulated all the wires in obedience to Ottawa dictation, they contented themselves with combatting the principle involved in this domination of the central Government over the local affairs of the Province, and did not descend to discuss the personal aspect of the case. This, however, is now forced upon them. The dictator of the Tory party has had the hardihood to assert his presumptious claims to control the local executive, and this plain issue is presented to the people of this Province—Is Julius L. Inches to be your master? Here is a man, receiving a salary of some $400 a year to carry on the correspondence between the Board of Agriculture and the County Societies, who asserts in his paper that he will strike down the chief of the educational staff in the Province. And why? The reason given, although it is a false one, is that Mr. Crocket opposes, among other things, *the Maritime Farmer*. Can impudent presumption go any further? Can the intentions and determination of the clique be more fully disclosed? We call upon the people everywhere to assert their constitutional right to be governed only by the men whom they themselves select and to crush the power of the Tory dictator. The Tories themselves have forced this issue upon it. Let it be fairly met and firmly answered.

WHAT'S IN THE WIND?—"A boy's will is a wind's well," sang the sweet singer of Cambridge; but he did not have any reference to election times. Then the winds will sometimes run counter to the wishes of the boys. At any rate the boys who are so industriously getting out flags for Mr Fraser think so. First they put out two banners which the wind split badly, provoking the remark that we have already chronicled. "They are all the better emblem of your party." Then they hung another to the breeze with the legend thereon, "Young Men's Conservative Club, J J Fraser," and the wicked wind will persist in winding it up until it reads, "Conservative Club, J J Fraser." But the saddest sight of all was the new banner, with this superscription, "Vote for Fraser and protection to the Farmer (the *Maritime Farmer* we presume) and Home Manufactories." This the gentle zephyrs seized as soon as it was displayed, and lovingly wound up, just as Mr Fraser's party is going to be wound up on the twentieth, until all that was left to be seen by passers-by was the last two syllables of the last word, "tories," which dangled aloft directly in front of the Fraser Committee's head-quarters. What's in the wind? do you ask. Well, the truth sometimes, when the breezes takes it into their heads to play pranks with Tory banners.