

THE HERALD

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1895.

A New England paper speaks of "little Newfoundland." In reply the St. John Star says: "The island is more than two-thirds as large as all the New England states, and exceeds in area Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont put together. But with Newfoundland goes Labrador, with an area of 120,000 square miles. Newfoundland and Labrador together are equal in size to the six New England states, with New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey thrown in."

Taking into account the respective numerical strength of the Government and Opposition in the Local Legislature, 23 to 6, one would be disposed to think the Government would be willing to afford the Opposition every reasonable advantage in discussing the public affairs of the Province. Not so, however. In order to prevent Mr. Shaw from addressing the House, on the budget, during an evening session, all manner of unmanly tactics were resorted to. Finally when he did take the floor, about five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, the Government determined to have no night session, and adjourned the House till the following day. So as to exhaust him before the following evening the House met unusually early next day. Mr. Shaw had his inquiring, however, not to the delight of the Government. It may be taken for granted that tactics of this kind are not calculated to render less severe the criticism of the Opposition.

When the Boston people were sending money and supplies to Newfoundland the president of one of the business chambers took occasion to denounce the people of England and Canada for leaving their suffering fellow-countrymen to the tender mercies of the Boston charitable folk. Long before that time large contributions had been made both in England and Canada. Today a representative of the imperial government is in Newfoundland with a credit of \$100,000 to relieve distress. The British and Canadian gifts were forwarded quietly, promptly and with no attempt to make the suffering colony unpleasantly conscious of the favor done her. The Boston folk do not neglect the duty and privilege of giving alms. But they do not conceal from the right hand the proceedings of the left.—St. John Sun.

We have had frequent changes in the text-books prescribed for use in our common schools. Every change has been with the professed purpose of introducing better texts, but whether on account of the inability of those who prescribe or select the text-books, or on account of some other form of incapacity, the books now in use are inferior to those used many years ago. The first Series of School Readers we remember was that known as the "Irish National Readers," in a few years this was succeeded by another Series of Irish National Readers, then we had a Series known as the Nova Scotia Readers, which was followed by the Royal Readers, and now our boys and girls read in the enjoyment of Gage's Readers. This, if not the worst, is certainly not the best of the different Series mentioned. It may be said, however, that such changes have not occurred in our schools to other books used at different periods and we find that the same hankering for a change has existed and has manifested itself in introducing new text-books in Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic and History, in none of which branches can we say that the prescribed books are the best of their kind and the best suited to the conditions of our schools. So far as reading, grammar, arithmetic and geography are concerned, all who are obliged to use these books are treated alike. Whatever hardship or injury was inflicted by their use was common to all denominated as "pupils." It is not an easy matter to obtain books treating of arithmetic, grammar and geography containing false statements and offensive epithets. There is no difficulty however, in history, and our educational authorities have at all times been able to secure some history which seems to have commended itself to them on account of one or more of the such features. Collier's English History was in great favor for many years, and it is said, still finds a place in some schools. The frequent use of the terms "papists" and "popery" must have enlivened the study of history and made it interesting, for many could repeat whole pages by rote. Even yet, regret is expressed by some that it is not still in use, but this may not be on account of its offensiveness and unfairness. A different work on history is now used, Smith's History, a miserable production in every respect and re-

lects little credit on the person or persons who recommended its use in our schools. The speakership of the British House of Commons is a most onerous and dignified office, which has attached to it the most honorable traditions. It is not the custom there, as with us, to elect a new Speaker whenever there is a change of Government, or, as in the Dominion House of Commons, with each new Parliament. The same Speaker usually holds office for a long term of years, whatever changes may take place in the position of the respective parties. Thus it not infrequently happens that a Speaker, serving under successive ministries, is liable to occupy the Chair longer under the administration of the party opposed to those who elected him than under his political friends. The Hon. Arthur Wellesley Peel, who resigned office as Speaker last year, was appointed Speaker by the Liberals eleven years ago, when Gladstone was in power. He has served continuously since then, under Gladstone, Salisbury and Rosebery. William Court Gully was proposed as his successor, by the Liberals, and Sir Matthew White Ridley was nominated by the Conservatives. A vote being taken, Gully was elected by 285 to 274 for Ridley.

Provincial Legislature. MONDAY, April 8. House met at 4.30. In answer to Mr. H. C. McDonald, the commissioner of Public Works said the matter of rebuilding Vernon River Bridge, would be investigated during recess, and a survey held with a view to making the bridge as permanent as possible. In answer to Mr. Blanchard, the commissioner of Public Works said the information as considered in the public interest regarding road of wharves and particulars in that connection, would be submitted as soon as possible. In answer to Mr. Arthur Peters the commissioner of Public Works said that petitions had been received from the owners of the Curtis Road to Luton Road, and for a road from the head of Hillsborough to Douglas Settlement Road, Lot 25; that they were under the consideration of the Government and would be submitted to the House. The bill to incorporate the Presbyterian Church at Stanley Bridge was on motion of Mr. Warburton, read a third time and passed. Hon. Mr. Peters moved the House into committee on the bill to amend the practice in the County Courts. In reply to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, he said the main object of the bill was to reach those foreigners who incur debts here and begin to pay them. It dealt especially with the Commercial Travellers' Tax. Last year a millionaire match maker came here and began selling his matches and refused to pay his tax when summoned on the ground that his right name was not in the summons. The bill before the House provides that so long as a man is designated by a name under which he is known he may be sued under that name. The first man to be sued under that bill will be the millionaire referred to in the case. The bill is a measure of justice and will be passed. Hon. Mr. Peters moved the House into committee on the bill to amend the practice in the County Courts. In reply to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, he said the main object of the bill was to reach those foreigners who incur debts here and begin to pay them. It dealt especially with the Commercial Travellers' Tax. Last year a millionaire match maker came here and began selling his matches and refused to pay his tax when summoned on the ground that his right name was not in the summons. The bill before the House provides that so long as a man is designated by a name under which he is known he may be sued under that name. The first man to be sued under that bill will be the millionaire referred to in the case. The bill is a measure of justice and will be passed.

light and no serious accident occurred. But the Government deemed it advisable to make a change and they had been warned by the experience of the Opposition. They had every reason to believe that the cost of this oil, and whether it was not by impurity or was really better, they had every reason to believe that the oil was purchased from the hon. member for the River, and that it was the wine gallon that was used. But the information in this case was not forthcoming. If it was right and fair, why should they hesitate about amending it? The Opposition have the public accounts, however, and with these they can compare the Government's in the eyes of the people. They claim that when they came in they found the public works in a deplorable condition, and judging by their talk one would think there had been raised up to snatch the country from destruction. Moses as a deliverer from the Red Sea, and the Government as a deliverer from destruction, they said the public works were starved by the late Government, and that when they came in they provided for them lavishly. They went to the country shouting that they would fix the roads and bridges. A glance at the public works will show how they kept their promise. They also declared that the late Government were extravagant, and if they were returned to power they would be more economical of the public money. How have they kept their promise? The yearly average expenditure for the public works from 1892 to 1894 inclusive was \$207,787.70. The excess in the average annual expenditure from 1892 to 1894 inclusive was \$23,545.28, or 11.33 per cent. The average expenditure for the public works from 1892 to 1894 inclusive was \$207,787.70. The excess in the average annual expenditure from 1892 to 1894 inclusive was \$23,545.28, or 11.33 per cent. The average expenditure for the public works from 1892 to 1894 inclusive was \$207,787.70. The excess in the average annual expenditure from 1892 to 1894 inclusive was \$23,545.28, or 11.33 per cent.

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