

CHIGNECTO POST AND BORDERER.

SACKVILLE, N. B., APRIL 24, 1884.

—Dominion Parliament prorogued Saturday.

—A despatch from Winnipeg last week contained a sensational account of a supposed Indian uprising at Battleford, and was the cause of considerable anxiety. Later advices show that the report was without foundation.

—The Provincial Parliament of Nova Scotia was prorogued last Saturday, after a session of over nine weeks. The most important act of the session was the railway surrender bill, and the validity of that measure is now called in question.

—Terrible stories of want and suffering come from South Carolina. The people are undergoing unparalleled privations, and many are reduced to utter destitution and misery. This dreadful condition of affairs has been caused by the disastrous drought of last year which destroyed all the crops in the State and has left many persons actually in want of bread.

—The alleged inefficiency of the Halifax pilotage system is producing considerable comment in the American and Provincial press. It is asserted without contradiction that pilots are rarely to be found at the mouth of the harbor when needed, and that the boats used by the Halifax pilots are utterly unfit for the service in rough weather. Competent authorities have no hesitation in saying that the loss of the "Daniel Stain" would probably have been prevented if Halifax had been provided with an efficient system of pilotage.

—A work on Canadian Constitutional Law, from the pen of J. T. Travis, Esq., St. John, is shortly to be published. It is described by those who have had an opportunity of seeing the manuscript as a most masterly argument from beginning to end. It consists of two parts, in the first of which the author sets forth the principal changes made in the list from last year. There were some other small changes. The price on the walking horse was also left out. The date of holding the exhibition was left to the Executive Committee. Rules and regulations to be the same as last year. W. F. George, A. C. Carter, and J. T. Carter, were appointed a committee to take into consideration an offer to purchase a part of said Society's grounds. Said committee after examining grounds and hearing offer shall report at a public meeting of the Society to be held early in June, if the committee consider the offer worthy their consideration. W. W. Fawcett and Timothy Hicks were appointed on committee to collect the unpaid subscriptions to the fund for paying off the debt on the Society. The Treasurer and Secretary were appointed a committee to remonstrate with the member of the Board of Agriculture for this district against the deduction of seventy-five dollars from the usual grant of the Society. The Secretary brought before the meeting that part of Mr. Ingham's report referring to the "Evils of Annual Shows," and stated that in all probability the question of whether annual exhibitions should be held or not would be decided by the vote of the living issue. The attendance was large considering the roads and the weather. Nothing was said in reference to Westmorland making an effort to enter for the Cumberland Exhibition. Mr. Black's letter to the Society bearing on that question did not come to hand until after the meeting adjourned.

—The Greely Relief Expedition will sail from New York this week. The search squadron consists of three vessels—the steamers "Bear" and "Thetis" and the supply ship "Alert," presented to the United States by the British Government. The "Bear" is a St. John's vessel, and has been refitted at a cost of about \$30,000. The "Thetis" was a whaler, and was bought at Dundee, Scotland. She was built especially for the ice regions. The expedition will consist of the "Alert," the "Thetis," and the "Bear," and will be commanded by Lieut. Greely, with his assistants Kingsbury and Lockwood, five officers of the signal corps and fifteen other men, was sent to Lady Franklin's bay to take charge of one of the eleven Polar stations which the different governments had agreed to maintain. Nothing has been heard from them since they reached their destination—the expedition sent to their relief last year in the Proteus proving an utter failure.

—There was recently an interesting debate in the English House of Commons on a resolution proposing to exclude the Bishops from the House of Lords on the ground that their presence was prejudicial to both church and state. Twenty-five Bishops, about three-fourths of the entire Episcopate of the Established Church, occupy seats among the Peers, dating their position from the time when the highest of ecclesiastics, including Bishops, mitred abbots, and even at times abbesses, were summoned to Parliament as holding from the king important estates and being, therefore, part and parcel of the feudal territorial nobility. Politically, therefore, in early days the Lords spiritual and Lords temporal stood upon the same footing, and the introduction and learning of the former rendered their presence in Parliament a great gain to the cause of good government. The supporters of the resolution alluded to above maintained that their existence at present among the Peers was an anomaly inasmuch as they were no longer in any true sense of the expression territorial nobles. Not only so, but it was shown that they could not be said to hold their seats in virtue of being bishops, since there were bishops who had no seat in the Lords, nor yet as representing any class in the country, because the House of Lords was not a representative body. Then it was very reasonably argued that their episcopal functions proper were numerous and pressing enough to absorb all the time of the Bishops and that, by being confined to these and at the same time removed from the turmoil of politics, the church would be materially the gainer. The State not all the lower. The resolution was lost by a majority of 11 in a House numbering 285. Its passing, however, would not have been of the slightest consequence save as showing the opinion of the Lower House on the question. The twenty-five Lords spiritual are part and parcel of the English Constitution and will continue to sit with their temporal brethren until some revolution shall send them both forth from their seats.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

APRIL 15.—In the Commons the resolution respecting the re-adjustment of the Provincial Subsidies was passed. The resolutions authorizing the new loans and grant of land to the Hudson Bay Railway were also adopted. The License Act amendment bill passed through committee. Several other bills passed through various stages and the House went into committee of Supply and passed the remainder of the supplementary estimates.

APRIL 16.—The bill to amend the Public Works Act and the bill respecting the Marine and Fisheries were passed. The Franchise Bill and the Coal Measurement bill were withdrawn. The bill to amend the Temperance Act and other bills were passed through committee. Further Supplementary Estimates were passed.

APRIL 17.—The License amendment bill passed with some amendments. Several bills were passed through committee and the Insurance bill was dropped.

APRIL 18.—The House concurred in certain amendments made in the bill to amend the License Act. The Speaker announced that His Excellency would prorogue the House on Saturday afternoon.

On Saturday the House was prorogued in due form. The speech of the Governor General, alluding to the C. P. R. Loan, the adjustment of the difficulties between the Dominion and British Columbia, the railway subsidies, the measure for the benefit of the Indians and several other matters.

S. & W. Agricultural Societies.

The annual April meeting of the S. & W. Agricultural Society was held on Monday, 21st ult., in the public hall, Point de Bute. The president, J. Amos Trueman, occupying the chair. The first business brought before the meeting was the prize list for the fall show, as amended by the committee, which passed the meeting, excepting that part of class 13 which refers to swine. After some considerable discussion the prizes on porkers were struck off the list altogether. This, with the adding of the prize for the best pig, were the principal changes made in the list from last year. There were some other small changes. The prize on the walking horse was also left out. The date of holding the exhibition was left to the Executive Committee. Rules and regulations to be the same as last year. W. F. George, A. C. Carter, and J. T. Carter, were appointed a committee to take into consideration an offer to purchase a part of said Society's grounds. Said committee after examining grounds and hearing offer shall report at a public meeting of the Society to be held early in June, if the committee consider the offer worthy their consideration. W. W. Fawcett and Timothy Hicks were appointed on committee to collect the unpaid subscriptions to the fund for paying off the debt on the Society. The Treasurer and Secretary were appointed a committee to remonstrate with the member of the Board of Agriculture for this district against the deduction of seventy-five dollars from the usual grant of the Society. The Secretary brought before the meeting that part of Mr. Ingham's report referring to the "Evils of Annual Shows," and stated that in all probability the question of whether annual exhibitions should be held or not would be decided by the vote of the living issue. The attendance was large considering the roads and the weather. Nothing was said in reference to Westmorland making an effort to enter for the Cumberland Exhibition. Mr. Black's letter to the Society bearing on that question did not come to hand until after the meeting adjourned.

The Floods.

The floods of Tuesday covered more territory and rose to a greater height than has probably ever been witnessed since the settlement of the country. The cause of this unusual freshet is not difficult to find: the Adirondacks and Ohio regions have lately suffered from precisely the same causes, viz: forest denudation. The continuous encroachments on forests by settlements, as well as by extensive timber cutting, and the consequent changes in our climatic conditions. The slow melting of snow, when protected by a forest covering, operates to retard spring freshets, while the evaporation from the surface is much less than in the open country. The Lakeville water shed contains at least 40 square miles. The vent for the water for this large surface is confined to the narrow compass of 40 square feet. With so inadequate means for the discharge of the water, no other results need be expected than floods and consequent damage.

Meeting of License Commissioners.

The adjourned meeting of the Board of License Commissioners for the district of Westmorland met at Moncton last Saturday, all the members of the Board being present. Under the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act druggists' licenses were granted to E. M. Estey and E. Olive, of Moncton, W. B. Deacon, of Shediac, and Amasa Dixon, of Sackville. The license inspectors have been given notice to attend the performance of their duties and will begin their work on the first of May. The salary of the chief inspector was fixed at \$500, and the sum of \$1,250 was appropriated for the payment of the sub-inspectors, in proportion to the amount of work performed by them.

—The Duke of Rothesay, whose death was recently announced, was the second largest landowner in the United Kingdom and received the largest rental for farm lands. He owned 460,000 acres, the annual rental of which was £231,000, or \$1,150,000. He owned real estate in thirteen counties.

Great Men in Council.

A dark, rainy night and the wretched condition of the roads undoubtedly prevented many from going to hear Hon. Mr. Davies' lecture on the above subject, but considering the circumstances, there was a good audience. The chair was occupied by Christopher Miller, Esq., who introduced the lecturer in a few well-chosen remarks. Mr. Davies began his address with an eulogium on representative institutions which, he said, may justly be termed the cradle of British liberties, and which are the pride and glory of the Briton who transplants them in his adopted home, no matter in what quarter of the globe that home may be. When a Canadian first visits the great modern Babylon, London, among the thousands and tens of thousands who engage his attention he very soon turns to pay his devotion to the shrine of St. Stephen. Mr. Davies had been singularly fortunate in his visits to the British House of Commons, for he had not only been there on several occasions, but he had been present during more than one of the great debates which had made that body so famous. He gave a graphic description of the Commons Chamber—a room rich, massive and sombre, sixty-nine feet long, forty-five feet wide, and forty-four feet high, with windows of stained glass, walls of carved oak and ceiling covered with ornamentation. He gave a detailed account of the arrangement of the Speaker's Chair, the tables, desks and benches, and explained the expression, "Gentlemen below the gangway," which, he said, often puzzled readers of parliamentary debates. It refers to those who sit below a narrow aisle or gangway which crosses the Chamber at right angles with the broad aisle, and divides the long line of benches into two parts. This part of the House on the Liberal side is usually occupied by the advanced Liberals and the Irish members, and on the Tory side, by well-fed fox-hunting squire, and the staunch established church and state men.

Mr. Davies described in a masterly manner the first debate he ever heard in the Commons. This was in 1866 when the House was in committee on an amendment to a clause in the Reform Bill, if carried, would be accepted by the Government as a decisive defeat. Gladstone, Disraeli, Lowe, Roebuck, Lord Cranborne (now Marquis of Salisbury), Bright, Herbert and other who took part in the debate were sketched in glowing colors. It was in this debate that Bright made the famous expression about Horne and Lowe "retiring into the political cave of Adullam," and compared the "party of two" to the Scotch terrier "which was cooped up with hair that you could not tell which was the head and which was the tail of it." The lecturer drew a vivid picture of the scene which followed the close of the debate when the Government were sustained by a majority of twenty-five. "A loud ringing cheer greeted the announcement, and the scene that followed baffled description. A lot of wild school boys lost loose for their holidays could not have acted more wildly. Cheers were succeeded by shouts only describable as the worst of yell—members throwing their hats in the air to vent to their feelings. The Liberals were disappointed and crestfallen, and the evident chagrin of their leader was in strange contrast to the unhidden joy with which his great opponent received the congratulations of his party." Mr. Davies gave an eloquent and succinct resume of the history of Disraeli's elevation to the premiership in 1868, his administration on which lasted only thirteen months. Mr. Gladstone's term of power which followed from 1869 to 1874, and the introduction of the great reform measures which won for that period the title of the golden age of Liberalism. The descent of the great debate on the disestablishment and disendowment of the Established Church of Ireland was very fine and displayed the oratorical ability of the lecturer to good advantage. He gave a graphic description of the debate on the Irish Land Bill, which he had the pleasure of listening in 1882, and quoted with fine effect the crushing reply of Gladstone to the charge of cruelty brought against the Government by Healey in connection with the imprisonment of the Irish suspects. The lecturer ended with a paenegyric of Gladstone, of whom Mr. Davies is evidently an ardent admirer. This fact was apparent through the whole lecture, and at times it seemed to us that the judgment of the lecturer was slightly biased by his partiality for "the People's William" and his lieutenants. The lecture abounded in quotations from the gens of British parliamentary oratory, and, although of considerable length, the interest never flagged for a moment. The mere publication of the names of all the great men mentioned would occupy nearly all the space at our disposal, so that anylike a comprehensive review is out of the question, it is sufficient to say that the lecture was really a rare literary treat, and will not soon be forgotten by those who were present.

Bills for N. B. & P. E. Ry.

Mr. Wood has stated to a reporter of the Post, that rails for the above line have been purchased and will be shipped to the terminus in the month of May. The intention of the Company is to lay the rails to the Cape at the earliest practicable moment, in order to have construction trains at work as early as a day as possible.

—A despatch from Cairo, dated April 20, says:—A large number of refugees, owing to the shortage of provisions, left Sherby a few days ago in a steamer for Berber. The steamer ran aground on a shoal near El Bahak, and was soon surrounded by swarms of robbers, who attacked the steamer on all sides and murdered everybody on board, numbering 450, and including a portion of the Sherby garrison and many women and children.

RAINS AND FRESHETS.

Marshes Flooded.—Mill Dams swept away.—Oulvert at Westcott carried away.—Palmer's Pond Embankment broken.—I. C. R. Traffic blocked.

The heavy rains of Monday night and Tuesday produced a freshet in this locality that beats the record. On Tuesday about noon, the swollen brooks had filled up the upper mill pond of Geo. N. Bulmer & Sons, and the pressure of water broke the stone dam recently erected and the water rushed down and swept also the saw mill dam of the same firm. The flood rushed on and not finding an escape by the I. C. R. culvert to Mill Creek, broke through the embankment soon after the St. John train passed over, and before the Halifax train arrived. The rush of water was too great to repair it at once, and before morning the culvert, a massive stone arch structure (15 ft.) was swept out, leaving an open space of 70 ft. About the same time the Palmer Pond embankment at Berchester gave way under the weight of the water, which, however, was soon lowered sufficiently for the railway men to work, and Wednesday at noon, temporary repairs were completed. Yesterday a working train was at work placing timbers over the broken embankment, and a load of immigrants arrived at Amherst on Tuesday, p. m., and had to wait there the repairs. The Halifax train, passengers and hands stopped at Sackville until yesterday afternoon when the trains met at Westcott and a transfer of passengers took place.

Besides Geo. N. Bulmer & Sons' dam, G. W. Milton's dam and saw mill on the Lower Fairfield Road were swept away. The Calhoun mill dam at Beech Hill gave way, and the bridge at the dam of Montee's mill, and that pressed out some 400 feet of the embankment of the N. B. & P. E. Ry.

The road bridges and culverts in many places were destroyed. The house near, Lorne St., and the staunch established church and state men. Calhoun's dam, Memramook, was carried out. A breach was made in the I. C. R. embankment at Meadow Brook, which required temporary repairs.

At the wharves, the tide brought up an immense amount of drift material, logs, boards, shingles, slabs, debris and even squared timber. The Basin contained a large quantity of drift wood, as well as to give color to the presumption that the dams on Rivers Hebert and Maccan have been carried over by the floods. The full damage, it is impossible to estimate at the time of going to press.

The Popular Science Monthly

For May publishes in full Dr. Giffen's valuable address on "The Progress of the Working Classes" in which he compares the condition of these classes in England fifty years ago with their condition to-day. He shows that in this period wages have largely increased while there has been at the same time a very material decrease in the price of the principal articles of food, and by the manner in which the progress of the working classes in which he compares the condition of these classes in England fifty years ago with their condition to-day. He shows that in this period wages have largely increased while there has been at the same time a very material decrease in the price of the principal articles of food, and by the manner in which the progress of the working classes in which he compares the condition of these classes in England fifty years ago with their condition to-day. 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