

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1887.

The Education Bill.

The Bill to amend the Education Act, which had, for some time, been under discussion in the House of Assembly, passed yesterday afternoon on the following division:—

For—Hon. Messrs. Sullivan, Ferguson, McLennan, Amentall, Bentley, Laforgue, Prowse, McDonald, Gordon; Messrs. Blake, Gillis, John McLean, Kelly, Underley, H. L. McDonald, Shaw, and A. McLeod—17.

Against—Messrs. Sinclair, Matheson, Forbes Martin, Farquharson, J. R. McLean, Ball and Wise—8.

It is proper to remark that Messrs. Yeo, Richards and Sutherland were not in their places when the vote was taken, the reason for their absence at that particular moment it is not of course open to us to divine.

As we pointed out before, and as everybody knows, Education is costing too much in this Province at the present time. During the year 1886 the amount paid out of the Provincial Treasury for educational purposes was nearly \$112,000. This is a much higher rate per capita than is paid in any other country.

Besides, the annual expenditure, according to the present state of things, will go on increasing. This being the case, it was but natural that the Government should be desirous of reducing somewhat this enormous annual expenditure without impairing in any way the efficiency of the Education Act.

With this object in view they introduced the Bill in question. The conduct of the Opposition during the discussion was most inconsistent.

When the resolution, upon which the Bill was founded, was introduced, a number of them expressed themselves as well satisfied with it; yet, when a division was taken on this same resolution, they all voted against it.

Some spoke strongly in favor of abolishing the supplementary clause; but when the Government wished to make some advances in that direction all voted in favor of its retention.

They said one thing in committee and voted directly contrary when the Speaker took the chair. They could not agree among themselves as to what clauses of the bill, in their judgment, should be retained; yet, when a division was taken, they were a unit in voting against the Government.

Thus, it will not be difficult to perceive that the conduct of the Opposition regarding this important measure was not actuated by anything else than a desire to thwart the efforts of the Government to inaugurate such improvements in our educational system as should meet with the approval of all reasonable and right-thinking men.

Nothing could expose their inconsistency more fully than their actions in this matter. They felt satisfied that the object aimed at by the bill was calculated to greatly benefit the country; but in order to oppose the Government, they allowed their partisanship to overcome their better judgment.

The amendments proposed are principally of the following:—The doing away with bonuses to teachers; the abolition of scholarships in connection with the Prince of Wales College and Normal School; the payment of teachers according to the salaries taught by them, and not according to the license which they may hold. It is further proposed that the salaries of assistant teachers in ungraded schools be regulated by the Board of Education, but in no case to exceed the amount allowed by law.

Another amendment is that the Board of Education be empowered to fix the standard and maximum of first and second class schools. It is also proposed to amend the law to the effect that candidates for licenses as teachers be not entitled to attend the Prince of Wales College and Normal School for a longer period than five months, free of charge. Finally, that an additional Inspector of Schools be appointed at an annual salary of eight hundred dollars.

The Subway Bill. The Subway Bill which, last week, passed the House of Assembly by a large majority of votes, was one of the most important measures which our legislators have, for some time, been called upon to consider. It was important because it involved the convenience of the inhabitants of a large and wealthy section of this Province; it was important as a means of solving a difficulty which has, for some time, engaged the attention of thinking minds, and of our communication with the mainland of the Dominion. It was also important from an economic point of view, inasmuch as the present system of crossing the Hillsborough, which at certain seasons of the year is imperative, costs more money annually than the proposed, vastly improved plan would cost.

In view of all these facts, it is natural to expect that the majority in the Legislative Council, who never lose an opportunity of putting themselves forward as the representatives of the Province, would be desirous to pass this bill.

This measure, however, has not been passed. The reason for this is, that the Council, who are now in session, are not in favor of it. They are in favor of the bill, but they are not in favor of the amendments proposed by the Government.

It is thought that Prince Bismarck's attitude towards Alaska is the beginning of a movement which may finally end in a fresh conquest of France. The German Chancellor has increased his army to 400,000 men, and nearly all these recruits are now on the

frontier and should the word be given 100,000 men will be in readiness. On the other hand, it is said that Franco's army, as was the case in 1870, is only on paper for the most part. Whatever his intentions may be it is well known that the German army has been increased.

During the past winter the scourge of cholera played sad havoc with the people of several portions of the Argentine Republic. The disease was introduced into the country by a vessel which arrived at Buenos Ayres in November last, on board of which cholera had broken out. The Ambassador of the Republic to Italy happened to be a passenger. The anxiety of the Ambassador and his Suite to land overcame the captain's better judgment, and the consequence has been that the people of that city and other portions of the Republic have undergone a dreadful scourge.

The Legislature of Wisconsin recently decided that one of the statutes which that State is entitled to in the decorations of the capitol at Washington should be devoted to the commemoration of the great work of the Rev. Pere Marquette, missionary and discoverer. He it was who discovered the fertile valley of the Mississippi River, and many places which are to-day among the most flourishing districts of the United States. Thus it will be seen that the work and labors of some renowned Canadians were not by any means confined to the country which is now within the boundaries of the Dominion.

A scheme has been submitted to the Montreal City Council for the construction of elevated railways in that city. There seems to be a considerable divergence of opinion among the citizens as to the wisdom of entering, at the present time, into a plan of this nature.

There is no doubt this would be a very expensive undertaking, and the revenues derived from it would, for a very long time, be totally inadequate to meet the expenditure. The city of Montreal is very different from New York, where a system of this kind is in operation. Not only is its population much less than that of New York, but the majority of the business men in the city reside near their places of business, thus necessitating a quick mode of transit from one point to another at a considerable distance. It is not likely that the scheme will be adopted.

The scheme which was enacted in the Quebec Legislature on the night of the 18th inst., was to say the least, not a very dignified one. The anti-union resolutions were under consideration, and a certain member, whose views were not exactly the same as those of the mover of the resolutions before the house, rose to address the Speaker. During the course of his remarks he was interrupted by the occupants of the galleries; so much so that he was obliged to cease speaking. The Speaker seems not to have discharged his duty on the occasion, with sufficient firmness. He simply called "order" in a feeble voice.

To make matters worse, one of Mr. Mercier's cabinet ministers, on rising to speak addressed himself, not to the Speaker, but to the gallery. Such scenes as this are not calculated to favorably impress the public mind regarding those who take part in them or permit them.

Rev. A. J. McIntyre. HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP, last week, appointed Rev. A. J. McIntyre to the pastorate of Tracadie, Curran and Covehead, in the place of Rev. Thomas Phelan, who has been compelled by age and infirmities, to retire from the active duties of the ministry.

Father McIntyre has been in Charlottetown ever since he came from Rome, nearly four years ago, and for the past three years has been superior at the Cathedral. During all this time, although not in robust health, he had been most unparalyzing of himself in the works of the ministry, and had endeavored himself to do the best he could for the people of this Province.

It was but natural, then, that the parishioners of St. Dunstons should anticipate, with regret, his departure from their midst.

On Sunday last he preached in the Cathedral, and, at the close of his sermon, addressed a few parting words to the congregation; he thanked them for the many acts of kindness he had experienced at their hands, and recommended himself to their prayers.

On Monday evening a number of the young men of the congregation waited on him in the drawing room of the Palace and presented him with the following address, accompanied by a purse containing \$135 in gold:

To the Reverend A. J. McIntyre: We have learned, with regret, that you are about to depart from our midst. We are therefore, in the name of the people of this Parish, presenting you with this token of our affection and respect. We are sure that you will carry with you the best wishes of all who have known you, and that you will continue to be a blessing to the people of this Province.

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Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN thought the honorarium which had been made over to him for the construction of the subway was the only means of satisfaction for the laborers who had been engaged in the work.

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