

THE EVENING GAZETTE, SAINT JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1899.

THE EVENING GAZETTE

The Evening Gazette is published every evening (Sunday excepted) at No. 10, Cornhill Street, Saint John, N. B. JOHN A. BOWEN, Editor and Publisher.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL'S EXPLANATION

If any reader of the GAZETTE desires an explanation of the remarkable fact that a single article published in this paper, should so utterly demoralize the opponents to the St. John and Portland emergency bill that they should, one and all, hasten to declare themselves its supporters, they will find a complete one in the consideration that every word of that article, so far as it related to what and content in St. John, was not only correct in fact, but also in its own right, a masterpiece of logic and reasoning. We might indeed have gone much further and disclosed the influences which were used to affect the Provincial Secretary and Mr. Quinlan but as these gentlemen had not finally yielded to these influences, such a course was not deemed necessary. The Solicitor General on the contrary did yield to the pressure which was brought to bear upon him, and he alone of all the St. John members was found adhering to the measure of the bill of the House which requires publication of a private bill. But for this objection, the bill might have been passed on Tuesday, and it was absolutely necessary that it should be passed on Wednesday, Saturday, when nominations had to be filed, Mr. Ritchie's opposition, if persisted in, might have defeated it, and postponed the consummation of the union of St. John and Portland for another year. That this was the little game of the opponents of union is now as clear as day, but the whole scheme was unworkable by the Gazette, the plot was entirely exposed and the conspirators, who had been secretly working the wires, hastened to hide themselves and their accomplices, from which they will emerge, looking as innocent as doves, and declaring that they always were the friends of union.

We publish today the explanation which Mr. Ritchie deemed necessary to make while the emergency bill was being passed yesterday, and we think that when he comes to consider what he has said, the Solicitor General in his cooler moments will come to the conclusion that it would have been better for him to have remained silent. For a law officer of the crown Mr. Ritchie permits himself much too easily to fall into the evil habit of calling names. His speech would have been altogether better and more to the purpose if he had stated explicitly why he opposed the suspension of the rule with regard to the bill on Tuesday, and had abstained from the use of such epithets as "narrow minded bigot" and others of a similar character. There was no bigotry involved in the attack on Mr. Ritchie. The same hand that penned the article of which he complains, deposited a ballot for him at his first election, and although it has written many articles for the press never wrote one in which voters were asked to vote against the Solicitor General or any other man because he was a Roman Catholic. But when a canvass is made through a large city ward for a man who is a candidate for Alderman, the Roman Catholic and when it is arranged that every Roman Catholic voter in the ward is to plump the Roman Catholic candidate; when the candidature of this young man is made the moving cause which impelled Mr. Ritchie to impede and obstruct union, then it is time for those who are not Roman Catholics to be on the alert; then it is time for a fearless and independent newspaper like the Evening Gazette to "take your tea, O Israel"; then it is time to watch the election of St. John that their wiles are likely to be defeated by a petty intrigue originating in bigotry, and carried on for objects not respectable that they are unworthy to be named.

Mr. Ritchie says he is not opposed to union and that he is not opposed to the emergency bill. If so, he has a singular way of showing his sentiments. He seems to have impressed Dr. Alward, Dr. Stockton, and several other gentlemen, with the idea that he was opposed to the bill. And if he was friendly to the bill, why should he have taken such unusual offense at the visit of Messrs. McMillan, Robertson and Thorpe to Fredericton, or why should he now speak of them in such terms of contempt as a "self-constituted committee," and as of no more account than "any other three respectable men from Saint John." The three gentlemen thus spoken of in such light terms by the Solicitor General, were by no means self-constituted committees. They are among the leading business men of St. John, members of the Council of the Board of Trade, and they represent the business men of this city. It was certainly a very public spirited act on their part to drop their own avocations and go to Fredericton to look after the public interests, and we can assure the public that their arrival in Fredericton had a most important influence on the union question. It convinced the Attorney General on whom everything depended, the people of St. John, were in earnest, and it wholly neutralized the effect of about two bushels of letters which Messrs. McMillan and Quinlan had received from people who had private reasons of their own for wishing to see union retarded or defeated. Another public spirited citizen Mr. James Manchester, had intended to accompany the three others to Fredericton, so that the delegation would have stood two Liberals and two Conservatives, but at the last moment, Mr. Manchester found that his private business would not permit him to go. Mr. Howard D. Troop was also to have been a member of the committee, but private business also interfered in his case, and at the last moment, Mr. George Robertson was requested to

go in his place. We do not think that the Solicitor General can afford to deal in low sneers at such gentlemen as Messrs. Manchester, McMillan, Troop, Thorpe and Robertson. The fact that one of these gentlemen owns a newspaper, would not strike the ordinary reader as a reason why their representations should not be listened to, although the Solicitor General apparently thinks otherwise. In this, as in other ways connected with this business, Mr. Ritchie seems to have put himself very decidedly in the wrong. The time has not yet come when wealth, respectability and ability have to bow to ignorance and bigotry, although the Solicitor General apparently looks for such a day.

UNION IS ASSURED

The emergency bill postponing the civic elections in St. John and Portland, having been passed in the House yesterday and assented to by the Lieutenant Governor, the union of St. John and Portland is now a fact. The Common Council, whose knowledge of matters connected with the charter and the acts in amendment of it is greater than that of any man living, is making good progress with the work of drafting the union bill, and the prospects are that it will be ready for the Legislature early next week. At the time the franchise bill and the other government measures have been disposed of, should the bill be introduced by the 21st of April it should, unless very defective indeed, have passed both Houses of the Legislature. The emergency bill might be brought on at a very early day, possibly by the 15th of April, which would be a convenient time for all parties. It is the opinion of the Gazette that the sooner the elections are held the better and, in this view of the case, the public generally concur. The extreme desire the Gazette has expressed for union, and immediate union, has been prompted by a wish to advance the interests of St. John and to see this city recently. The feeling in both cities is that the work of union should be completed in the shortest time possible, so as to avoid the possibility of a change of opinion of the sober, steady and thinking portion of the public of both cities. The fact that they have been together in the same room, and that the government should press forward the work of completing the union with no unnecessary delay. The fact that the union was in an unsettled state interfered with business and with the plans of politicians, and every hand here was a feeling that the work of union should be completed in the shortest time possible. Hon. Mr. Ritchie said the bill was intended to obviate the necessity of holding two elections in St. John and Portland in reference to the matter, having been both cities in the same room, and that the union was in an unsettled state interfered with business and with the plans of politicians, and every hand here was a feeling that the work of union should be completed in the shortest time possible. Hon. Mr. Ritchie said the bill was intended to obviate the necessity of holding two elections in St. John and Portland in reference to the matter, having been both cities in the same room, and that the union was in an unsettled state interfered with business and with the plans of politicians, and every hand here was a feeling that the work of union should be completed in the shortest time possible.

NOTE AND COMMENT

A prominent Roman Catholic, who is a very active supporter of Mr. Ritchie at elections, was about Chubb's corner yesterday and made himself very active in the attempt to misrepresent his position on the question. He was in reference to this bill were and are active in the attempt to misrepresent his position on the question. He was in reference to this bill were and are active in the attempt to misrepresent his position on the question. He was in reference to this bill were and are active in the attempt to misrepresent his position on the question.

Colonel O'Brien's resolutions in regard to the Jeanes Estates bill were passed last night in the House of Commons by a vote of 18 to 13. This result is in accordance with the resolutions of the Gazette and with its frequently expressed views as to the merits of the case. The proper plan to open a hall, which it is within the power of a Provincial Legislature to pass, is in the Legislature itself. To interfere with provincial rights in such a case as a remedy for evil provincial legislation is fraught with danger, and it was this fact which made the majority against Colonel O'Brien's resolutions so large.

Dr. Alward's seal for union has been made a subject of reproach by Mr. Ritchie, who took occasion to say in his speech yesterday that he had not thought there was any Irish blood in Dr. Alward's veins, but the lively way he stepped around at that meeting in the speaker's room suggested that he had been mistaken. Dr. Alward comes from good loyal stock and he is naturally anxious to see the city of the Loyals advanced to its true position. When he found the wishes of the people of St. John likely to be defeated by back-stair intrigues, he thought it a good time to step around lively, in the interests of his constituents, and he was right.

The fate of the resolutions, which were introduced by Dr. Stockton in the House of Assembly yesterday in favor of giving the franchise to widows will be watched with interest. Dr. Stockton would give the franchise to widows and spinners who possess \$100 worth of real estate, \$400 worth of personal property, \$600 income or who are licensed teachers or professors. We do not believe that any good reason can be offered why such women should not have votes.

It is a remarkable fact that none of the St. John papers that support Mr. Ritchie has had a word to say in his favor in regard to his attitude on the question of union. The Daily Telegraph is silent, the Evening Traitor is dumb as an oyster. Why is this? Is it because Mr. Ritchie is wholly wrong, or is it that the two papers in question are afraid of the Gazette?

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I have used Ayer's Sarsaparilla here for over thirty years and always recommend it when asked to name the best blood-purifier. W. T. McLean, Druggist, Niagara, Ohio.

Ayer's medicine continues to be the standard medicine in spite of all competition. T. W. Richmond, Bear Lake, Utah.

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one of the city wants in the atmosphere of the Cathedral. That was nicely put and the object was very apparent. He did not deny being a Roman Catholic but he thought the lion, members of this house would give him credit of honesty in trying to represent all classes.

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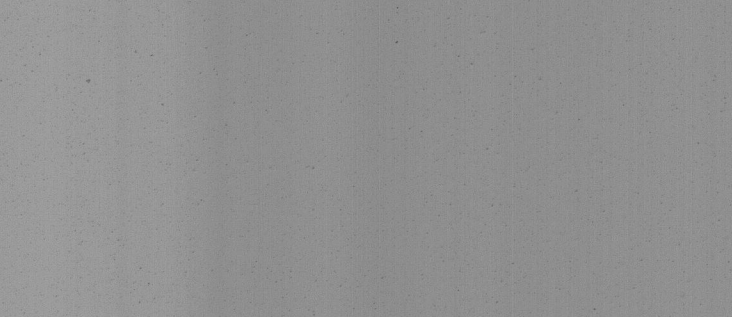
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