

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

APRIL 27, 1887.

Is the Tax Curse Coming Again?

THE Patriot asks this interesting question; and proceeds to censure the Government for having abolished the tax act. The Patriot rejoices in the prospect of a renewal of the tax curse and the return to power of a taxation government. An inexpensive measure by which the money required could be raised and applied directly to educational purposes would not—for evident reasons—please the Patriot. It wants the old tax act revived with all the expensive valuers and collectors, and precious printing which it would involve. This is what is in store should the Patriot's friends gain office.

The present Government, however, propose, in the first place, that the cost of education shall be reduced. They were not without some grounds for the hope that this course would have been supported by the Opposition. Mr. Sinclair, a leading and representative member of the Opposition, said in his place in the House of Assembly in the year 1885:—

"This should be the last year this Parliament should be asked to vote away nearly one half of the revenue for education. The Government should take hold of the question and make such changes in the Act as would lessen the expenditure.

Now that the Government have "taken hold of the question" in the endeavor to "lessen the expenditure," Mr. Sinclair and his party stoutly maintain that the lessening of the expenditure is a stab at "our glorious free school system!"

Mr. Sinclair said in 1885:— "The expenditure for education is constantly increasing, and the Government cannot allow it to increase much more. They should adopt some means of curtailing it. He questioned if these bonuses should be given the way they are."

Yet Mr. Sinclair is now doing all he can to make the Government continue to pay the bonuses, and scholarships, and supplements, and everything to keep the Government expenditure on the increase!

How much this expenditure is on the increase is apparent from the fact that in 1877 \$80,813.60 was the total sum expended by the Government for education, and in 1878 only \$65,550.13 were expended; while in 1886, \$111,992.21 were paid out. In the two years of the reign of Messrs. Yeo, Farquharson & Co., \$146,363.73 were paid for education; in the two years last past, the amount paid for education was \$221,309.06.

Is it any wonder that the present Government—economical as they are—are, without resort to taxation, unable to make ends meet while the expenditure for education increases at this rate?

Messrs. Yeo, Farquharson & Co., when in power, wrung taxes from the unwilling people to the tune of \$45,583.59 in 1877, and \$34,233.50 in 1878, or nearly \$80,000 in two years; the present Government have taken not one cent in the past five years. Had the cost of education been kept down to the amount paid when the Oppositionists were in power, and the Legislature been reduced as proposed by the Government, the Government might easily have continued to provide for the maintenance of the provincial services without resort to taxation of any kind.

But the cost of education having rapidly increased, the Government propose in the first place to curtail it. After that has been done, a special tax, for purposes of education, ought, in our opinion to be levied. To save expenses, each district might well, we think, be obliged to raise a certain sum by means of its Board of School Trustees. The machinery for raising the amount required by the various school districts is now ready to be put in operation. Let it be set at work. If this is done the necessity of the case will be met, the money will be raised without the pinging about the premises of the taxpayers and the great expense involved in the operation of the old tax act, and the people will see what they are paying for—see that they are getting good value for their money; and so pay without murmuring.

Fate of the Subway Bill.

A CAPITAL opportunity has been lost. The Subway Bill has been thrown out by the Upper House. Hon. Messrs. Nicholson, Clow and Martin fought hard for it, proving that it entailed little or no risk and little or no additional cost, while it would have been a great benefit to the people of the south side and indirectly to the Province at large. They had decidedly the best of the argument; but they were overpowered by the force of members.

The spring continues very backward. This time last year farmers were busy ploughing and fencing. From present appearances it looks as though we are going to have a late spring. There is still a large quantity of snow in the country. On many of the roads it is some feet deep. There is also lots of it yet in the woods. A late spring, coupled with scarcity of fodder in some parts of the island, will severely test the patience and resignation of farmers. But seed time and harvest are promised by Him whose promises never fail; and they can rest assured that their labors will be rewarded in the coming as in the past years.

Mr. D. A. STARR, of the Royal Electric Lighting Co., is at the Queen Hotel, Fredericton. He wants to light this city, and will probably submit a proposition to the City Council.

Public Works of Canada.

THE Minister of Public Works directs attention to the great increase in the work of the Department which has taken place during the last four years, especially as regards the number of new buildings which have been erected, and of piers, breakwaters, &c., which have been built. For some years prior to 1881 the finances of the country were not in such a condition as to warrant so full an expenditure on Public Buildings and other works under the control of this Department as the growing requirements of the public service rendered necessary; but the improved state of the revenue having removed the necessity for restricting to that extent the undertaking of new public works, Parliament has granted large sums for this purpose, with the result that a greater number of necessary and useful works have been undertaken during the four years from 1st July, 1882, to 30th June, 1886, than were undertaken during the fifteen years from Confederation to 30th June, 1882; and the expenditure, as shown in accompanying table, has been more than half as much as it was during the fifteen years, the amounts being \$10,760,420.38 for the four years from 1st July, 1882, to 30th June, 1886, and \$19,693,620.86 from the fifteen years from 1st July, 1867, to 30th June, 1882.

The need for increased accommodation in the matter of suitable buildings in which to transact public business has been severely felt. Prior to 1882 there were few public buildings outside of the principal cities; but since that time a large number of the smaller cities and towns have been supplied with suitable Post Offices, Customs Houses and other buildings, to the very great advantage of the public service and to the increased accommodation of the general public having business with the Government Offices. Some of these buildings, such as the new Departmental Block in Ottawa, the new Post Office, &c., in Hamilton, and the Parliament Buildings in Winnipeg, are very large and handsome structures, adding greatly to the beauty of the cities they adorn; while all have been built with a view to combining elegance of appearance with suitability for the purposes for which they are intended, and a due regard to economy in construction. The total number of new buildings of all sorts completed by this Department during the four years, or now in course of erection, is eighty-eight, as compared with seventy-three built between 1867 and 1882. In addition to this, a number of buildings erected prior to Confederation, and since, have been considerably enlarged. The total expenditure on Public Buildings during the four years has been \$5,609,473.39, and for the period from Confederation to 1882, \$10,369,383.91.

In the improvement of harbors and rivers a great deal has also been done, and the trading facilities of the Dominion very much enlarged by the formation of harbors of refuge, the building of new piers and breakwaters, and the improvement of the navigation of rivers by the removal of obstructions, &c. Sixty-eight new piers, wharves and breakwaters have been built during the four years; one hundred and twenty-six have been repaired, and many of them greatly enlarged; protection works have been built or repaired at fifteen places; the channels of fifty-eight rivers or harbors improved, and other works performed at eighteen places, making a total of two hundred and eighty-five different places at which work has been done, as compared with two hundred and fifty-six places from Confederation to 1882; the expenditure for the two periods being \$3,262,313.24 for 1882-86, and \$3,869,663.33 for 1867-82. This does not include work done under the guarantee of the Government and the supervision of this Department.

The deepening of the Sault Ste. Marie and Welland Canals has led to the employment of larger vessels on the lakes, and consequently some of the harbors have been found to be too shallow to accommodate these vessels, and the result has been that a great deal of dredging has been done during the last four years in the various harbors and rivers emptying into the great lakes, as well as in the Maritime Provinces. Part of this has been done by contract, but a great portion has been done by the Government dredges. During the four years, dredging has been done at ninety-five different places, and the expenditure for dredges and dredging has been \$877,554.29, as compared with \$1,001,697.44 from 1867 to 1882.

The telegraph system on the north shore of the St. Lawrence has been extended 296 1/2 miles towards Cape Forteau, during the four years, and it is intended that the extension should be continued until it reaches that point. The Northwest system has also been greatly extended, and large portions of it rebuilt.

Although the work of the Department has been so greatly increased during the past four years, it affords me pleasure to state that it has not been found necessary to augment the permanent staff, and that by the employment of extra assistants, when their services were required, the increased business of the Department has been conducted with efficiency, promptitude and economy.

The subjoined table gives the expenditure for the various services during the four years by the Department from 1st July 1882, to 30th June, 1886:—

Table with 2 columns: Service, Amount. Includes Public buildings, Harbors and rivers, Dredges and dredging, Slides and booms, Roads and bridges, Telegraph lines, Miscellaneous, Total.

In this Province, during the past year, the following sums were expended on public works:—

Table with 2 columns: Location, Amount. Includes Bay View, New London, Orwell Bay, Campbell's Cove, Cascumpeo Harbor, Chapel Point, Charlottetown, Repairs on other Dominion buildings, Charlottetown, At Upton, New London.

Letters to the Editor.

The Jubilee Celebration.

Sir,—In your issue of yesterday appear the names of the petitioners asking our City Council "that any money the Council determine to appropriate towards the celebration of the Jubilee, should by them be devoted towards the building and maintenance of such esplanade." I understand, sir, that this petition was duly presented to the Council last evening by a committee. It bears the names of a goodly number of our citizens, but any of the said petitioners your correspondent has interviewed on the subject disclaim any intention, on their part, of hampering the operations of the General Jubilee Committee, or to reduce what should be a grand Provincial celebration to the level of a small civic improvement! Such an intention, I believe, was foreign to the minds of a very large majority of the said petitioners. Indeed, the petition bears the signatures of some of our hotel-keepers, who, above all others in our city, are determined to make the occasion a grand success; and I understand that in addressing the Council last evening, one of the Roadway Committee assured the Council that it was not their intention to take charge of the whole of the \$500 about to be voted by that body. As one of the Roadway Committee, he evidently does not wish to frustrate the work of the Jubilee Committee, and I believe this feeling is general in the city. "By all means let nothing prevent a grand Provincial celebration," is the almost unanimous response you meet with among our loyal citizens.

The Oddfellows Concert.

THE indomitable energy of our Oddfellows, who had their parade yesterday in spite of rain and mud, was rewarded by a bumper house last evening. Their variety concert was creditable to all who took part in it. Very beautiful harmonies were produced by Mr. Vinnicombe's Orchestral Class, in which improvement is exhibited at very fresh appearance. The overture, (selections from the Mikado) was particularly fine. The piano accompaniments were very well played by Misses Lewis and Findley; and Mr. Fletcher made some good effects with his cornet—notably in the "True Love Gavotte," by Giese. Mr. Vinnicombe's clarinet solo was very fine. The Vocophone Band were immense, particularly their leader. Very elaborate preparation had evidently been made for the performance of both Vocophone and Minstrel bands; and the costumes, vocal and instrumental music, witticisms and local hits, kept the audience in a state of continual titter—sometimes developing into roars of laughter. The ladies were missed from the list of vocalists; but the young gentlemen did as well as could be expected under the circumstances. The choruses were all well sung. Mr. Taylor sang the opening ode in a fine clear manly voice which is well worth additional cultivation. The same remark applies to Mr. H. W. Findley's rendition of "Give me the man of honest heart." Mr. J. E. Bell made his "first appearance" in a comic song, and was successful in bringing down the house. Mr. Rogers' singing was a genuine and delightful treat.

The City Council.

A special meeting of the City Council, to consider the matter of the erection of the proposed new fish market, was held in the Council Chamber last evening. His Worship Mayor Haviland presided and all the members of the Board were present.

A letter was read from Mr. W. W. Clarke, lessee of Queen's Wharf, granting permission to erect the fish market thereon. After some discussion the following resolution, moved by Councillor Crabbe and seconded by Councillor Kelly, was moved:—

Resolved, That His Worship the Mayor be authorized to sign the contract with John W. Cox for the erection of the fish market on Pownall Wharf.

The following amendment was then moved by Councillor Douse and seconded by Councillor McRae:—

Resolved, That the contractor, Mr. Cox, be authorized to build the Fish Market on the east side of Queen's Wharf.

The amendment was carried on the following division and the casting vote of His Worship the Mayor.

Ayes—Morris, Douse, Horne, McRae, Davison.

Nays—Crabbe, Kelly, Small, T. A. McLean, A. A. McLean.

Councillor Crabbe moved and Councillor Kelly seconded the following resolution:—

Resolved, That an agreement be made with W. W. Clarke for the permission to erect the Fish Market on Queen's Wharf before the contract is signed. Carried.

The petition re the shorway to the park was presented and ordered to lie on the table.

Council adjourned.

MR. WM. ROBERTSON, clerk of the Public Market, Moncton, died suddenly at one o'clock on Saturday morning. He was as well as usual on Friday, and attended to his duties up to 10 o'clock of that night. When he went home he complained of pains in his head and died in about two hours of paralysis of the brain. He was about 62 years old, and was a stonemason by trade, and when in active business had many important contracts. He was inspector of the building of the Maritime Penitentiary at Dorchester. He died on the 32nd anniversary of his marriage, which was also the birthday of his wife and of one son—a remarkable coincidence.

A TOR BAY despatch of the 25th to the Halifax Chronicle reports that the brigantine Edith, Captain McRae, from Shoreham, Eng., bound to Charlottetown, put in there on Saturday on account of ice. The captain reports that he had a fine passage of only twelve days from the Isle of Wight to Scatarie, where he met the ice on Sunday, 17th inst. A heavy body of ice is now off the coast and close in shore.

HALIFAX is to have a new weekly paper. It is to be devoted to the interests of the Catholics of Nova Scotia. Clergymen and members of the bar will be among the literary contributors, and the projectors are practical newspaper men.

HAVRIL, the St. John, N. B., carpenter whose mysterious disappearance we chronicled a few days ago, has turned up all serene in Bath.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Jubilee Celebration.

Sir,—In your issue of yesterday appear the names of the petitioners asking our City Council "that any money the Council determine to appropriate towards the celebration of the Jubilee, should by them be devoted towards the building and maintenance of such esplanade." I understand, sir, that this petition was duly presented to the Council last evening by a committee. It bears the names of a goodly number of our citizens, but any of the said petitioners your correspondent has interviewed on the subject disclaim any intention, on their part, of hampering the operations of the General Jubilee Committee, or to reduce what should be a grand Provincial celebration to the level of a small civic improvement! Such an intention, I believe, was foreign to the minds of a very large majority of the said petitioners. Indeed, the petition bears the signatures of some of our hotel-keepers, who, above all others in our city, are determined to make the occasion a grand success; and I understand that in addressing the Council last evening, one of the Roadway Committee assured the Council that it was not their intention to take charge of the whole of the \$500 about to be voted by that body. As one of the Roadway Committee, he evidently does not wish to frustrate the work of the Jubilee Committee, and I believe this feeling is general in the city. "By all means let nothing prevent a grand Provincial celebration," is the almost unanimous response you meet with among our loyal citizens.

The Jubilee Celebration.

I am informed that it is the calculation of the General Jubilee Committee, at present, that the programme they propose carrying out will bring eight or ten thousand people into our city. If this be so, it is to be hoped that no obstructionists will be found so forgetful of our city's interests as to attempt to divide the paltry sum of \$500 or any other necessary amount about to be voted. If these gentlemen had expended half the zeal and labor in soliciting subscriptions from our citizens towards the roadway they would have displayed more business capacity and far less selfishness. As to the roadway, it must be opened forthwith. As soon as the fifty feet for the roadway are granted to the city by the Government, the City Council must lose no time in making a public carriage-way over it to the park. The building of a breastwork, for which the money is now sought, must of necessity be postponed until next winter when the brush and other materials necessary can be hauled on the ice. Therefore, let nothing deter us from right loyally celebrating the Jubilee as befitting the whole Province, and enjoying all the advantages of a roadway on the 30th June next.

Yours truly, CITIZEN.

April 27, 1887.

ADAMSON'S BOTANICAL BALM has gained a reputation which places it in the front rank of curative agents. It has been in the market about twenty years. It is now recommended by the best physicians because it cures coughs and colds every time. Price 35 cents. Trial bottles 10 cents.

A MEETING of lawyers was held in Ottawa a few days ago to urge the Dominion Government to increase the salaries of judges.

BIRTH.

On the 24th inst., at the Methodist parsonage, Carleton, the wife of Rev. J. W. Wadman, of a daughter.

CARD OF THANKS.

THE Oddfellows of Charlottetown hereby return their heartfelt thanks to the Ladies and Gentlemen who performed at the concert last evening, and made the closing exercises of the Natal Day celebration so completely successful.

April 27—11

Molasses, Flour, Raisins, &c.

BY AUCTION, on

Wednesday, 4th May, at 2 o'clock p.m.

ON CONNOLLY'S WHARF:

55 puns, Trinidad Molasses. Also, at my Sale-room immediately after, 100 lbs. Choice Patent Flour, 50 boxes Valencia Raisins, 10 cases Lemons, 25 casks American Kerosene, to close consignments. Sale positive. A. MCNEILL, Auctioneer.

April 27, 1887—dry til sale wky 11 & pat

THE COERCION ACT

A PUBLIC MEETING, to consider the Operation Act will be held in the

LYCEUM

—ON—

THURSDAY EVENING NEXT

Chair taken at eight o'clock. His Worship Mayor Haviland will preside. Speeches will be delivered by prominent citizens. By order of Committee, JOHN CONNOLLY, Secretary.

April 26, 1887.

TENDERS.

\$10,000 CITY DEBENTURES

TENDERS will be received at the Mayor's Office, up to noon of

Monday, the 2nd May, next,

for the purchase of TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR DEBENTURES of the City of Charlottetown, of the denominations of \$50 and \$100 each, payable in 20 years from date of issue, bearing interest at 4 per cent per annum (5 per cent and 5 per cent per annum, respectively, payable half yearly in Charlottetown, and to be issued in redemption of Debentures falling due in May and June, next. Tenders will be received for the whole or part. The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

By order, A. H. MACPHERSON, City Clerk. Mayor's Office, April 26, 1887.

FOR CASH ONLY.

Perkins & Sterns

From this date we intend to do business For Cash Only, thereby preventing any loss by bad debts, saving salary of a Book-keeper, loss of interest, cost of stationery and books, and other charges on a credit business, will buy and sell for Cash and be in a position to give ready money customers the very best value.

NEW STOCK OF ROOM PAPER JUST OPENED

(Over 25,000 Rolls in Stock—Newest Patterns—Very Cheap.)

Large stock of STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS to arrive in a few days by regular steamers.

Perkins & Sterns

April 15—& wky

D. A. BRUCE

is showing an immense stock of

Fashionable Hats

bought for Cash and Selling

At Prices that would Astonish You for Cheapness.

Boys' FELT HATS for 25 Cents each.

D. A. BRUCE.

Ch'town, April 25, 1887—cod & wky

BACK TO THE OLD STAND.

J. B. MACDONALD

HAS removed back to his Old Stand, on QUEEN STREET, and is now opening his Spring Stock, personally selected in England. Buying his goods for Cash, and selling only for Cash, he will consequently be in a position to offer his customers goods at the very Closest Prices.

J. B. MACDONALD.

Ch'town, April 21, '87—dy wky

BRITISH WAREHOUSE

83 QUEEN STREET.

EXTENSIVE CASH SALE!

I have decided to close out the whole of my stock of Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, commencing December 15th, 1886, and continuing until the whole is disposed of, at LARGE DISCOUNTS FOR CASH.

A. L. BROWN.

Ch'town, Dec. 14—wky