

DISFRANCHISED?

Much surprise and indignation are felt by a large number of voters at finding themselves threatened with disfranchisement; and if they really have been deprived of their right of suffrage by the design or ignorant legislation of the last House of Assembly, they have good reason to be indignant. The people of this colony treat the registration-of-voters law with too much indifference, and it will be found, when too late, that whatever the merits or demerits of the law are, a great number of persons will be deprived of the right of voting by their neglect to register their names.

The question of disfranchisement, however, is a more serious consideration. We all remember the indignation of the people of this Island at the attempt made by the Grit Party of the House of Commons to disqualify a large body of our young men from voting. If the truth is told concerning the interpretation of the Registration Law, as laid down by the County Court Judges, or some of them, our present local Government have very cleverly accomplished, underhandedly, what Governor Laird and his followers failed to accomplish openly.

The question now raised comes up somewhat as follows. It will be remembered that certain male persons 21 years of age and being British subjects were allowed to vote, if qualified by being liable to perform Statute Labor, if they showed they had actually performed or commuted their Statute Labor within twelve months previously to the test of the writ of election. As is known, last winter our House of Assembly repealed the Statute Labor Acts. Now, an intending voter, aged 21 years, British subject, &c., comes up to register and a dialogue somewhat as follows takes place between him and the County Court Judge:—

JUDGE—What is your name?
 Ans.—John Brown.
 JUDGE—Do you wish to register?
 BROWN—Yes, Sir.
 JUDGE—What's your qualification?
 BROWN—Statute Labor.
 JUDGE—Have you performed or commuted your Statute Labor within the last 12 months?
 BROWN—No, Sir, I was not asked this year to perform Statute Labor; but I was ready to perform it, your Honor, if called on.
 JUDGE.—I cannot register your vote, Mr. Brown. The Act constituting your qualification as a Statute Laborer has been repealed, and I cannot treat that Statute as law any longer. Besides, to vote under that qualification, you must have actually performed your Statute Labor, or commuted it, or shown you were exempt by holding office. This you have not done or shown you have done; and, therefore, as the law is, I cannot register your name as a voter.

Voices.—That's a vote lost to Pope.
 We understand some of the present members of the Legislature who are responsible for this muddle, volunteered to enlighten the Court on what they meant by the Act of last session, and to elucidate from their personal knowledge, as legislators, what the law as it stands really means. It may, perhaps, surprise some persons, as it certainly did the legislators in question, to hear that the Judges refused to be enlightened from the fountain head of legislation!

The question involved is a very serious one; and if a large body of the people of this colony is really and in fact disfranchised by the ignorance of some, and the duplicity of others of our legislators, both branches of the Legislature have shown themselves, as a body, wholly incapable and unworthy to be entrusted with the power of legislating concerning the rights and liberties of their constituents. This matter should be sifted to the very bottom; and no pains should be spared to preserve to a large and intelligent body of our electors their right of voting. The question is one of a legal nature. But, until we see it authoritatively decided, we shall hold and insist that our young men are still entitled to vote, and are not, and cannot be, disfranchised by the ignorance or scheming of politicians. It will be, to us, a matter of surprise if anything less than a positive Act of Parliament is to deprive a man of his right of voting.

REGISTER your names on the voters' lists.

Owing to the negligence of the Committee appointed last session to regulate the Legislative Library, the public is unable to obtain books unless by application to some member of the Government.

MR. POPE ON RECIPROCITY.

The Patriot is as well pleased to learn that Mr. Pope's ideas of Free Trade, and the way of obtaining Reciprocal Free Trade, exactly correspond with those of the great Adam Smith, as the Grit leaders were to hear Daniel Davies declare in Parliament that Mr. McKenzie had promised "it would be the policy of the Liberal Party to give Prince Edward Island a seat in the Dominion Cabinet." Its pleasure is admirably illustrated by its tactics in discussing the subject. It has studiously kept in the dark the fact that while Mr. Pope said "it might be advisable to tax United States' products," he carefully guarded against committing himself to any other than a temporary measure to force the Congress of the United States to give us what we all want—"Reciprocal Free Trade." In fact, it has avoided altogether the gist of the argument, and it unfairly treats Mr. Pope as though he were a through-going Protectionist who, hypocritically, calls himself a Free Trader. This is a species of fraud which we hardly expected in one who piously denounced, as guilty of a species of forgery, a fellow editor guilty of a like offence.

The Patriot charges us with suppressing some of Adam Smith's remarks upon the point. We admit that we did not quote the whole chapter. But we challenge the Patriot to show that our quotation:

"The case in which it may sometimes be a matter of deliberation how far it is proper to continue the free importation of certain foreign goods, is, when some foreign nation restrains by high duties or prohibitions the importation of some of our manufactures into their country. Revenge in this case naturally dictates retaliation, and we should impose the light duties and prohibitions upon the importation of some or all of their manufactures into ours."

does not apply to our quotation: "There may be good policy in retaliations of this kind, when there is a probability that they will procure the repeal of the high duties or prohibitions complained of. The recovery of a great foreign market will generally more than compensate the transitory inconvenience of paying dearer during a short time for some sorts of goods."

We certainly suppressed the following paragraph, which immediately precedes the last of the above quotations:—

"In 1697 the English prohibited the importation of bone lace, the manufacture of Flanders. The Government of that country, at that time under the Dominion of Spain, prohibited in return the importation of English woollens. In 1700 the prohibition of importing bone lace into England was taken off upon condition that the importation of the English woollens into Flanders should be put upon the same footing as before.

So that Adam Smith not only sustains the position taken by Mr. Pope, but he adduces a case in point. If the Patriot could show that, by suppressing part of the text, we misrepresented the meaning of the great author of the "Wealth of Nations"—then there would be some sense in its nonsensical attack upon the EXAMINER. But this it cannot do. Its quotation respecting Colbert is one of its "cuttle fish" tactics. From the mention Adam Smith makes of this statesman, it appears that he was a "prohibitionist," for by his "tariff of 1667" he imposed—

"Very high duties upon a great number of foreign manufactures. Upon his refusal to moderate them in favor of the Dutch, they (1671) prohibited the importation of the wines, brandies and manufactures of France."

The Patriot "suppresses" this passage; and thus conceals the true character of Colbert; and, therefore, the true objection Adam Smith had to his policy. Yet the Patriot is, *par excellence*, the honest journal. Verily, a worthy representative of the ORGANIZED HYPOCRISY—in a tight place.

The Patriot is struck almost senseless with alarm because Mr. Pope expressed the opinion that it might be well to remove the duty imposed by the McKenzie-Cauchon Combination upon tea, tobacco, etc., and put a small tax upon coal. The Patriot's leader has, however, not such a dread of taxation. In fact, he appears to think that in times of depression, when prices are low, taxes are rather a good thing. He raised the tariff from 15 to 17½ per cent. He placed a tax upon tea, tobacco and other articles admitted duty free while the country flourished under the guiding hand of Sir John McDonald. Yet he could say, during his recent speech in Charlottetown:—

"The taxation of the country has been increased but a mere trifle; for while the tariff has been raised two and a half per cent., the value of imported goods has been so much reduced that very little more duty has been paid on the same articles than there was under the old tariff."

If the Premier's excuse is a valid one the imposition of a tax upon coal will not be productive of such dreadful results as the Patriot supposes, for its value is so much reduced that the proposed duty will add little to its cost to the taxpayers.

We would not, justify the imposition of a duty upon coal by any such a plausible

sophistry as the Premier of the Dominion has, in this instance, promulgated. If, however, the United States' coal merchants who supply the markets of Ontario and Quebec were met, for a time, by a duty such as that by which Canadian coal is shut out of the United States, it might make them appreciate the benefits of Reciprocity. It might make them willing to admit free the coal of Nova Scotia into Portland, Boston and New York, on condition that their coal was admitted free,—as now, into Kingston, Toronto and Montreal. It might be the means of supplying with remunerative work the hundreds of miners who are at this moment in Nova Scotia out of work and on the brink of starvation. It might make remunerative the millions of capital invested in our coal mines which now yield nothing, but loss. In short, it might, in less than six months, be the means of bringing about Reciprocal Free Trade in coal. If this result were obtained it would, to use the words of Adam Smith, "compensate the transitory inconvenience of paying dearer during a short time" for that article.

CITY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the City Council was held last evening. Present: The Mayor, His Honor the Recorder; Councillors Peake, Harris, Crabbe, Hertz, Smith, Hooper, Byrne and Morris.

COUNCILLOR HEARTZ recommended that the appointment of police be deferred till inspection in the presence of the Mayor, the Stipendiary Magistrate and the Police Committee.

COUNCILLOR HARRIS asked if this was a legal meeting.

The Recorder explained that it was legal under the circumstances of the last adjourned meeting.

COUNCILLOR HARRIS wished to know from His Worship if he had any one selected for the office of City Clerk.

THE MAYOR said he was not authorized to select a Clerk at last meeting. If he was, he would do so by advertizing. He said he was in conversation with Mr. Owen Connolly a few days ago, who suggested to him a person named Sampson Ferguson, late of his employ. His Worship stated that he telegraphed to Mr. Ferguson, who was somewhere about St. Andrew's; but got no answer as yet.

MR. HARRIS expressed a favorable opinion of the gentleman named.

COUNCILLOR HEARTZ stated he was well acquainted with Mr. Ferguson, and that he knew him to be a very efficient man.

COUNCILLOR BYRNE said the Council should not go into the business of appointing a new Clerk before disposing of the old one, and was of opinion the Council should superannuate Mr. McGowan, as he had been a very old and efficient servant.

COUNCILLOR PEAKE said he would like to see a list of meetings of the Council before any appointments were made.

COUNCILLOR CRABBE said there was a quorum, and if the Council was adjourned till to-morrow night the same number might be absent.

His Worship recommended the letting of sidewalks by tender, as he thought it would effect a great saving, and referred to the Market Hall as being no source of revenue at all. He thought it should be used for the purposes for which it was erected, viz., the selling of such things as butter, eggs, etc., and that the vendors of meat be permitted to sell meat, etc., inside the Market House. He also intimated the impropriety of allowing the Janitor to occupy the top part of the Bell Tower; nor should any parties be allowed to reside in the Market cellar.

Moved by Councillor Harris seconded by Councillor Crabbe that the City Clerk be authorized to call for tenders from persons willing to contract for laying plank sidewalks—tenders to state the price per square yard, the city finding the material—Carried.

THE MAYOR wished for information regarding the fence at Mr. Brown's property on Euston street.

COUNCILLOR SMITH said there was an agreement made with Mr. Brown on the matter, and when Mr. Brown would fulfil his part of the agreement the fence would be speedily put up. The same matter had been hitherto before the Council.

His Worship intimated that an application had come from J. B. McDonald to have a sidewalk laid before his new store. He wished to know if the city had authority to place the sidewalk at that place.

COUNCILLOR HARRIS said it was the practice of the Council to perform the labor if the party wishing to have the platform furnished the plank and nails.

Clerk read a petition of the citizens living near King Square, asking the Council that instead of an oval fence, two panels be placed at the end of the square diagonally

Moved by Councillor Hooper, seconded by Councillor Hertz,—

That the petition of the citizens presented this evening on the subject of King Square be granted, and that the street on the south side of the Square be sixty feet.

His Worship referred to the propriety of passing the sanitary by-law immediately.

The Recorder thought that it would be advisable, under present circumstances, to drop the draft of the present by-law on the table and begin *de novo*, for which purpose a special meeting would be needed.

COUNCILLOR HEARTZ directed the attention of the Council to the unclean state of several tenement houses in the city and said the law needed to be quickly enforced.

Moved by Councillor Harris, and seconded by Councillor Hertz, that a special meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday next for the introduction of a sanitary by-law and other business.

Councillor Byrne then presented the following tavern licenses, which were renewed: H. B. Smith, Patrick Kelly, Richard Thorn and Stephen Carroll.

A matter relating to the license of Donald McIsaac was discussed for some time.

His Worship directed the attention of the Council to the fact that an account of about \$40 for labor on the Park was paid by the Clerk and no record was kept of it. He wanted information on this as well as other subjects.

After some remarks with regard to this, the Finance Committee agreed to attend and certify all the weekly accounts on Friday morning.

Council then adjourned till half past six o'clock this evening.

INDECENT AND IMMORAL LITERATURE.—It is an unpleasant duty to be compelled to censure any one, much more one of the "fair sex." Stern duty, however, demands that we should warn the public against a young lady who is now in this country selling communistic pamphlets and circulating free, prurient and indecent literature. The pamphlets are sold for 15 cents each, and as the titles are captivating, many decent people make purchases without looking into their contents. As soon as a pamphlet is bought, a paper name *The World* is placed into the hands of the purchaser. This paper, as well as pamphlets, is filled with spiritualism, infidelity, free-loveism, disgusting indecency and the devil, generally. Now, we require none of this teaching on the Island. Let free loveism be confined to where it originated—the United States. We beg to direct the attention of the Mayor and Stipendiary Magistrate to this matter at once. The young lady who peddles this filthy trash should be arrested immediately and made to pay the penalty of her crime. She is probably boarding at some of our hotels round town, and her capture would not be a difficult task. It would be well to teach her that when she visits a respectable person, she cannot be permitted to distribute her immoral and miserably written literature with impunity.—*Argus*.

The feminine alluded to in the above paragraph was arrested by the City Marshal last evening. Her name is Josephine Tilton. The Marshal searched the room she had engaged in a certain house, and found a large trunk full to the brim with far worse books than those above described. She gave her gold watch as bail to stand trial before the Magistrate this morning.

VALUE OF TIME IN P. E. ISLAND.

(From Harper's Monthly.)

Of the people, so far as personal observation goes, I can speak favorably. Among them are many descendants of loyalists of our Revolution, who are generally more opposed to the United States than others. The feeling towards our country is apparently friendly, and, until quite recently, the desire for reciprocity treaty was very strong. But underneath is I am convinced, an under-current strongly English, notwithstanding that the people are really more like Yankees than Englishmen in their habits and language. There is just difference enough between their ships, their houses, their vehicles or agricultural tools, their papers and their colloquial diction, for a careful observer to note that he is not in the United States; but often the difference is nearly imperceptible. It is in their value of time that I discovered the greatest dissimilarity. The phrase "Time is money" is certainly not true on Prince Edward Island, however true it may be with us. No one is on hand when he should be; everything is done with a leisure that would imply longevity rivaling that of Methuselah. Punctuality in the hours of meals at the hotels is a thing not dreamed of, resulting in great waste of time and cold food. Nor did I see any evidence anywhere or in the character of any one that indicated that the world has any meaning on Prince Edward Island. This taking life easy is a very delightful thing under some circumstances, but it will not do in this age and in the Western world, in the wholesale manner in which it is practiced on that beautiful Island, for those who desire to rise in the world. And herein seems to be partly the reason why the British Provinces of North America have not progressed as rapidly as their neighbors south of the Great Lakes.

REGISTER your names on the voters' lists.

New Advertisements

MOONLIGHT EXCURSION!

THERE will be a MOONLIGHT EXCURSION on Thursday Evening, 23rd inst. Steamer "Southport" will leave Ferry Wharf at 8 o'clock, sharp. Refreshments will be supplied on board the boat, and suitable music has been engaged for the occasion. Aug. 21—

MEETING

—OF—

LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE CITIZENS!

A MEETING of the LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE CITIZENS of Charlottetown will be held—under the auspices of the Provincial Committee of the Liberal-Conservatives of Prince Edward Island—

In the Athenæum,

—ON—

WEDNESDAY EVENING NEXT,

for the Purpose of Securing the Insertion of the Names of

ALL LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVES

Upon the Voters' Lists!

A FULL MEETING IS EXPECTED.

BY ORDER,

Simon W. Crabbe, SECRETARY.

Ch'town, Aug. 20—

GOLD PLATED

Brooches, Earrings, Lockets, Necklets, Watch Chains, Scarf Pins, Sleeve Studs, Shirt & Collar Studs, Nick-I-plated Althets. A large assortment of the above Goods at W. W. WELLNERS. Ch'town, Aug. 22—pat 4in eod

J. F. McKay,

(NORTH SIDE QUEEN SQUARE)

Has just received a varied assortment of American and Geneva

Watches, Gold and Silver; Ladies' & Gents' Watch Chains, Gold and Silver; Gold Plated Rings, Gold Lockets, Brooches, Earrings, Studs, Silver Thumbles, etc.

—ALSO—

Watches, Clocks, and Jewelry skillfully repaired.—Satisfaction guaranteed, and all work warranted. Aug. 21—1m

BOARDERS WANTED.

5 OR 6 Permanent Boarders can be comfortably accommodated in a private family; male boarders preferred. Apply to 124 Kent Street, nearly opposite J. Seller's Grocery. Aug. 21—1w*

To the Civic Electors of Charlottetown.

HAVING attended a meeting in the Athenæum on Friday evening last, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Licensing Board, it was agreed that the three persons receiving the highest number of ballots should be the choice. Messrs. Dawson, Cundall and Blake received the nomination. The next highest on the list was the Hon. H. J. Calbeck. Since then Mr. Blake has declined to run. In Monday morning's Examiner, Mr. Joseph Knight offers his services to the public without getting the consent of the meeting that nominated the candidates, although he received but very few ballots on Friday night. Since Mr. Knight has thought proper not to be bound by the decision of the meeting, it opens the way for others, and I, therefore, offer myself as a candidate for the suffrages of the people. If elected, I shall endeavor to discharge my duty fearlessly and impartially. In our City we have taverns, or night colleges, where the young are taught to drink, swear and gamble; and, if elected, I shall do my utmost to have them closed. The morals of the community must be sacredly guarded and the majesty of the law faithfully vindicated. JAMES CURTIS. Ch'town, Aug. 21st, 1877.

CARD.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—You will soon be called upon to elect a Licensing Board in accordance with the late Act of Parliament. Being solicited, I consented to nomination, and my name has been before you for some weeks. Gentlemen, many of you have already promised me your support, and should you place me in so responsible a position, be assured I shall do my duty firmly, yet with moderation and even-handed justice to all. JOSEPH KNIGHT. Ch'town, Aug. 20—