

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

On no occasion will the names of the Advertisements be inserted here.

Root and Shoe Store—W. Angus & Co. R moved—Dr. Gull.

Resolution of Partnership—M. Louis & Trivine.

Private Boarding House—P. Conway.

THE OTTAWA TIMES

CHIV AND COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1893

The railways have again cleared off the snow, the Western mail having arrived yesterday after the usual time.

The New Brunswick Government has introduced a Home Rule Bill into the Legislature, to take effect from and after the first of July next.

The Hon. Mr. Brown arrived in this city yesterday. He was to have returned on Monday last, but was detained by the snow storm.

Yesterday we noticed the action of the Local Legislature of New Brunswick in relation to the Intercolonial Railway route. It appears that learned body of young men does not desire to direct the railway policy of the Dominion merely, but also to instruct the Privy Council in respect of its financial legislation.

Resolutions on the newspaper postage and stamp tax have been introduced and discussed, and by-and-by we suppose they will undertake to direct the Minister of Customs as to the readjustment of the tariff.

There can be no great objection to the expression of the opinion of any of the Local Legislatures on matters of general policy, but there is room for doubt whether it is desirable that such a course should be followed as a general rule.

If it is true, as we have been taught to believe, and as evidently was contemplated by the framing of the Union Act, that each Legislature is assigned its own sphere of usefulness and its special round of duties, without interfering with those of the other, then clearly this bringing the Dominion Government up for judgment at the bar of a Provincial Assembly for acts done or contemplated, borders very closely upon, if it does not come up to the full measure of, officious interference.

Cases may arise, matters of public exigency, upon which it would be reasonable to suppose that the Dominion Government might not be fully informed upon the state of public feeling, or the requirements of the public interest, which would not only warrant the Local Legislatures in testifying advice, but make it very desirable to do so.

But this can occur only under exceptional circumstances. It may also happen that a particular incident may affect the interests of one Province, for which the Legislature was incompetent to provide a remedy, and then it would be the duty of the Local Government or Legislature to represent the case to the Dominion Government.

We may cite an instance of the kind: The free exportation of saw logs, etc., is provided by the Dominion Government, but this free exportation, which serves no purpose of revenue, nor otherwise confers any direct benefit to the Dominion, is held to be a positive injury to the Province of Ontario, and that Province believes that its interests will be better served by the imposition of an export duty.

Now since the Provincial Legislature cannot protect the interests of the Province in this it is manifestly bound to call the attention of the Dominion Government to the fact, with the view to secure a remedy.

We instance this as a merely probable case, which it does not actually exist might very possibly occur.

When we have made these exceptions in favor of the Local Legislatures interfering with the policy of the Dominion Government, we have considered all that good sense and the obvious scope of the constitution can be held to excuse. The representatives of each Province in the Parliament of the Dominion are the constitutional exponents of the views of that Province. They are elected not merely for their sectional character, but as legislators for the whole Dominion, and therefore are presumably better able to recollect the claims of local interests with those of the country at large, than are those who are elected for merely Provincial legislative duties.

When the latter attempt to instruct or direct the Dominion Government, they virtually ignore the efficiency or fidelity of the former, they go beyond the intention of the instrument under which they have been transformed into a legislative body, and though only exercising privileges which fully attach to them as citizens, they exercise them in a manner way, by clanking them in the garb of legislative authority, to which they are by no means entitled.

To make our meaning plainer, we refer to the motion of Mr. Baxter in the New Brunswick Legislature resolved that, and the other thing about the Intercolonial Railway, give expression merely to the individual opinions of the majority of the few dozen of respectable gentlemen, who happened at the time to have been assembled within the legislative halls at Fredericton—not the opinion of the Legislature of New Brunswick, for that body has no authority in the matter, and no right in its collective capacity to deal with it.

In the three items of Dominion policy or legislation already passed on our review by the New Brunswick Legislature, what is there that can be better comprehended or illustrated by the Local representatives of New Brunswick, than by the gentlemen who represent that Province in the Dominion Parliament? We have already spoken at considerable length on the railway route question, but at the risk of being tedious we again refer to it. What is the view which the Local Legislature of New Brunswick would be naturally expected to take upon this question? A national or a provincial one? The latter undoubtedly. The members are not elected to deal with questions from a national but a provincial standpoint, and though individually they may be quite capable of comprehending them in their broadest bearings, by no means in their collective capacity they would give up the New Brunswick shilling for the sake of saving the Dominion pound—that they would sacrifice the national interest.

For the general. Yet if the Dominion Government acts wisely, this is just precisely that it must do in the settlement of this important question—they must determine whether it is New Brunswick, and none for the other three Provinces, though they may, and undoubtedly will, strive to approximate as nearly as possible that will harmonize the local interests of each with the common interest of all.

With respect to the postage question, we think some people insist in calling a spade a spade, in fact, it is a very simple matter to give a very important service rendered, we think the interference of the "handicapped young men" at Fredericton, was just about as well advised. Our readers know that we do not oppose the extension of the newspaper postage system to the Maritime Provinces, and advocated as far better and more equitable policy, which we thought, and still think, the Dominion could well have adopted.

But we do not see why the Bill regulating the Postal Service should be the subject of attack in the Local Legislatures more than any other Bill which the Parliament of Canada may pass. It would be much better, if the Local members would leave all ordinary matters of the kind to which we have referred to be dealt with by those who represent their respective Provinces in the General Legislature. Let the people agitate and present their views by petition or resolution at public meetings. Let Boards of Trade, and kindred associations, set forth particular cases for the delectation and instruction of Ministers; but do not convert our Local assemblies into debating clubs, for discussing the merits or demerits of Dominion legislation.

Great justice is fast coming into fashion. The Toronto Leader of Monday makes the following important announcement regarding a new postal arrangement between Canada and the United States, which has recently been concluded, to take effect from and after the first of April next:

Under a new arrangement just concluded between the Post Office Department of the United States and the Dominion Government, the single rate of postage on international letters will be reduced on and after the 1st of April, 1893, from ten to six cents, if prepaid at the office of mailing in the country; but if posted prepaid, or in a letter box, it will be reduced to five cents per single rate.

The weight of a single letter will be fifteen grams, or half an ounce, and half an ounce in the Dominion of Canada. Postage on letters will be postage prepaid, on and after the 1st of April, 1893.

On the same date the new Canadian postage law came into operation, which the letter rates of postage, prepaid, will be three cents per half ounce, and unpaid five cents.

A general meeting of the members of the Ottawa Mechanics' Institute was held last evening for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report and Financial Statement. The meeting was held in the Reading Room of the Institute, Myra Hill, President, in the Chair. We herewith publish the Report in full:

Annual Report of the Trustees of the Ottawa Mechanics' Institute. The meeting was held in the Reading Room of the Institute, Myra Hill, President, in the Chair. We herewith publish the Report in full:

Another year, being the fifth in the history of the Institute, has passed away, and the Trustees have much pleasure in drawing the attention of the subscribers to the gratifying results shown in the financial statement, having, as it does, a balance in favor of the Institute of \$211.89. This result has been mainly attained by the exercise of the strictest economy on the part of the Managing Committee, the efforts must be in promptly collecting the annual subscriptions when due, and the continuance of the Government grant of \$300.

It is to be regretted that the number of members on the roll is quite insignificant compared with the population of this city, and it would afford your Trustees very great gratification, indeed, if the following city, especially those employing labor, would take more lively interest in the welfare of the Institute, and endeavor to contribute to its support, so that they may be able to do more for the benefit of the community.

The number of books distributed from the library during the year was 2,735, and visitors to the library were 189, and were introduced to themselves of the privileges of the Institute.

All of which is respectfully submitted, H. McCREE, Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Preston, seconded by Mr. D. Roberts, the Report was adopted.

Resolved: That the Trustees do hereby recommend that a portion of the donations, so far as they may be available, be used in the purchase of new books, in order that the circulating power of the library may be fully maintained.

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CABLE NEWS.

THIS MORNING'S DESPATCHES.

London, March 4.—The present condition of Ireland and the question of Irish Reform are to be considered in the House of Commons on Tuesday, 10th inst. The consideration of these subjects was postponed from the 10th inst. to the 11th inst. by the resignation of Lord Derby, and the suspension of Parliamentary business pending the formation of a new Ministry.

The British Admiralty has the following facts and specifications upon the various projects for shortening the distance between England and France by a direct route.

The plan of connecting the English and French coasts by a simple way than the English coast, and every few months would be a great improvement. There are two modes by which it is now proposed to carry a tunnel; the first is by means of iron tubes, the second is by means of concrete.

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