The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JULY 12TH, 1889.

THE FIRST FRUITS.

The anti-Jesuit agitation in Ontario is producing its fruit in Quebec. The anti-Jesuit monster meeting in Toronto has been succeeded by a pro-Jesuit monster meeting in Quebec city. The enthusiastic ultra Protestant speeches in the western province have called forth ardent and forcible expressions of opinions from devoted Catholics in the ancient capital of the eastern province. The French in Quebec have, in short, begun to talk back. The occasion of the speech-making was the dedication of the Cartier-Brebœuf monument. The great navigator of St. Malo and the venerated Jesuit missionary are closely associated in the minds of French Canadians, and one monument has been erected to do honor to the memory of both the men who had so much to do in their different ways with establishing the French colony on the banks of the St. Lawrence. It is said that twenty-five thousand people, chiefly French Canadians, assisted at the ceremony. They were very demonstrative, as French audiences always are, and the passages of the speeches which pleased the hearers, particularly those in which the Ontario agitation was mentioned, were vociferously cheered. Mr. Mercier, the Provincial Premier, was the principal speaker. Mr. Mercier is a very able man and no one in this Dominion understands the French-Canadian heart better than he. He knew exactly the chord to touch to bring out a response, and he touched it delicately but with a firm hand. He made a skilful use of the agitation in Ontario to unite French-Canadians and to strengthen his own party. He spoke of the progress which the men of French extraction are making in the Dominion, pointed out the danger to which they, as Frenchmen and Catholics, are exposed. He insisted again and again on the necessity of union. He told his hearers that on that day they had taken part in one of the most magnificent demonstrations ever witnessed in their history.

"It was," he continued, "a great and glorious event, a triumph for the national cause. But of what benefit would be this triumph if to-morow they would be divided again in the face of the common danger? If they were to triumph they must be united at all times and on all occasions. Their nationality was insulted, their institutions were decried, their language, their customs and their laws were abused, and their national honor was dragged in the dirt; too often, he was sorry to say, there were those who were ready to achieve success by the discomfiture of their compatriots. These divisions, these fratricidal struggles, were suicidal and ruinous. The French-Canadians had need of all their force, of all their energy in the momentous issues that were impending and these should not be wasted in party divisions and quarrels."

He continued to exhort his hearers for the sake of their race and their religion which had been attacked to stand together, to allow no party jealousies or unimportant questions to keep them asunder. Having with great skill showed his hearers that self-preservation required them to unite he directed their attention to the agitation in Ontario and contrasted the treatment of the French in that province with the treatment of the English in the province of Quebec. He evidently succeeded in convincing his countrymen that they were very badly used, and that in the treatment of their English-speaking and Protestant neighbors in Quebec they were far more liberal and tolerant than were the majority in Ontario in the treatment of the minority of French extraction. It is not hard to imagine the effect which the following passage would have on an audience of French-Canadians, and the language has no doubt lost much of its fire and force in translation:

"The French-Canadians," he said, "are a generous people. They were willing to tolerate all races and creeds, but how was this generosity repaid? They knew what was passing before their eyes to-day. The agitation which was now conducted in Ontario he wished to declare boldly was a baseless and dangerous agitation. (Loud applause.) And he would say further that if French-Canadians were to accept the provocation that had been offered them they might not be the first victims of the agitation. (Deafening applause.) Profiting by the act of justice that had been rendered by the Legislature of Quebec, in the full authority of its constitutional powers, those fanatics of Ontario would like to deprive the French Catholics of some of their dearest and most cherished rights by the most insolent and insulting agitation ever indulged in by a people. Who were the men who were conducting this agitation? They were the same men who were saying that the French Canadians had no right to teach their children French in the Province of Ontario. (Loud cries of shame and hoots.) Let them contrast that action with the conduct of the French Catholics of Quebec towards the Protestant minority. The Protestants were given one-third of the educational grant, and they were not asked what they taught in their schools. They were allowed to teach a different creed and a different language. But these men who had been treated with so much generosity and liberality were now joining with the fanatics of Ontario."

We may say here that we have taken the above extract from the Toronto Mail's report of Mr. Mercier's speech.

It can easily be seen from this what will be the first result of the Ontario anti-Jesuit agitation. It will be to unite all French Canadians into a solid party on the basis, not of politics, but of race and religion. It is of no use for the more moderate of the agitators to declare that the agitation is not directed against the Catholic religion. The Catholics in Quebec and in the other provinces cannot be brought to view it in this light. They all take up the cause of the Jesuits as their own. Those, therefore, who engage in this agitation must reckon upon forcing Roman Catholics into opposition to the party to which they attach themselves. There should be no self deception on this head. The anti-Jesuit agitators, if they ever become a party, will be an anti-Catholic party, and must count upon the opposition of all Roman Catholics in every province of the Dominion. The agitation if continued, and if the agitators and their supporters and admirers organize and become a party, will succeed in compelling Catholics to unite in self-defence, and politicians will in this Dominion be divided on questions not of public policy, but of religious belief and profession. This will bring to the front a number of men who will have nothing to recommend them to the constituencies but what they desire to be considered zeal in the cause of religion. One man will be elected because he is a sound and fervid Protestant, and another because he professes to be devoted to the interests of the Catholic Church. When once there is a demand for public men of this class it will be perfectly astonishing what a host of them will spring up, all overflowing with zeal for religion, Men who before the agitation began were not suspected to have any more religion than decency required—perhaps not so much—will start up ready-made defenders of their respective faiths. We do not believe that this is a very desirable state of things. And when we ask what in this free country is to be gained to any denomination by a quasi-religious agitation we can get no answer that is in the least degree satisfactory. It will not increase the religious freedom of any church or sect, for such freedom is already happily practically unlimited. It will not restrict the liberty of any religious body for there is no denomination in the Dominion which would allow its freedom to be curtailed in any direction, and we are inclined to believe that, after all, there is no real desire on the part of any considerable number of people in this Dominion to restrict liberty of conscience and freedom of action in religious matters in any way. There is really no practical benefit to be gained by intruding what some call the religious element into the politics of the Dominion. Why then attempt it? We see from this monster meeting in Quebec what such an agitation is certain to lead to. Why then introduce the element of discord? The letting in of strife may appear to some to be a small and unimportant matter, but it often leads to the most disastrous results.

SIR CHARLES ON IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Sir Charles Tupper spoke on Imperial Confederation in London a few days ago. He is evidently not an enthusiastic imperial federationist and he did not attempt to lead his hearers to believe that Canadians, as a people, are pining for closer relations with the Mother Country and the other parts of the Empire. Sir Charles believes that the Old Country is still strong and vigorous and that there is not the least danger of her falling to pieces right away if the bond which unites her to her dependencies is not tightened and strengthened. They are all doing very well now in their present relations, and are likely, as far as he can see, to continue to do well. Like the sensible man that he is, Sir Charles Tupper has come to the conclusion that the people of Canada do not exhibit any great interest in the scheme of Imperial Federation because they are well satisfied with things as they are, and do not feel the need of that or any other change. And it would be strange indeed if Canadians were not satisfied with their present relations with the Mother Land. She is the kindest, the most considerate, and we must add, the most sensible mother that ever any colony had. She recognizes accomplished facts and does not meddle in the affairs of her children who she sees are able to manage their own concerns. She does not interfere in their housekeeping matters, and she allows them to settle their little differences without attempting to interpose her authority. She knows that the education they are receiving will make them self-reliant and best develope whatever powers they possess, while it increases the affection they bear towards her. It is evident that she depends solely on that affection to keep up the connection that exists between her and them. And the result is not in any respect disappointing.

Great Britain can look with pride on the growth of her dependencies. The policy that she pursues towards them is having the best results. Everywhere they are prospering, growing in strength and importance, and everywhere they are enthusiastically loyal. The agitation in favor of Imperial Federation is an outcome of of the ardent and rational loyalty felt by the inhabitants of the different dependencies towards the Mother Country. In Canada it is looked upon with good-natured indulgence as the dream of a number of well-intentioned visionaries. It meets with no opposition. The people are waiting to see what will come of it. At present it is very vague. It has not yet assumed even a definite outline. The people are practical. They care little for abstract theories. When the scheme of Imperial Federation has taken shape—when it can be discussed in the concrete—then will be the time to find out what is the opinion of the people of Canada with regard to it. Until then it will be of interest but to a comparative few.

Perhaps the best way to give the scheme of Imperial Federation a practical shape, to take it out of the region of theory in which it has been floating above the heads of the people and out of sight of most of them, is the plan suggested by Sir Charles Tupper. Let an Imperial Conference be held in London which leading men from all parts of the Empire and of every party will be invited to attend. Let these men carefully consider the question in all its aspects. If it is possible to devise a practical scheme of Imperial Confederation a conference composed of such men will be able to do the work. If they, after due deliberation, fail to find a workable plan of union it is reasonable to suppose that in the present condition of the Empire confederation is impracticable. But it by no means follows from this that it is impossible. It may be that although an Imperial Federation cannot be made, it will grow. It is just possible that influences are at work which, by gradual and unseen processes, are bringing together all parts of the British Empire. No one sees how the tree that was bare and apparently barren wood in March last is now covered with foliage and laden with fruit. We see the result, we have witnessed the different stages of development, but how it was all brought about no one can tell. Changes are effected in the nations of the world in a similar way. Men have been gradually prepared for some great change. We see the change, but exactly what caused it passes the wit of man to tell. The wisest can only guess. The conjecture of one profound thinker differs widely from the theory of another thinker equally profound, and the more one reads the more unsatisfactory appear their ways of accounting for it. There are men who think that they see signs of a wonderful revolution which is to take place in the not distant future. They believe that events are leading up, not to a Confederation of the British Empire alone, but to a close and intimate alliance of all the English-speaking nations of the world.

But whatever may be our destiny, Canadians have reason to be devoutly thankful that their condition is such that they can speculate in comfort and with easy minds on the future of their country. It is, no doubt, owing to the benign rule of Great Britain that they are contented with things as they are, and can contemplate the future of their country, not only without dread or even uneasiness, but with hope and pride.

A STARTLING DOCTRINE.

The Toronto Empire very properly directs attention to the new constitutional doctrine which is being evolved out of the discussion of the Jesuits' Estates Act. It is this, "that the Dominion Government is not only responsible for its own legislation, but it is also to be held responsible for and taken as endorsing every act of each of the provinces which it does not interfere to disallow." Our contemporary may well call this doctrine "startling," for if it is sound it takes from the provinces all exclusive jurisdiction, and throws upon the Dominion Government the responsibility of every law passed by the local legislatures. Some of the anti-Jesuit agitators contend that if the Dominion Government fails to disallow any act passed by a provincial legislature they must be considered as "endorsing" it, as in fact making that act their own. According to this view of the prerogative of disallowance the Dominion Government must not permit the local legislatures to take any responsibility upon themselves. They cannot say with respect to any provincial law sent to Ottawa:

"This law is within the provincial jurisdiction. The provincial legislature was perfectly competent to enact it. It does not clash with any federal law. It was passed after due deliberation by those who must be presumed to know most about the needs and the circumstances of the province. We do not think it a wise law. We believe that it will not work well. But as you had a right to make it, as you will suffer the bad consequences of its operation if it does not work well, and as you have power to repeal it if it does not suit you, we will not interfere. Self-government within certain limits is extended to you by the constitution, and it is not our place to deprive you of your constitutional power and privileges."

It seems to us that it would be both wiser and more constitutional in the Dominion Government to take this ground than to act as if the power of disallowance threw the whole responsibility of provincial legislation on their shoulders. It would be unreasonable to expect the Ministry to go over all the legislation of all the provinces—to examine every act clause by clause, and to enquire into its applicability to the circumstances of the particular province for which it was intended—in a word, to re-enact all the provincial laws. The constitution, we are satisfied, never contemplated placing such a burden on the shoulders of the Dominion Government. The attempt to exercise such power would create discontent in every province of the Dominion. They would be certain to resent the interference of the Dominion Government in local affairs, and they would claim the right of exercising the "exclusive" jurisdiction extended to them by the British North America Act. The disagreements between the provinces and the general government would be continual and they would be very bitter.

The Dominion Government has exercised its power of disallowance in a very moderate way, and yet, seldom as it has been exercised, it has created bad feeling and discontent in the provinces that felt themselves aggrieved. By far the greater part of the legislation of the provinces is allowed as a matter of course. The members of the different provincial legislatures know that if they do not exert themselves to defeat what they regard as a bad measure in its passage through the legislature, they need not depend upon the general government to disallow it when it goes to Ottawa. Has not this feeling of responsibility a good effect on the members of the local legislatures and upon those legislatures as a whole?

The Dominion Government, in our opinion, does right in leaving the whole responsibility of local legislation on the provincial legislatures. They pursue the wise and constitutional course when they take for granted that the men whom the provinces elect to represent them in the local legislatures are competent to do their work and when they allow the acts which they pass, provided they are fully within the competence of those legislatures, and are not prejudicial to the interests of the Dominion as a whole, no matter what opinion they may have of their wisdom or unwisdom as local statutes. It is only by acting in this way that provincial rights can be preserved and harmony between the local and the provincial governments maintained. We believe that those who hold that the Dominion Government, in merely allowing an act of the provincial legislature, pass any opinion on its merits or its demerits as a local statute, take a mistaken view of its functions. The whole of the responsibility of a provincial law should rest, and, we believe, does constitutionally rest, upon the provincial legislature.

Consumption Surely Cured.

TO THE EDITOR:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their Express and P.O. address.

Respectfully, DR. T. A. SLOCUM,
37 Yonge street, Toronto, Ont.
sep7-w-1y

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria

FOREST PRESERVATION.

In one of the very useful and well-written tracts, issued by the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, every farmer and owner of woodland is told:

"That the time has come when forest destruction must give way to forest management, for timber is becoming more valuable every year, as it grows scarcer in the country at large."

This is true not of Pennsylvania alone, but of every part of the continent of America. It was at one time—and that not so very long ago—supposed that the forests of North America were inexhaustible. Immense areas, as large as whole kingdoms in the Old World, were covered with forest. The new settler in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces was appalled when from some elevation he saw nothing but a sea of verdure, composed of waving treetops, from centre to horizon, on all sides of him. The timber of which there was such abundance was literally valueless. The magnificent trees of the forest primeval cumbered the ground that was needed to produce sustenance for man and beast. War was waged against the forest with fire and steel. The farmer's only thought was to clear the land; the more quickly and the more effectively it was done the better he was pleased. He would laugh at the man who would be so rash as to tell him that his children and grandchildren would need the wood which he was so ruthlessly destroying. The backwoodsman believed that there was timber enough in the land to last twenty generations and more. But he made a terrible mistake. He himself often lived to see wood, even for fuel, grow scarce in his vicinity, and his children had reason to regret that some provision for the future had not been made while the farm was being cleared. Large sections of country became almost completely denuded of trees, and the children of the men who were so careless of the forest wealth of their country had to import the timber they needed from long distances and at high prices. The same wasteful process, going on on hundreds of thousands of farms, caused timber to become scarce in an astonishingly short space of time in districts that were, when first settled, clothed with forest. The farmers and lumbermen of the continent have continued their careless, wasteful habits until this day. Although here and there necessity compels the owner of wood-land to be prudent and economical in the management of his lot or section, the great majority have gone on cutting and slashing and burning as if they believed that the supply of timber would last forever. But they are finding their mistake, and efforts are being made by governments and societies like this of Pennsylvania, to impress upon the people of the country the necessity of taking care of the timber land. Laws have been enacted to prevent, or rather to lessen, the destruction by fire and a beginning has been made to follow the example of Europe in the management of the forests. This system must in time become general if the continent is not to become altogether treeless. Something can be done by planting but more can be effected by placing the cutting of timber under regulations so that none but trees fit for the axe will be used and the young trees left to grow. Managed in this way a large area of forest need never become exhausted. In this new country means should be taken before it is too late to prevent the total destruction of the forests. There are large areas which are better fitted for forest growth than for any other use. Is it not possible that means could be devised to save them from exhaustion? There is nothing more certain than that the value of timber land in this province will increase in geometrical ratio as the years roll on. The population of the continent is fast increasing and the sources of timber supply are rapidly decreasing. It is easy to see that where such a state of things obtains timber and forest land must increase in value.

HEALTH PRESERVATION.

The efficacy of sanitary regulations has been very conspicuous in the army. Discipline there prevails. Orders must be obeyed and regulations carried out. An experiment has in the army a fair trial and results can be compared. Nothing depends upon the caprice of ignorant and prejudiced persons. All must submit to authority. Formerly the health of large bodies of soldiers, wherever they happened to be quartered was bad, and the death rate was high. In some stations it was appalling. All that is changed now and the change is to be attributed to the attention paid to the laws of health by the military authorities. Soldiers quarters are now under strict sanitary regulations rigidly carried out. In India, thirty years ago, the death rate of British soldiers was eighty in the thousand. Sanitary reforms were effected both in the premises occupied by the men and in their treatment, and in 1887 the death rate had declined to 14.20; that is to say, nearly six times as many soldiers died in a given number in India in 1857 and previous to that, then do now. The climate has not changed in the interval, neither has the death rate diminished among the natives who have not conformed to the laws of health.

Some time ago cholera committed great ravages among the white troops in India. Owing to the precautions taken the dread disease is no longer feared by British soldiers in India, or anywhere else. But while that plague has almost entirely disappeared in the barracks and contonments, it is still the scourge of the native population. Last year nearly half a million of native Indians died of cholera. The same results are visible in jails and prisons. The general health of prisoners in those places of punishment is better far than it used to be, and the death-rate much lower. The reason of this is that the authorities take measures to have the laws of health observed. They know now what is necessary to preserve the health of the inmates of these institutions, and, having the power, they enforce prompt obedience to health regulations.

These are instances of the efficacy of sanitary precautions which cannot be gainsaid. The condition of the soldiers and prisoners before sanitary reforms were instituted was known. The regulations prescribed were honestly carried out by the officials, and the beneficial consequences were too conspicuous to be doubted. The inhabitants of cities seeing the good results that unquestionably follow enlightened sanitation in these cases should not only be willing but eager to adopt similar means to preserve their health and save their lives. If sanitarians can save the lives of soldiers and prisoners they can also save the lives of honest citizens and cause them to enjoy far better health than they do at present. The facts that we have adduced cannot be denied, nor can the improvement be attributed to any other cause than the adoption and enforcement of good sanitary regulations.

THE CONGO RAILWAY.

The railway is a great civilizer. When a country is opened up by railways the people who inhabit it are no longer isolated. They must, whether they like it or not, associate with men of other lands, whose habits, whose language and whose opinions differ from their own. This intercourse of itself has a civilizing influence. Then the railway brings trade. It creates a demand for the products of the country, and it takes to it the products of other countries. Industry is stimulated and new tastes are formed and cultivated. A people who are within hearing of the railway whistle cannot long remain barbarous. They must improve or give place to a more enterprising race.

The philanthropists who take an interest in Africa see this, and they have set on foot the Congo Railway enterprise. This road is to penetrate Africa from the west, and will bring the native tribes of a vast region in continuous contact with western civilization. The resources of the country are great, and its inhabitants are believed to be improvable. The road is to run from a seaport called Matabia to Stanley Pool. The capital required is some five millions of dollars. It is believed by the projectors that the railway will pay from the start. The Belgian Government is to be a large shareholder; it puts in two millions of dollars and Belgian capitalists are to put in two millions more. It is said that American capitalists are to invest in this African road. The names mentioned are Vanderbilt, Huntington and Brice. This fact affords a strong presumption that the prospects of the enterprise are good, for these American capitalists are not in the habit of advancing projects for merely sentimental reasons.

There is a prospect of there being in the not very distant future a transcontinental railway in Africa. Railways are already projected from the east coast to some considerable distance inland. All that will be required to be done will be to extend one of these roads until it meets the western road, and after that very little will be heard of the romance or the danger of African travel.

No surer way than the construction of railroads can be devised for the complete suppression of the African trade of man-hunting and man-selling. The railroad would be the best protection to the defenceless villagers. Help would be brought to their doors and by means of the railway the schemes of the Arab marauders could be easily defeated. It is, therefore, devoutly to be hoped that the Congo railroad will be a success in every respect.

OUR DEFENCES.

The Toronto Mail endeavors to allay the fears of our neighbors across the line by the following remarks on the harbor defences of British Columbia:

"A Russian war vessel has just paid a flying visit to Vancouver. The circumstance suggests once more the remonstrances entered by some of the politicians across the line against the erection of defensive works on our Pacific coast. Russia, not always on the most friendly terms with England, has a place of arms within four days' journey of Victoria. She has also a pretty strong fleet on her Pacific coast. Should trouble arise she could make it decidedly uncomfortable for us, though, of course, we should receive some protection from Great Britain. Our present defensive arrangements are exceedingly modest. We have three sixty-four pounders at Victoria, one at Finlayson's Point, three at Brothers Island, Esquimalt, and three seven-inch muzzle-loaders at Macaulay Point, Esquimalt. There are in addition one bronze three-pounder at Victoria and a couple of howitzers at New Westminster. These weapons are not to be used by the United States, we would say, although they are made to them be such. All our military arrangements are purely defensive. Neither men nor weapons can leave the country."

Our California contemporaries will no doubt feel very easy after they read the above paragraph. They will perhaps be apt to think that they have made themselves just a little ridiculous by pretending to be alarmed at the very modest attempts made by the Imperial and Dominion Governments to put the seaports on the Pacific in a proper state of defence.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

WE are in a position to state that the Hon. A. E. B. Davie, premier, has been offered, and has declined, the judgeship rendered vacant by the lamented death of Mr. Justice Gray. That Mr. Davie did not feel himself in a position to accept the well-deserved promotion, will be matter of universal regret, while his self-denial in declining the offer will not fail to be recognized and appreciated.

THE organ of the Opposition did some very fine balancing on Tuesday. It first leaned to this side and then to that; once or twice it was very nearly over, but with a dexterous twist it recovered its balance and roosted comfortably on the fence's top rail. Its performance was very exciting, and was calculated to drive a nervous man wild. It is really wonderful how well the organ conceals its opinion on the Land Exchange question. Although it is such a delicate subject for it to handle it appears to have a fascination for the organ which is irresistable. It cannot let the subject of the Land Exchange alone, yet though it says so much about it, it would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to tell which side it favors. And this is the paper which twits the Government for not gushing on the subject and taking the whole world into its confidence! The organ which is under no restraints except those which are self-imposed is too timid to commit itself one way or the other, yet it finds fault with the Administration which is bound by official rules and government precedents, because it does not tell a number of newspaper controversialists which of them it believes to be right. What does the Times think of the Land Exchange? Has it any opinion on the subject, or having an opinion is it too cowardly to express it?

MEN who leave the ministry of the Gospel to adopt a secular calling should be compelled by public opinion to drop the title of "Rev." It is more than likely that they ceased to be clergymen because they were unfitted morally, as well as intellectually, for the sacred calling. At any rate, it is not fair that the clergy should have to bear the reproach of any crime which the man who has abandoned the profession may commit. We see that Robert T. Burns, the deputy postmaster of Kingston, Ont., who has been convicted of embezzlement, is designated in the telegrams as the Rev. Robert T. Burns. It is not pleasant for either clergymen or Christians to see a man who is accused of robbing the public spoken of as the Rev. So-and-So. We see that in the Maritime Provinces another person who was once a clergyman, but who has been accused of departing from the path of rectitude in more ways than one, is spoken of in the newspapers as if he were still in holy orders. This is not fair to the clergy or to Christianity. It would be better for all concerned if, as soon as a clergyman has left the ministry and become a layman, he were not addressed as Reverend.

THE Chief Justice of British Columbia's diatribe against the newspapers has been very widely circulated on both sides of the Atlantic. He will always be known as an enemy of the newspaper press and contemner of journalists of every degree. A late number of the Canadian Gazette, published in London, England, contains an extract from his very singular charge to the jury in the case of Sir W. Hoste vs. THE COLONIST, and the peculiar and not very dignified remarks which he made to the jury on that case when they brought in a verdict which strongly contrasted with a judgment he had given a few minutes before in a case in every respect similar. The Gazette said:—

Sir M. B. Begbie, Chief Justice, has produced general indignation by the language he has been using towards the newspapers, witnesses, and the jury in the "Hoste" libel cases. A reporter of the COLONIST was characterized as that "wretched reporter," who has "quite a prurient imagination to pick up every dirty bit of smut, and who is delighted to find such," etc. Of the newspapers, he said: "These newspapers which, we see, are battling and struggling like pigs, scraping to find out what they can provide us with." When the jury returned with the verdict of libel, damages one dollar, the Chief Justice is said to have become very red in the face, and remarked, "Well, gentlemen, it is a satisfactory thing to know that every one of you can have the same thing printed and published of you for one dollar; it is a satisfactory thing, you hear that." In dismissing the jury, the Chief Justice said: "I do not think, gentlemen of the jury, that any of you need be afraid, after the verdict you have given, that you will be calumniated by the press of this province."

JUDGE AND JURY.

TO THE EDITOR:—A communication with the above heading and bearing the pretentious signature of "Lex" appeared in Saturday's issue of the Times.

"Lex" may be a man of law—probably is so—there are legal practitioners and legal practitioners; some whose uprightness justly causes the profession to be termed an "honorable" one, others again to whom to apply the expression "pettifogger" would be the grossest of flattery."

Whether the Times' correspondent belongs to the latter class or not, his communication stamps him an envious and treacherous backbiter. He slanders the Chief Justice, having neither the manliness to give his own name nor the ability to refer to a solitary experience of his own in support of his defamatory utterances.

The decision in the Jones case may be right, or it may be erroneous in legal principle—it is now the subject of appeal—but whichever way, its merits are not now open to discussion, much less to the personal abuse of the Times and its correspondents.

The reference of the Times' legal maligner to the Sproule case, and to certain remarks attributed to Judge Strong in the Supreme Court of Canada, whilst being untruthful is uncalled for and mischievous, particularly mischievous by insinuating that the Chief Justice's personal conduct was impeached by the counsel in the case. So far from the proceedings in that case involving any attack upon the integrity of Chief Justice Sir Matthew B. Begbie, the point in question was a judicial order made by him, and the order was upheld both in point of legal accuracy and upon its merits; first by the Supreme Court of Canada—Judge Strong included—and afterwards by the Minister of Justice, Sir J. S. D. Thompson.

In the same way enquiry will show that all of the abuse which has recently been heaped upon the chief justice has either been the filthy emanation of backbiters of the "Lex" stripe, or else the squealings of disappointed litigants.

The Chief Justice's traducers are fortunately in a miserable minority in the province. Every right-thinking man, every lover of justice and fair play, hopes that the Chief Justice, who is as far above the range of his pettifogging slanderers as the sun is above the earth, may long be spared to administer impartial justice the same as he has done for the last 30 years and more.

EQUITY.

THE VOICE FROM GRAND PRAIRIE.

TO THE EDITOR:—I owe Mr. W. H. Jones, who writes from Grand Prairie, a vote of thanks for his letter. He is no "veiled prophet." He does not clothe his ideas in enigmatical language. He scorns metaphor, and goes straight to the mark when he advocates an exchange of the Peace River lands, with no other object than to defeat the Canadian Western Railway. He does not seem to attach the slightest importance to the difficulties of a double-headed administration of the minerals in the railway belt, which you have foreshadowed.

Mr. Jones' charge of sectionalism against those of your correspondents who have protested against the exchange was very properly met by you in your issue of Monday. You showed that it is Mr. Jones himself who is the sectionalist. He breathes the most intense hostility to Victoria, and his whole letter turns on the single pivot of Islandphobia. Strip it of its hatefulness, and what is there left?

But Mr. Jones' letter is useful in one sense. It shows the real object of the agitators for an exchange. He is too honest to attempt to conceal their motives; and his allusion to Mr. Vernon's vote on the Western Railway bill is evidence of the lengths to which he is prepared to go. Mr. Vernon dared to vote in accordance with his convictions, and Mr. Jones would sacrifice him on the altar of sectionalism!

The admission of your Grand Prairie correspondent is no news to me. I have over and over again asserted that deep down in the minds of the agitators there is a scheme to defeat the construction of the Canadian Western Road. He has not opened my eyes; he has only strengthened them.

D. W. HIGGINS.

DEATH OF GENERAL CAMERON.

LANCASTER, June 26.—Simon Cameron died at 8 o'clock this evening. The general's condition during the day was rather encouraging, and death came suddenly during a weak spell. The deceased was born in Lancaster county, Pa., March 8, 1799. He became a printer, and in 1820 the editor of a newspaper at Doylestown. In 1822 he removed to Harrisburg, where he edited a democratic journal, became president of a bank, and subsequently of two railroad companies. In 1845 he was elected United States senator to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Buckanan, his term closing in 1849. In the republican convention held at Chicago, in May, 1860, he was proposed as a candidate for the presidency, and on the first ballot received about fifty votes. Mr. Cameron's name was then withdrawn, his friends voting for Mr. Lincoln. On Lincoln's inauguration, March 4, 1861, Mr. Cameron became Secretary of War. He remained in the Cabinet till January 14th, 1862, when he resigned, and was appointed Minister to Russia, but returned in November. In 1866 he was again elected to the United States Senate, and in 1872 was chosen chairman of the committee on foreign relations, in place of Mr. Sumner. He was re-elected in 1873, but resigned in 1877, and was succeeded by his son, J. Donald Cameron.

Gen. Cameron's body will be taken to Harrisburg. The funeral will take place Saturday afternoon.

The Secretary of War issued an order that the offices of the department be draped in mourning thirty days on account of the death of the former Secretary, Simon Cameron, and be closed on the day of the funeral.

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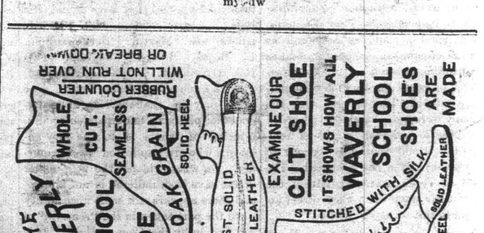

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MAIL CONTRACT

SEALED TENDERS, ADDRESSED TO the Postmaster-General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 19th July, 1889, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, twice per week each way between East Sooke (Mr. Jas. Kiell's) and the intersection of the East Sooke and Victoria Roads, from the 2nd September next.

The conveyance to be made on foot or on horseback, at the option of the Contractor.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Sooke and Metchosin, at Mr. Jas. Kiell's, and at the Public School House, East Sooke, and at this office.

E. H. FLETCHER,
Post Office Inspector.
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Victoria, 7th June, 1889. je7-3t