

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1899.

MR. DEANE'S SLANDERS.

The following appeared in the Inland Sentinel:

The Colonist conducted the most utterly indecent campaign known in the history of B. C. politics. No misrepresentation was too great for it to use and the main stock of its arguments consisted of scurrilous attacks on Hon. Mr. Martin. The people of Seattle who are in a great state of mind over the Allen Place bill contributed freely to the opposition campaign funds under the fond delusion that the return of the Turnerites will lead to the dissolution of the bill. The result is easily noted in the columns of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer which makes much of the election of the opposition candidates and claims it to be a Seattle and American victory! The civil service vote was carefully paraded for the opposition for the important young men who formerly had a life of luxurious ease under the old administration have had to earn their salaries since the new government came into power and they long for a return to the restful days of old.

The editor of the Sentinel is Mr. Deane, M.P.P., a person who has been on his hands with unflinching courage, even though it has differed with him on political issues. Probably no injustice is done him by attributing the above quotation to his pen, and the falsehoods contained therein to his debased imagination. Fortunately so far as the Colonist is concerned, the people in every portion of British Columbia do not need to be told how utterly groundless the allegations as to its course during the election are; but the other statements call for some observations. The allegation as to the contribution of Seattle money to the election fund originated in that untrustworthy paper, the Victoria Daily Times, but even it had not the hardihood to make any positive assertion on the point. It said there was a street rumor to the effect that the opposition had Seattle money to use in the campaign, but added that it was "disclosed to believe the story." When the Times did not feel safe in saying any more than this, one would have supposed that no one else would have given the alleged rumor a second's consideration. In fact no one in Victoria did after the Colonist gave the Times yarn an emphatic denial. On the idea that all's fair in love, war and politics, the action of the Times might be overlooked as a mere campaign dodge, not very creditable to its originator; but Mr. Deane, M.P.P., has not the excuse that what he has perpetrated was written in the heat of a campaign. It is a deliberate falsehood, told in cold blood after the election, and of pure malice. It would be difficult for any newspaper to more thoroughly disgrace itself, than to take into account "the character of his political leader," Mr. Martin, by such falsehoods; but he will find out that he is only gaining his contempt. So far as the Colonist has had an opportunity of observing Mr. Martin's manner of conducting a campaign, he does not resort to barefaced lying but meets his opponents in a square fight. He will as cordially despise the sneaking assassin of the Sentinel type as the Colonist does.

In regard to the allusion to the civil service vote, the Colonist does not feel that it ought to say more than that the allegation grossly misrepresents the gentlemen belonging to that service and does them a base injustice. There is no need to explain the matter to the people of Victoria, but for the information of the people of the Mainland it may be added that the members of the civil service took no part whatever in the campaign on one side or the other. The Colonist does not know that any of them voted, although no one will deny them the right to vote, so long as their names are on the list. The statement that they are imported young men is equally untrue. If it were true it would come well in grace from a paper that justified the importation of the Deputy Attorney-General, and the supporter of a gentleman who is a very recent importation into the province himself. The work of the civil service has not altered one iota since the change of government.

The Colonist does not know what the Seattle Post-Intelligencer said about the election, but since the Sentinel's statement is false in every other particular, the chances are that it is false in this respect also. We owe an apology to readers for troubling them with so much on such a subject, but perhaps it is just as well to thoroughly expose the utterly characterless manner in which the legislative misfit from North Yale deals with public questions in his newspaper. Nothing better was to have been expected from a person who would sit in the house and vote himself into a seat in defiance of law.

THE WHITE PASS RAILWAY.

An Ottawa despatch, published in yesterday's Colonist, discloses the existence in the minds of some people of very extraordinary notions regarding the White Pass railway. The statement is made that this line traverses thirty-five miles of United States territory and must be extended 300 miles further before it will be of any service to Alaskan trade with the Yukon. As the treaty of 1825 only gives Alaska a strip of territory thirty miles wide at the utmost, the alleged thirty-five miles would be too much in any event. As a matter of fact the distance from Skagway to the summit of the mountain range, but of the pass, is only eighteen miles. This distance to the summit of the range parallel to the coast is very much less.

But this is a minor matter. The chief error in the despatch is the statement that the road must be continued three hundred miles before it is available for the trade of the American Yukon. The railway is now available for that trade

and when it has been extended to Lake Bennett, which is thirty-six miles from the summit, it will tap water communication with every point on the Yukon from Lake Atlin to Behring sea. The plans of the company contemplate the extension of the railway to Fort Selkirk, which is approximately one hundred and sixty miles from Lake Bennett by the proposed route, for the purpose of avoiding the difficult navigation encountered in two or three places on the Lewis above the mouth of the Pelly; but it is perfect nonsense to pretend that the railway will not be thoroughly available for the business of the American Yukon without the construction of three hundred miles of road.

In this connection reference may be made to the Tacoma story that the construction of the line is to be stopped. Tacoma is greatly interested in the aerial tramway from Dyea, and hence it is not only buying itself with not only mis-stating the facts as to the Skagway route, but in publishing matter intended to create the impression that the railway is not an available route for traffic because of the deepness of the snow. There is no foundation for this sort of thing. When the railway was projected and when the financial arrangements were made, the Atlin country had not been spoken of as a gold producer. Not one person in a thousand would have known where it was if they had heard it mentioned. Therefore the passage of the Placer Mines act, whatever effect it may have upon the plans of the company to build into Atlin, can have no possible influence upon the original object of the enterprise which was to secure the business of a district wholly outside of British Columbia and therefore independent of any action by the legislature of the province. The unworthiness of the statements sent out from Tacoma and Seattle as to the difficulties encountered from snow on the summit is shown by the fact that a shipment of 150 tons of freight, which left Skagway on January 28th, arrived at Log Cabin on the evening of the following day. The Colonist has private information which leads it to the belief that the published statements as to the condition of the route are wholly false and are made for malicious purposes. We make this statement in this prominent way in the interest of shippers.

POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Elsewhere is a letter from a correspondent dealing with the population of the United States. With all due consideration to our correspondent, it may be said that he scarcely approaches a question of statistics in the right mood. But this by the way. It is of course manifestly impossible to answer the question propounded by him, if we are to take into account "the character of his political leader," Mr. Martin, because what is the characteristic of an Anglo-Saxon is a matter upon which there might be a wide diversity of opinion. Yet as the question is doubtless, as he says, of very general interest, we shall endeavor to cast some light upon it.

One sense of the word the whole population of the United States may be called Anglo-Saxon. During the last century there has been going on in that country the same process of amalgamation, which produced the modern inhabitant of the British Isles. The Celt, the Saxon, the Norseman, the Roman, the Norman and other nationalities have all contributed their blood to produce what we call the Anglo-Saxon and the same races are being amalgamated in the United States to-day under the influence of the English language and the English common law. But our correspondent might say that to take this position is to beg the real question, and so we shall submit a few statistics, throwing some light upon the constitution of the population of the United States.

Immigration to the United States on a large scale began in 1820; that is, shortly after Waterloo had secured peace to Europe. Previous to that time the immigration was small, as is shown by the fact that the total population of the country in 1820 was only 9,633,827. Such immigration as had taken place up to that time was almost wholly from England and Scotland, which were for a long time accepted as a fact that the residents of the United States in 1820, fully 9,000,000 were of descent quite as well entitled to be called Anglo-Saxon as if they had been born in England itself. Since that time 15,427,051 immigrants have entered the United States, of whom 40.42 per cent. were from the United Kingdom. In 1850, when the population had reached 23,191,876, ten-elevenths of the whole were native-born. Up to that time there had arrived in the country from other than British countries 1,115,058 immigrants, the whole total of the immigrants up to that time having been 2,222,815. As there were only living in the country at that time 2,108,352 people who were not native born, it is a reasonable conclusion that fully 20,000,000 out of the 23,191,876 were either natives of Great Britain or descended from natives of Great Britain, and to these another million may be added for natives of Ireland and their descendants.

Perhaps our correspondent may demur to the inclusion of Irishmen in the role of Anglo-Saxons although to do so would be unfair to a people who have done as much to add to the fame of our race as any other constituent part of it, but in order to forestall any exception on this score, we will accept the number of Anglo-Saxons in the United States in 1850 as 20,000,000. Since 1850 and up to 1880 there have gone into the United States 12,801,826 immigrants, of whom 2,754,203 were from British countries, excluding Ireland, and 10,107,623 from all other countries, including Ireland. This gives us as the ancestry of the population of 62,500,000, in round numbers, residing in the United States

in 1890, 22,754,203 persons who can be fairly called Anglo-Saxons, and 33,754,203 whose right to the title our correspondent would probably question. But of the population of the United States in 1890, nearly 10,000,000 were not native born, and this calls for a large reduction from the non-Anglo-Saxon element residing in the country in 1890, because it reduces the number of persons born in the country not of Anglo-Saxon descent. These figures inconceivably show that of the whole population of the United States a large majority are of British descent, even if we exclude the Irish, and, therefore, may be justly called Anglo-Saxons. If we include the Irish, as we submit is the proper thing to do, the proportion of Anglo-Saxons is greatly increased. These calculations necessarily take no account of intermarriages, but the effects of these will balance each other.

PACKING THE JURY.

A bill was introduced into the legislature yesterday dealing with electoral lists. One provision is for the disfranchisement of persons serving with Her Majesty's forces, an ungracious act, which will be looked upon with much disfavor by all who have a due regard to fair play. A second step is the disfranchisement of civil service employees. This does not commend itself to the Colonist, which holds the opinion that every man, no matter what his position in the community may be, if otherwise qualified, should be allowed to have a voice in determining what is best for the country.

A third provision is for a biennial revision of the voters' lists. This is something that will bear very close watching. Possibly the present system of registration might be improved upon, but there is a danger that the changes may be of a character that will give the government too great control of the lists. The measure looks like a step towards packing the jury for a general election.

THE COMMON LAW.

The origin of the common law of England is lost in the mists of a fathomless antiquity. It is the ancient custom of the people, modified by precedent. The factors which go to make it up are as diverse in their nature as were the races from which they were obtained. Doubtless the ancient inhabitants of Britain contributed their quota to its principles. Unquestionably the Romans did their share towards its development. From the Saxons, Jutes and Angles there came new elements. The Danes and other Norsemen influenced it. The Normans brought new features into it, and the Celtic races of Scotland and Ireland lent the influence of their traditions and personal rights. It is this great fabric of human wisdom that has contributed more than any other element to the consolidation and development of the all-conquering race which we call Anglo-Saxon. This fact ought not to be lost sight of, for it is of enormous importance in the world to-day. The Common Law of England is the law of the United States, as well as the British Empire. The Common Law of England is the great force that is working for the elevation of the population of India. It is the Common Law of England that will rescue the Dark Continent from barbarism. It will afford the solution of the great social problem of the Orient. At its very foundation lies the principle of human liberty, which is the right of the individual not to abuse that liberty to the injury of others. In a word, the meaning of liberty under the Common Law is liberty to do right, not liberty to do wrong. The test of wrong is whether it will injure others in the enjoyment of their liberty.

This thought may be followed a little further and applied to the abstruse difference between right and wrong. There are those who say that no such distinction exists; that the distinction is conventional, because often what is right in one community is wrong in another. At first blush this seems sustainable in reason, but it will not stand examination. That which tends to the best development of mankind is right; that which has a contrary tendency is wrong. Hence those who say that no such distinction exists, are wrong in their conventional, because often what is right in one community is wrong in another. At first blush this seems sustainable in reason, but it will not stand examination. That which tends to the best development of mankind is right; that which has a contrary tendency is wrong. Hence those who say that no such distinction exists, are wrong in their conventional, because often what is right in one community is wrong in another. 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