THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

We are not all disposed to deny the assertion of the Colonist that Premier Dunsmuir possesses the confidence of the electors of the province and of their representatives in the House. But it is indisputable that that confidence was somewhat staggered upon the announcement of the names of the Ministers he had called into his councils. Their presence in the cabinet was not satisfactory to the majority of the members of the House, and it is well known that there was a thorough understanding that before another session they would be replaced by others whose influence would insure the government a strong and cordial support. These promises have not yet been implemented and there is no indication that they will be before the House meets. We do not know the light in which the members will look at the matter, but we do know and can assert with confidence that the government has been greatly weakened by the course it has pursued. The procrastination of the Premier cannot but have a disintegrating effect upon his following, whereas the carrying out of his pledges would have consolidated the forces behind him. People and representatives are tired of the political turmoil which has been constantly present in the province for the last two or three years, and they will endure a good deal rather than precipitate another crisis. But unless there be a change the next election will behold another great unheaval. Many of the present followers of the government as a whole are strongly in opposition to a part of it. So are their constituents. Under the circumstances it is not difficult to imagine what an appeal to the people will bring about and which only a very strong and popular policy and reconstruction of the cabinet can avert. The Premier may bring the former back from Ottawa with him and he has the power at any time to effect the latter.

SANITATION AND HEALTH.

Dr. Fagan's report on the sanitary condition of Victoria has drawn attention to matters which have often been pondered over by thoughtful citizens. Only in communities where the sanitary appliances are up-to-date can the health of the individual be considered as surrounded by the safeguards which the scientific attainments of the nineteenth century have placed at the disposal of humanity. Victoria is undoubtedly one of the most favorably situated places in the universe for the production of healthy specimens of the race. Naturally, because of our environment, we should be comparatively immune from the germs which prey upon the human body, but we have ourselves brought about conditions which have to some extent set at naught such natural provisions. Some of the features which render Victoria attractive make it difficult to keep her up to the times municipally. Like the Englishman whose house is his castle, we prefer to have our demesnes surrounded by plenty of ground. The consequence is that we lack the compactness which so materially contributes to facility in paving and sewering our streets. Our city is spread over a large area. There is no indication that there will be any change in this respect for many years to come, and the only course is for us to take up the burden we have placed on our shoulders and trudge along with it as manfully as may be. The more densely populated portions of the city must be sewered and the people who are so obtuse as not to take advantage of the privilege conferred upon them must be compelled, for the protection of themselves and their households and the households of their neighbors, to connect their premises with the drains. The case of those who by reason of affluence, or for any purpose, have taken up positions of isolation, must be left to the discretion of the council. At the present time to connect all the houses in the city with sewers is out of the question, but when the necessity for all possible precautions has been made so obvious by the report of the provincial health officer probably the owners of many residences may be impressed by the consideration that modern sanitary science has decreed that certain precautions shall be taken before a house can be said to be habitable.

The question raised by Dr. Fagan as to the treatment bestowed upon vegetables by Chinese market gardeners is not a new one either. The agitation of a few years ago had died out, probably because it was thought that the evil had been abated and less disgusting measures to induce growth resorted to. But the Chinaman, like all true conservatives, is hard to turn from the ways in which his ancestors have walked for perhaps thousands of years. It is no easy matter to compete with him in business either, as many who have tried it have found out. And yet competition seems to be the only means of abating that evil. Why white market gardeners should not do a large business in Victoria is one of those things which no fellow but the one who has tried the experiment can understand. Very few people will buy from Chinamen if they can get the vegetables they require from white men, no matter what the difference in price may be. Yet the white people of Victoria are conservative in their ways also, and it is difficult to induce them to step aside from the rut in which they have been in the habit of travelling and resort to the methods in vogue in other places for procuring vegetables. But that there is a demand here for goods produced by white men there is not a bit of doubt. That demand is increasing with the passage of the years, and we are not without hope that a way of satisfying it will yet be found. There is plenty of good land around Victoria for such purposes. Some of these days it will be occupied and yielding its fruits, greatly we believe to the benefit of the bodily health and the business activity of the community.

PARTY POLITICS IN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Yesterday was municipal election day in Ontario, and although as a general thing the people of this province are kept busy attending to their own affairs, there are certain features connected with the contest in Toronto which are of national interest. Mr. McLean, editor of the World, member for East Toronto and one of the strong men who would be leader of the Conservative party, thought it would be well to run the Mayoralty election on party lines, and he did his best to have his ideas adopted. There was nothing for the party to lose because of this unique proposal, but there was a great deal for Mr. Maclean to gain in prestige. Toronto is a Conservative city, and it elected Mr. Howland, a Conservative, its chief magistrate. Conservatives have been furnished with another illustration of the power of Mr. Maclean, and that gentleman has taken another step upwards towards the seat that has never been filled since the day Sir John Macdonald died. Other aspirants for the honor of filling that vacant chair will groan and gnash their teeth, but the city of Toronto will be the chief sufferer. It has elected an incompetent, an impractical man and a dreamer to an office which should be filled by a man of affairs, a man conversant from long experience with the needs of the community and the true interests of the people whose welfare will to a large extent be in his hands for the next year. Ald. Spence, the man for the position by experience and capacity, was rejected, and the way paved for an era of manipulation and corruption by corporations which has been characteristic of all places in which Toryism has reared its head. Mr. Howland is a good fellow, and well connected, you know, and people who have not the faculty of looking very closely into the origin of currents and movements assisted the work of the schemers by voting for him. The Socialist candidate only received 224 votes, but the world moves in the East too, as public opinion in Toronto has been shown to favor the municipal ownership of lighting plants and other monopolies.

APOTHEOSIS OF THE MAYOR.

In an interview published in the Colonist on Sunday morning the mayor recites a few of the things he has done in the year that has passed and tells of many more which he proposes to do for the city in the one upon which we have entered. There are men unkind enough to say that His Worship has already reaped, and will reap some more, where he has not sowed. We shall not go as far as that, but Mayor Hayward will himself admit that fortune favored him greatly in the first year of his magistracy. The legislative barriers to progress had been carried away and the business depression under which Victoria had been languishing for the greater part of a decade had entirely disappeared and been succeeded by one of the most prosperous years in her history. We are not aware that the Mayor took any active part in the removal of the former and we are sure that he had no more to do with the welcome dawn of the latter than the dead and gone National Policy had. Still, "the occasion rose," he took it by the hand, and with the assistance and co-operation of an Aldermanic Board the majority of whose members were zealous in civic good works, Victoria to-day more nearly approaches the ideal of all good citizens than at any time in her history. Effect has been given to the desire of the people for closer connection with the Mainland and during the active business season which will soon open our merchants will be at no disadvantage in reaching out for trade. Some of our streets have been greatly improved in appearance by the laying of permanent pavements and sidewalks and all of them have been kept cleaner and in better repair than they ever were before. If Mr. Scaife were in our midst his soul would not be harrowed by the sight of rows of hacks on our chief thoroughfares, nor would his senses be offended by the effluvia which was wont to rise to Heaven from the stands referred to. There is still a great work to do on our streets, however, and the Mayor will have the support of the ratepayers in carrying to completion that which has been so well begun. Doubt has been cast upon the practicability of His Worship's scheme for the reclamation of the mud flats at the figure quoted and there is vigorous opposition to the purpose to which he proposes to put the land when it is reclaimed. That is a matter which will receive consideration at the proper time, for the ratepayers will insist upon satisfactory assurances before they shall be prevailed upon to sanction the scheme. In any event action of some kind in regard to the James Bay bridge cannot be long delayed. The demands for a new structure at Point Ellice are imperative and the present school accommodation is entirely inadequate. On the whole it may be said that the situation demands a vaster expenditure than has been and we believe His Worship should be provided with the wisest advisers our population can provide to hold up his hands during the execution of the ambitious programme he has mapped out.

LORD DUFFERIN.

All Canadians will read with profound sympathy for the man of the many sorrows and misfortunes that have fallen upon Lord Dufferin in his declining years. He was one of the most brilliant of our many able Governor-Generals, and he added greatly to his reputation as a diplomat by representing his country with conspicuous ability and zeal in all the chief posts in the foreign field. In wit and eloquence he was a master, and in the handling of delicate diplomatic questions there was none to compare with him in his day. One son, Lord Ava, died of his wounds in South Africa, and another had been stricken down and his case was so serious that it was considered advisable that his father should visit him, when the announcement of the collapse of the London & Globe corporation involved him in financial troubles of a serious character. The end is that the man who has been honored by princes and potentates and statesmen in all parts of the earth, whose abilities, even genius, were universally acknowledged, has been howled at and hooted by a mob of money-changers. And yet Lord Dufferin is not without blame in this matter. He accepted a position without taking upon himself the responsibilities which that post entailed; hence the fate that has befallen him. Many men of high estate have yielded to such temptation, but it has been given to few to feel so keenly their position. It is pleasant to read, however, that when the spell of Dufferin's eloquence fell upon even that meeting of money-grubbers it was carried away by it, and that they who came to hiss and jeer could not refrain from cheering our former Governor-General and his Countess.

MR. TURNER.

Our esteemed contemporary is in a panegyrical mood these days. It is pleased with everything in the universe with the exception of the manner in which the pacification of China is being accomplished and it has a good word to say for everybody from the Premier down. That is a very commendable spirit in which to commence the year and the century. We might all be benefited by the banishment of political and municipal and individual strife for a year and the election of the representatives to our various public bodies by acclamation. But the line must be drawn somewhere. We are quite willing to concur in all that our contemporary has said about the personal qualities of Mr. Turner—that there is no more estimable gentleman in British Columbia—that he has accomplished all for the province the Colonist says he has, and a great deal more; that he has built our railways now in operation and that he would have had the province grid-ironed with them if the people had not lost faith in him because of a habit he had "developed" of sending out "construction parties" with spades and other scientific implements to begin a new line or two when an election was impending; that he has straightened out our finances and kept our credit from plunging into the depths which would be but natural in a province of such limited resources; that through his intelligent and indefatigable supervision all the moneys voted for the construction of trails, roads and bridges have been expended in such a manner as to bring the greatest possible amount of benefit to the largest possible number of settlers and that the letters the Times is constantly receiving, one of which we published on Monday, as to the isolation of settlements and the impossibility of finding markets for produce, are merely creations of the imagination; that law and order have been maintained in a manner worthy of the traditions of British institutions, as they are in all parts of Canada, and that our people have been untrammeled in their efforts to overtake the happiness which so often eludes poor mortals, that Sir Matthew Baillie-Begbie and the minor officers of the law in British Columbia had nothing to do with any of these things, and that Mr. Turner was what the small boy calls "the whole push." We say we are ready to admit all these things for the sake of harmony in this new century year, but when we are asked to pass over without comment a proposal to spend ten thousand dollars a year to maintain a discredited politician in London, then we must draw the line. Notwithstanding the eulogies of our contemporary it is a fact that Mr. Turner and all those associated with him have been, together with all their works, completely discredited in this province and that they were condemned by the people long before they were retired from office. By a distribution of seats worthy of the Toryism of which Mr. Turner is a fitting representative a government held power for many years in opposition to the expressed wishes of a majority of the electors, but of course, as our contemporary virtually says, it was well for the people that their desires should be thwarted in order that their interests should be advanced by "leaps and bounds" and that all disorderly elements should be kept out of the community. It is a fact that the relics of Turnerism are the elements of weakness in the present provincial government. The Premier made a mistake in taking them into his cabinet, as he now knows. But the problem of how to get rid of them is somewhat perplexing, and it may be that our contemporary is making straight the path for an announcement that their services are too valuable to be dispensed with at all. If such be the case the end is sure. It may be possible for the Premier because of his personality to secure the support of a majority of the members during the life of the present House, but all men who have had opportunities to gauge the trend of political sentiment in British Columbia are agreed that many of our representatives will be compelled to assume an altogether different attitude when they come to lay their case before the people.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

We have not read a great deal about it in British Columbia, but the Australian colonies were erected into a commonwealth on the first day of the century. Henceforth the first of January will be to our friends on the other side of the world what Dominion day is to Canadians. The rejoicings with which the new era was inaugurated are reported to have been without parallel in the history of Australia. Lord Hopetoun made a mistake in his first choice of a Premier for the united states, as governors seem still to have a faculty of doing under our system of government, although there seems no reason why they should not be thoroughly conversant with public opinion. But that mistake has been rectified and it is the universal verdict that the Premier who has been called upon to fill that most honorable post for the first time is just "the man for the job." The Hon. Edmund Barton, Premier, and director of the department of foreign affairs, is a resident of Sydney, is a lawyer by profession, which he has unfortunately been handicapped in by being also an author and a scholar. Notwithstanding these weaknesses, however, he will be known in history as the "father of confederation" and the leader of a government in an English-speaking community with nothin' agin' it. No doubt an opposition will develop or evolve itself, but for the present there is no such thing. The Premier is not without experience in state affairs, as he has held office in former ministries of his native colony of New South Wales as attorney-general. Mr. Lyne, who has assumed charge of the department known as the home office, was formerly premier and treasurer of New South Wales; Sir George Turner, treasurer, for many years was premier and treasurer of Victoria; Sir John Forrest, postmaster-general, has been premier and treasurer of Western Australia uninterruptedly ever since that colony was given responsible government; Mr. Dickson, minister of defence, has been premier and chief secretary of Queensland; and Mr. Deakin, attorney-general, has held the same office in the government of South Australia. The new government, it will be observed, is composed of men of experience in the practical affairs of state, and each of the colonies save Tasmania has a representative upon it.

The consummation of this union of great British colonies starts a new nation upon a career of illimitable possibilities. Nothing to equal it in importance has been announced since the first day of July upon which Canada became a continental confederation. The path before the new nation is straight and the future of the federation full of promise. The predictions of the prophets that the gulf between Great Britain and her southern dependencies would gradually widen and that separation and independence would be the final result will not be fulfilled for many years to come, and will never come to pass if the affairs of the Empire be guided by men of prudence, discretion and foresight. In many things our brothers have followed the example of Canada; may they do so in many more. Our distinguished Premier intends to pay a visit to Australia and to participate in the ceremonies attending the opening of the new parliament. He will be able to tell them many things that will do them good and which we have no doubt they will profit by. The result, we hope, will be a preferential tariff embracing within its provisions the greater part of the British Empire and a perceptible tightening of the bonds which have been made so apparent by the outbreak in South Africa.

BABY LAUGH

It belongs to health, for a baby, to eat and sleep, to laugh and grow fat.

But fat comes first; don't ask a scrawny baby to laugh; why, even his smile is pitiful! Fat comes first.

The way to be fat is the way to be healthy. Scott's emulsion of cod-liver oil is the proper food, if he needs it; but only a little at first.

We'll send you a little to try if you like.
SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, Toronto.

During the New Century

We shall make the highest values and lowest prices our maxim for business, as we have always done heretofore. We want your trade and hope you will see the advantage always to be gained by paying cash. A few of our trade inducers:

SNOW FLAKE FLOUR, per sack	$1.05
THREE STAR FLOUR, per sack	1.10
HUNGARIAN FLOUR, per sack	1.20
GRANULATED SUGAR, 18 lbs.	1.00
NEW JAMS, 5-lb. pail	.50
JAP. ORANGES, per box	.40

MORGAN'S EASTERN OYSTERS.

Dixi H. Ross & Co.

CASH GROCERS.

HATS AND CAPS

We have a large stock of Hats and Caps, which we invite the trade to call and inspect, including Stetson's latest shapes in Fedoras and Cowboy Hats.

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VICTORIA, B. C. WHOLESALE DRYGOODS

Agents Wanted

To sell high grade fruit trees and fruit bushes, ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, roses, hedging, vines, etc., all of which is sent out under government certificate for cleanliness and freshness from disease, for

THE FONTHILL NURSERIES

We have the largest nurseries in Canada, 800 acres, and can therefore give the best assortment of stock.

STEADY EMPLOYMENT TO WORKERS

And good pay weekly. All supplies free.

We are sole agents for Dr. Mole's celebrated Caterpillarine, which protects trees from the caterpillar. Highest testimonials.

Our agents cover their expenses by carrying this as a side line. It is in great demand.

Write at once for terms.

Stone & Wellington, Toronto.

Dufferin Explains

Why He Accepted Chairmanship of the London and Globe Finance Corporation.

Scheme of Reconstruction to Be Submitted on Monday—A Noisy Meeting.

(Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 9.—Amidst cries of "turn him out," hooting and other hostile interruptions, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, chairman of the suspended London & Globe Finance Corporation, Ltd., at the extraordinary general meeting of the company called for to-day, succeeded in at least temporarily appeasing the wrath of the shareholders.

The hall was packed, and the directors were evidently supported by a large faction, as warm cheering was mingled with hisses and hooting. As a result of the explanations of the directors, the shareholders voted an adjournment until Monday, when a scheme for the reconstruction of the concern will be submitted.

Lord Dufferin spoke with evident emotion, as he explained his personal relations with the corporation, and the result of the meeting was largely a tribute to himself. During the course of his remarks he explained that he was induced to accept the chairmanship at the solicitation of the late Lord Loch and Sir Wm. Robinson.

His Lordship added that he felt that when two such eminent men were connected with the concern he could legitimately join. He soon discovered he had bitter opponents who desired his resignation, hoping that a depreciation of the securities would follow. But he stuck to his position and investments, and though a greater sufferer than most of the shareholders, he had no regret. If he had, he hoped to convince them of his good faith. Later he found the duties to be of a physical strain beyond his advancing years, and he wanted to withdraw but was haunted by the fear of the detrimental effect of his withdrawal and he held on to the chairmanship, until he received news of the serious condition of his youngest son. Then he yielded to his mother's prayers to take her at once to South Africa, and he sent in his resignation with a clear conscience, believing that the surrender of his position under such circumstances was so natural that no one would dream of placing a sinister interpretation upon it. He had no anticipation then that the London and Globe would default from its engagements on the stock exchange. The news reached him in Ireland. In the presence of such calamity he felt that every private consideration must be sunk.

In conclusion Lord Dufferin, who was deeply moved, declared that the patience and generosity with which the shareholders had heard him would be one of the brightest souvenirs of his old age.

He resumed his seat amid loud cheers.

Mr. Whitaker Wright's reception was of a mixed character. He announced that the directors had practically arranged with the creditors and the company will soon be sailing smoothly again. It would be necessary to adjourn until Monday, when he believed the shareholders would hear that all their interests were safe and that a scheme for the reconstruction of the company would propose insuring its future prosperity. Mr. Wright added that he had advanced a quarter of a million pounds to tide the corporation over its struggle.

Mr. Wright's further remarks were listened to with considerable impatience, and the meeting closed with further cheers for Lord and Lady Dufferin.

CANNOT REACH STEAMER.

It is Feared Some of the Persons on Stranded Russie Have Been Drowned.

(Associated Press.)

Marseilles, Jan. 9.—Dispatches from the village of Faraman, near which the French mail steamer Russie, from Oran, Algieria, stranded on Monday in a violent storm with fifty passengers and a crew of forty on board, say all efforts to reach the steamer failed, owing to the tremendous height of the seas which are running.

The pilot boats and torpedo boats, which have attempted to reach the steamer, have been unable to battle with the waves, and have returned. The only hope seems to be in the ability of the life-savers to throw a line over the Russie when the wrecked vessel shall be driven closer to the shore. The forecastle and part of the forward deck house are all remaining above water The beach was lined all night with watchers. Lights were seen on board of the steamer. It is believed that some of those on board of her must have already been drowned, although no bodies have been washed ashore.

Later—A signal message was received at 3 o'clock this afternoon from the Russie saying all on board were alive, but begging for succor. The sea had slightly moderated, but all attempts at rescue had failed.

LANDED AT HALIFAX.

Members of Second Contingent Disembarked This Morning.

(Associated Press.)

Halifax, Jan. 9.—The Roslyn Castle, with the second contingent on board, arrived at the dock about 9 o'clock amid the booming of cannon and screeches of whistles of the steamers in port. All members of the contingent, excepting 12 who are suffering from enteric fever, among whom is Trooper T. G. Wilson, (likely Trooper T. R. Wilson, of 201 Hastings street, Vancouver), are in the pink of health.

Driver Pearsall, of Winnipeg, is suffering from a broken leg, as the result of a kick from a horse.

Preparing to Welcome Soldiers.

Montreal, Jan. 9.—Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Winnipeg and other cities are making arrangements to warmly welcome the members of the second contingent, who leave Halifax for home this afternoon.

UNDER THE WATER.

Submarine Boat Went Through Various Manoeuvres Satisfactorily.

(Associated Press.)

Paris, Jan. 9.—The Figaro, in a special dispatch this morning, describes the average of two hours in the submarine boat Morse, during the trials at Cherbourg on Monday.

"In less than two minutes," says the correspondent, "the vessel reached a depth of eighteen feet, when she performed her evolutions with ease and perfect safety. By means of an ingenious instrument, the periscope, floating upon the surface of the water, everything above was visible. The problem of the supply of air has been solved satisfactorily, and the crew were able to remain submerged for sixteen hours without failure of the lungs."

TOWN SURRENDER.

(Associated Press.)

Caracas, Venezuela, Jan. 9.—The last place occupied by the revolutionists, Carupano, surrendered yesterday.