

CIVIC ADMINISTRATION.

Accepting as correct the assertions of some loud-mouthed grumblers, the News-Advertiser comes to the conclusion that "from some cause or other the civic administration of Victoria appears to work very unsatisfactorily."

"In their bitterness and disappointment, it is, perhaps, scarcely to be wondered at that they propose to abandon further self-government by elective officials and well-regulated town through the medium of commissioners appointed by the government and necessarily more or less autocratic and beyond control."

There is no such "bitterness and disappointment" among Victoria's citizens as would lead them to place their civic interests in the hands of commissioners appointed by the government. They would be arrant fools to entertain any such proposition when they know how incompetent the government is to transact its own business and manage the affairs properly within its sphere.

THEIR LITTLE SCHEME.

It would suit the plans of some people eminently well to have the civic government taken out of popular control and handed over to the creatures of the provincial government. It would be delightful to them beyond measure to have charge of the city's revenues and the power of taxation. As to the character of the civic government which the citizens would enjoy under such conditions, no one need be in doubt for a moment. Streams cannot rise higher than their sources, and no sane person could expect the provincial ministers to appoint commissioners of greater ability or better character than themselves.

"LET US TO BUSINESS."

Sir Adolphe Caron and Mr. Foster appear to be using the Manitoba school settlement as an election cry in Cornwall and Stormont, no doubt having in view the fact that there is a considerable French Canadian population in that district. The Conservative ex-ministers have of course every right to make opposition to that settlement ground for an appeal to the electors if they fancy they can gain any advantage from it, but we should judge that the course they have chosen is not calculated to do either them-

selves or the country any good.

They are certainly not taking a line of action approved by their party generally in the province of Ontario, for there is hardly a Conservative politician or a Conservative newspaper in that province but objects to the party keeping the Manitoba school question as a millstone on its neck. For a few days the Mail and Empire, the chief Conservative organ, took strong ground in opposition to the settlement and showed an inclination to use it as means of stirring up further strife as a possible benefit to its party. But it appears to have got new light on the subject from some quarter, and in a late issue it came out with an argument in favor of giving the settlement a trial at least, and allowing the subject to drop. Its conclusions are thus set forth:

"The question, however, is withdrawn from the purview of parliament by the fact that a compromise which the federal power accepts has been reached. In a word, the federal authority which protects the minority has settled the case out of court, and the court, seeing that the only recognized complainant in a parliamentary action is satisfied, has no right to touch the question. The settlement may be good or the settlement may be bad—it is a settlement all the same, and the court, that is, parliament, cannot deal with it further. There can be no doubt that those who dissent from the compromise will utter and reiterate their reasons for dissent, with the greater strength, perhaps, seeing that the matter, except in that Manitoba has not yet amended its law, is closed. That is their right. But more than this is out of the question. As a matter of fact the Liberal party placed the issue in politics and has now withdrawn it. While everybody cannot be suited as to the terms, everybody must freely recognize that the issue as a legislative matter is out of the way. Let us hope that a like case may not occur again, and let us turn to our federal work—the building up of Canada."

Apart from the misstatement that "the Liberal party placed the issue in politics," there is nothing in this with which any reasonable person can disagree. The Conservative party will certainly do well to take the advice given, if by the Mail and Empire and all the leading papers in Ontario—"Let us to business" and drop the school question."

CIVIC GOVERNMENT.

Those who are so ready to represent government by commissioners as a panacea for municipal ills should ask the people of southern West Kootenay what they think of it. Practically all the municipal functions in that district are vested in a commissioner appointed by the provincial government, and if the unanimous opinion of the local press can be taken as a correct indication, the experiment is a most dismal failure. What warrant is there for the belief that the government would select more capable governors for Victoria than the commissioner whom it keeps in office in Kootenay in spite of the rigorous protests of the people there? Who is really so stupid as to suppose that superior wisdom rests with the provincial government, when there are so many evidences to the contrary?

The plan recommended by the grand jury at the recent assizes materially differs from the government commissioner idea, and certainly does not possess the same faults. In its main features this plan is now in force in the city of Toronto, where the executive functions of the municipal government are vested in what is termed the board of control, leaving the legislative part of the work to the aldermanic board. It should not be difficult to ascertain just how the experiment has succeeded in Toronto. So far as one may judge from the utterances of the press there has been no great change made in the character of the city's government by the adoption of the new system. It certainly does not cause any increase in the fault-finding, and there may be virtues in it which a little deeper inquiry would reveal. The public may be sure that in the last analysis efficient civic government depends upon the selection of the proper material for it. If the people of any city are determined to have a wise administration of their municipal affairs they can secure it under almost any system.

The Globe: What a perverted sense of the functions of government must those journals have who regard it as a sign of weakness that the Liberal ministry and Liberal journals seek a full expression of public opinion on the important issues up for settlement. They evidently still believe in the good old Tory plan of legislating for the party and giving the people any accidental benefit that may follow.

DIVISION OF TURKEY.

Denial of the Report Which Was Circulated on Saturday.

London, Dec. 5.—As was to be expected, denial has followed close upon the statement published yesterday by the Daily News to the effect that the six great powers would shortly consider a project the object of which is the occupation of the northeastern corner of Turkey. In official circles here it is declared that the alleged project is an absurd fantasy. The truth is there is still a complete pause in the discussion of questions affecting the Dardanelles. When the matter is reopened Lord Salisbury will not admit of any change in his contention that whatever rights in the straits have been obtained by Russia must be extended to all the powers.

TROUBLE IN STORE

Secret Society Formed to Change the Existing State of Affairs in China.

Many of the Leading Chinamen in the United States are Members of the Order.

London, Dec. 5.—Sun Yat Sen, the Chinese doctor who was kidnapped by officials of the Chinese legation here and who was subsequently released on the demand of the Marquis of Salisbury, says he was the leader of the conspiracy at Canton in October, 1895. The article includes a letter dated Chicago, from Wong Chin Koo, who claims the movement in the United States is in good shape.

Sun Yat Sen states the American chief is Walter Fong, the first Chinese graduate at Stanford, Conn., and that his principal colleagues are graduates of Yale, Harvard and other universities. The article includes a letter dated Chicago, from Wong Chin Koo, who claims the movement in the United States is in good shape.

Many attempts to compass Sun Yat Sen's death are predicted. Sun Yat Sen has published an article in which he says the value of Li Hung Chang's head will be determined by the value of the information he has taken to China since the doing and power of the Chinese abroad.

As to the report of the organization, it was generally conceded that the Chinese subjects were dissatisfied at the government now existing in China and he claimed that in the U. S. alone its adherents could be numbered with six figures.

One, more bold than the others, ventured this statement: "I am in reference to the work of the organization, but when the time comes to strike a blow for the overthrow of the present dynasty and the formation of a republic on American lines, the system of government now existing in China will receive a severe shock and I think we will win. Were I in China my head would pay the penalty for these words. But I think I have said enough just now to give you the gist of the matter. The Chinese society's work has gone. Like all secret societies, we have to be reticent, and while our work is being carried on with a great deal of secrecy, we have no fear of the ultimate success of our expedition to Dongola strengthens the hold of that country upon Egypt, turns the affair into a purely British undertaking, and postpones indefinitely any idea of the evacuation of that country by British troops.

By Advancing the Money to Repay the Cause Britain is Strengthened. London, Dec. 6.—A special dispatch from Cairo, acting on the advice of the Khedive, the Egyptian ministers have accepted the offer of Lord Cromer, the British agent there, in behalf of Great Britain, to advance the money necessary to repay the interest of the Egyptian debt of £5,000,000 paid out to meet the expenses of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition to Dongola, which the courts of appeal at Alexandria on December 2 decided should not have been used for war expenses.

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A CHINESE ARMY.

Lord Wolsey Says He Could Raise An Invincible One.

London, Dec. 5.—The commander in chief, Lord Wolsey, speaking of modern armies at Edinburgh, said he believed that the Chinese were desirous above all races to be the great military and naval conquering people, and he added that if he was given a free hand and allowed to select English officers as instructors, he would undertake to train an army of 100,000 Chinese, an army which would be invincible in the East and hard to beat in Europe.

PRESIDENT AND MINISTER.

Trouble Between President and Minister of Finance of Argentina. New York, Dec. 5.—A dispatch to the Herald from Buenos Ayres says "Senator Pellegrini has written a letter to President Uryrua bitterly attacking the minister of finance. The minister sent a cable message to London declaring that the government would not depart from its proposals in settling the national debt and would pay the interest as a whole or in one sum. It is semi-officially stated that the minister of finance will be recalled when this subject comes before congress. The finance committee appointed by the government has approved the budget and the plan to pay the interest of the external debt."

CURSON'S RAD BREAK.

Lord Salisbury is Not In It With the Secretary for the Foreign Office. London, Dec. 5.—In political circles there has been considerable laughter over the speech which the parliamentary secretary for the foreign office, Mr. George N. Curzon, made on Wednesday at Manchester, and in which, completely ignoring the Marquis of Salisbury, he depicted himself as alone bearing the burdens of foreign affairs. As a result of the speech, the Marquis of Salisbury rebuke his conceit. The Pall Mall Gazette thinks that the only conclusion to draw from his speech is that the government is blessed beyond measure in its foreign under-secretary.

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EGYPTIAN NAVY.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Hon. Hilary A. Herbert, secretary of the navy, has submitted his report to the President. In reference to the dry dock at Port Orchard, Puget Sound station, the report recites that the dry dock was contracted for by Byron Barlow & Co., in December, 1892, and was completed in September, 1896. Secretary Herbert says: "Through a timber dock it has masonry abutments, the entrance being an inverted arch, with the same curves as the greatest cross-sections of a battleship. The stone abutments will be a very great, if not an absolute, protection against the ravages of the torpedo. This is the largest dock on the Pacific coast, its dimensions being: Length on floor, 608 feet 2 inches; width of entrance, 92 feet 8 inches at the coxing, 46 feet 1 inch on the floor; depth over sill at mean high water, 30 feet."

A CUSTOMS UNION.

Urged at a Meeting of Conservative Members at Manchester. London, Dec. 6.—The Imperial Zollverein (League of Nations) has decided to establish a customs union. Lord Cromer, the British agent there, in behalf of Great Britain, to advance the money necessary to repay the interest of the Egyptian debt of £5,000,000 paid out to meet the expenses of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition to Dongola, which the courts of appeal at Alexandria on December 2 decided should not have been used for war expenses.

TRIAL OF BANK DIRECTORS.

Number of Newfoundland Judges Will Not Take Part in Good Reasons. St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 5.—The first supreme court announced a decision to the effect that it has been decided that all the members of the court would not participate in the trial of the cases against the directors of the banks which failed here nearly two years ago. These cases have been pending before Justice Sir Frederick Carter, and Justice Little gave as reasons why they would not participate in the trial of the cases the fact that they are both stockholders in the banks. Justice Emerson declined to participate in the trial because he had been prosecuting counsel before he was appointed to the bench. Justice Sir Frederick Carter intimated that the Lord Chief Justice of England and several of the principal English judges approved of their course in declining to participate in the hearing. It is reported now that the government will pass a bill at the next session of the legislature empowering the imperial judges to act in cases of this character, and that the British cabinet will be requested to send one of the imperial judges for the purpose of participating in the trial of the cases against the directors of these banks.

AFTER THE TRUSTS.

Plimssol, the Sailors' Friend, Starts a Crusade Against Combines. London, Dec. 6.—Mr. Samuel Plimssol, the sailors' friend, whose work in behalf of sailors, passengers at sea, and shipping generally, has won for him world-wide fame, is launching another crusade. This time he is attacking the trusts. In a long letter to the News-Advertiser, he points out America as a sad example of the pernicious effects of such organizations. He says: "The epidemic of rapacity has reached Europe, and in America, it may be expected to spread with sudden and unexpected rapidity." Mr. Plimssol winds up with a proposal that parliament appoint a select committee to inquire into the whole subject.

RICH STRIKE ON O. K.

Completion of Deals for the Sale of Several Kootenay Mining Properties.

Miners Overcome by Gas in the Josie Mine—Mr. Blair at Nelson.

Rossland, B.C., Dec. 6.—A rich strike is reported from the I.X.L., which adjoins the famous O.K. and Golden Drip mines. Work was first resumed on this property about ten days ago. It is owned by a Spokane company, John S. Baker, of Tacoma, controlling ninety-thousand of the stock. A cross cut tunnel was being driven to tap several ledges traversing the claim and the one now opened was not known to exist. Where cross cut in the tunnel, it shows four feet of greenish quartz, carrying fine-grained copper pyrites and probably free gold. No assays have yet been made, but it is undoubtedly high grade ore.

AMERICAN NAVY.

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SEVENTEEN NEW COMPANIES.

Registered To Do Business in British Columbia. Severteen new home and foreign companies give notice of incorporation or registration in the current issue of the Gazette. One of the foreign companies, the Tribby Mining Company, of Buffalo, N.Y., has a capital of \$75,000, divided into seventy-five fully paid up shares. The list of new companies follows: Abe Lincoln Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$1,000,000. Blackwater Mining Company, Vancouver, \$500,000. Bon Diable Gold Mining Company, Vernon, \$75,000. Cumberland Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$2,000,000. Golden Drip Mining and Milling Company, Rossland, \$500,000. Hamilton and Rossland Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$1,000,000. I. X. L. Gold Mining and Milling Company, Spokane, Wash., \$1,000,000. Keonigh Gold and Copper Mining Company, Salt Lake City, \$250,000. Nest Egg and Firely Gold Mining Company, Victoria, \$1,000,000. Ottawa Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$250,000. Ora Mine Mining Company, Rossland, \$1,500,000. Ronette Mining and Milling Company, New Denver, \$1,000,000. Sophia Mountain Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$1,000,000. Silver Star Gold Mining Company, Vernon, \$400,000. Tribby Mining Corporation, Buffalo, N.Y., \$75,000. White Bear Gold Mining and Milling Company, Spokane, Wash., \$2,000,000. Zlor Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$1,000,000.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Retail Quotations for Farmers' Produce Carefully Corrected. Ogilvie's Hungarian flour, \$3.50. Lake of the Woods, \$3.50. Rainier, \$3.50. Snowflake, \$3.50. XXX, \$3.50. Lion, \$3.50. Premier (Enderby), \$3.50. Three Stars (Enderby), \$3.50. Two Star (Enderby), \$3.50. Superfine (Enderby), \$3.50. Strong Baker's (O.K.), \$3.50. Solom, \$3.50. Wheat, per ton, \$35.00 to \$36.00. Oats, per ton, \$23.00 to \$24.00. Barley, per ton, \$22.00 to \$23.00. Middlings, per ton, \$20.00 to \$21.00. Bran, per ton, \$18.00 to \$19.00. Ground feed, per ton, \$25.00 to \$26.00. Corn, whole, \$35.00 to \$40.00. Corn, cracked, \$35.00 to \$40.00. Cornmeal, per 10 pounds, \$3.50. Oatmeal, per 10 pounds, \$3.50. Rolled oats, (O. or N. W.), \$3.50. Rolled oats, (B. S. C.), \$3.50. Potatoes, per pound, \$1.50. Cabbage, \$2.00 to \$3.00. Cauliflower, per head, \$1.00 to \$2.00. Hay, baled, per ton, \$20.00 to \$25.00. Straw, per bale, \$1.50 to \$2.00. Green peas, cured, per lb., \$1.00. Onions, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Bananas, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Pears, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Tomatoes, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Grapes, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Green corn, per doz., \$2.00 to \$3.00. Lemons (California), \$1.00 to \$1.50. Apples, California, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Oranges, (Australian), per doz., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Fish—salmon, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Smoked blonkers, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Eggs, Island, fresh, per doz., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Eggs, Manitoba, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Butter, creamery, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Butter, fresh, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Cheese, Cheddar, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Hams, Canadian, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Bacon, American, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Bacon, rolled, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Bacon, long clear, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Bacon, Canadian, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Shoulders, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Sides, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Meats—beef, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Veal, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Mutton, whole, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Pork, fresh, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Spring lamb, per quarter, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Pork, sides, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Chickens, per pair, \$1.00 to \$1.50.

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Illustrating the growth of the navy, the following statistics are given: "On June 30, 1893, there were 30 vessels in commission, with a tonnage of 90,820 tons. On June 30, 1894, there were 35 vessels in commission, with a tonnage of 81,463 tons. On June 30, 1895, there were 36 vessels in commission, with a tonnage of 93,654 tons. On June 30, 1896, there were 49 vessels in commission, with a tonnage of 122,528 tons."

"Adding the Brooklyn, 9271 tons, and the Puritan, 6,090 tons, both to be in commission on December 7, the total tonnage in commission will be 137,850 tons. On June 30, 1893, there were serving in the navy 6,459 enlisted men and 2,238 apprentices; June 30, 1894, 6,552 men and 2,446 apprentices; June 30, 1895, 6,499 men and 2,238 apprentices and June 30, 1896, 8,165 men and 1,378 apprentices. Of the enlisted men in 1893 1,640 were serving under continuous service certificates; in 1894, 824; in 1895, 2,270; and in 1896, 2,460."

SIBERIAN EXILE.

Not So Bad As It Has Been Painted By George Kennan. London, Dec. 5.—The imperial council of Russia will shortly consider the proposal of the minister of justice to abolish the present system of exile in Siberia by an administrative order. Professor Benjamin Howard of New York arrived here from Russia on Monday, after a prolonged further study of the penal systems of Siberia in the future, and a promise made to Judge Day to lecture before the New York Geographical Society. Professor Howard emphatically refutes Mr. George Kennan's stories of Russian cruelty, and supports Mr. Henry d'Went's writings on the subject.

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Not So Bad As It Has Been Painted By George Kennan. London, Dec. 5.—The imperial council of Russia will shortly consider the proposal of the minister of justice to abolish the present system of exile in Siberia by an administrative order. Professor Benjamin Howard of New York arrived here from Russia on Monday, after a prolonged further study of the penal systems of Siberia in the future, and a promise made to Judge Day to lecture before the New York Geographical Society. Professor Howard emphatically refutes Mr. George Kennan's stories of Russian cruelty, and supports Mr. Henry d'Went's writings on the subject.

SEVENTEEN NEW COMPANIES.

Registered To Do Business in British Columbia. Severteen new home and foreign companies give notice of incorporation or registration in the current issue of the Gazette. One of the foreign companies, the Tribby Mining Company, of Buffalo, N.Y., has a capital of \$75,000, divided into seventy-five fully paid up shares. The list of new companies follows: Abe Lincoln Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$1,000,000. Blackwater Mining Company, Vancouver, \$500,000. Bon Diable Gold Mining Company, Vernon, \$75,000. Cumberland Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$2,000,000. Golden Drip Mining and Milling Company, Rossland, \$500,000. Hamilton and Rossland Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$1,000,000. I. X. L. Gold Mining and Milling Company, Spokane, Wash., \$1,000,000. Keonigh Gold and Copper Mining Company, Salt Lake City, \$250,000. Nest Egg and Firely Gold Mining Company, Victoria, \$1,000,000. Ottawa Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$250,000. Ora Mine Mining Company, Rossland, \$1,500,000. Ronette Mining and Milling Company, New Denver, \$1,000,000. Sophia Mountain Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$1,000,000. Silver Star Gold Mining Company, Vernon, \$400,000. Tribby Mining Corporation, Buffalo, N.Y., \$75,000. White Bear Gold Mining and Milling Company, Spokane, Wash., \$2,000,000. Zlor Gold Mining Company, Rossland, \$1,000,000.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Retail Quotations for Farmers' Produce Carefully Corrected. Ogilvie's Hungarian flour, \$3.50. Lake of the Woods, \$3.50. Rainier, \$3.50. Snowflake, \$3.50. XXX, \$3.50. Lion, \$3.50. Premier (Enderby), \$3.50. Three Stars (Enderby), \$3.50. Two Star (Enderby), \$3.50. Superfine (Enderby), \$3.50. Strong Baker's (O.K.), \$3.50. Solom, \$3.50. Wheat, per ton, \$35.00 to \$36.00. Oats, per ton, \$23.00 to \$24.00. Barley, per ton, \$22.00 to \$23.00. Middlings, per ton, \$20.00 to \$21.00. Bran, per ton, \$18.00 to \$19.00. Ground feed, per ton, \$25.00 to \$26.00. Corn, whole, \$35.00 to \$40.00. Corn, cracked, \$35.00 to \$40.00. Cornmeal, per 10 pounds, \$3.50. Oatmeal, per 10 pounds, \$3.50. Rolled oats, (O. or N. W.), \$3.50. Rolled oats, (B. S. C.), \$3.50. Potatoes, per pound, \$1.50. Cabbage, \$2.00 to \$3.00. Cauliflower, per head, \$1.00 to \$2.00. Hay, baled, per ton, \$20.00 to \$25.00. Straw, per bale, \$1.50 to \$2.00. Green peas, cured, per lb., \$1.00. Onions, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Bananas, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Pears, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Tomatoes, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Grapes, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Green corn, per doz., \$2.00 to \$3.00. Lemons (California), \$1.00 to \$1.50. Apples, California, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Oranges, (Australian), per doz., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Fish—salmon, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Smoked blonkers, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Eggs, Island, fresh, per doz., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Eggs, Manitoba, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Butter, creamery, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Butter, fresh, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Cheese, Cheddar, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Hams, Canadian, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Bacon, American, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Bacon, rolled, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Bacon, long clear, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Bacon, Canadian, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Shoulders, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Sides, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Meats—beef, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Veal, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Mutton, whole, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Pork, fresh, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Spring lamb, per quarter, \$1.00 to \$1.50. Pork, sides, per lb., \$1.00 to \$1.50. Chickens, per pair, \$1.00 to \$1.50.