

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1895.

STATE-SOCIALISM.

The experience of Australia has shown that state-socialism is not, from the taxpayer's point of view, all that it has been cracked up to be. In England and the United States, where railways are private property, the owners of railway stock, like the rest of the community, have to suffer the effects of bad times. When business is slack and the earnings of the railways are small, dividends decrease. But in Australia, where the railways are built with money borrowed by the state and are the property of the people, the public creditor receives the stipulated rate of interest whether the earnings of the railway be large or small, whether there be a profit or a loss in running them. For instance, the shareholders of many American railways think themselves lucky if in a time of depression they get 1 1/2 per cent. for their money, but the capitalist who has lent money to the Australian governments gets his 4 per cent. even if the railways have not paid working expenses. For instance, the colony of Victoria alone last year paid the immense sum of thirty-seven and three-quarter million dollars—\$7,500,515—as interest on money borrowed to build the railways over and above the interest actually earned. A government railway in Australia or anywhere else can never become bankrupt unless the state itself falls into bankruptcy; but nothing is more common, unfortunately, on this side of the Atlantic than to find railways in the hands of receivers. Here state-socialism is decidedly favorable to the capitalist class. The man who lends money to a railroad-building government is sure of his dividends; the man who buys the shares of a private railway company takes his chances of gain or loss.

Those who favor state-socialism are loud in their denunciation of capital. They are continually exclaiming against the tyranny of monopolies and syndicates and rings. But we find state-socialism in Australia exceedingly favorable to the men who have money to invest. Who is to guarantee that the state will be more successful in conducting business of other kinds than it is in running railroads. The people of Australia have to make good the losses of their railroads out of their own pockets. How long could they stand that sort of thing if the state were engaged in a number of other enterprises and sinking money in them all, as it probably would. We observed the Postoffice trotted out as a successful example of state-socialism. If the Post-office of the United States and Canada were private concerns and if they had been run as favorably to the people as they have been as Government institutions, they would have been financially dead and buried long ago. They have never yet paid their way.

THE PROHIBITION REPORT.

Those who favor prohibition will not feel greatly elated over the Report of the Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic. The Commission has sent in two reports, a majority one, signed by four members, and a minority one, signed by one member. The evidence taken, we find, was literally voluminous, as it fills five volumes. The majority report covers about 1,300 pages of type-written matter, with appendices extending to almost as many more.

The conclusion at which the majority of the Commissioners arrive, after their long and searching inquiry, will no doubt be condemned by the prohibitionists of the Dominion as "lame and impotent" and the anti-prohibitionists, when they glance over the report, will exclaim triumphantly, "We told you so." The Reports, we are afraid, however shy they may have been drawn up and however strong the evidence on which they are based, will not have much effect on public opinion as regards the question of prohibition. The prohibitionists will not, we think, decrease perceptibly in number because the majority of the commission have decided against their cherished convictions, and we have a notion that the confirmation given to their opinions by the Report will not increase to any great extent the number of those who are opposed to prohibition. The money spent in prosecuting the inquiry has we fear, as far as any influence it may have on public opinion been thrown away. The reports and the evidence on which they are based will be read by very few indeed, and of those who undertake to study them an exceedingly small number will bring to the formidable task unbiased minds.

It would be edifying to know what effect the inquiry has had on the minds of the Commissioners themselves. Has the evidence they have seen and the observations they have had the opportunity of making changed the minds of any of them, or are they all of the same opinion as regards prohibition, as they were when they were appointed members of the Commission?

The great question which the Royal Commission had to answer was "Does prohibition prohibit?" If it could be shown conclusively that prohibition has been successful where it has been tried, that it has produced the beneficial effects which the advocates of prohibition declare it must necessarily produce, the greatest difficulty in the way of the adoption of prohibition by many communities would disappear. What conclusion have the majority of the members of the Commission arrived at with regard to the efficacy of prohibition? The following paragraphs from the text of the majority Report give in a very small space the result of the inquiry as far as they are concerned.

The undersigned consider that the aim of any system of regulating or prohibiting liquor traffic is to prevent, or extinguish, the evils which arise from the improper use of intoxicating beverages, and after the most careful and anxious consideration on the subject, they have come to the conclusion

that this would not be accomplished by the enactment of a law prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors throughout the Dominion, and that if such a law were passed it could not be efficiently enforced.

Prohibitionary law partakes too much of the character of coercive legislation on a matter in regard to which a very large portion of the people consider they are qualified and entitled to judge for themselves, to be so imposed as a measure they are called upon to unhesitatingly obey, and hence the impossibility of efficient enforcement.

With the powers possessed by the various provinces to legislate in respect to the traffic, the certainty that in some of the provinces prohibition would meet with determined opposition, with an open frontier such as the Dominion possesses, largely bordering on states in which the sale would be carried on, the undersigned consider that it is illusory to anticipate that a general prohibition law could be enforced with any reasonable degree of efficiency.

The answer of the majority of the Commission is that prohibition does not prohibit, and cannot prohibit. Unfortunately, we are unable to give our readers an extract from the minority report, drawn up by the dissenting Commissioner, Rev. Dr. McLeod, as that report was not brought down. Both reports will, no doubt, soon be published, and those interested in the subject will have the opportunity of seeing what all the Commissioners have said on the efficacy of prohibition.

A NEW REMEDY.

It was reported not long ago that Dr. Louis Waldstein, of New York, who is now in Germany, had discovered a remedy for cancer and consumption. A great deal was said about the alleged cure, much of which has turned out to be, not exactly untrue, but truth greatly exaggerated. The new remedy is an old medicine. It is called pilocarpin or pilocarpine, which the dictionary tells us is "an alkaloid extracted from jaborandi as a white amorphous crystalline substance which has a peculiar effect on the vasomotor system." It is for its action on the blood, however, that pilocarpin is said to be valuable in the cure of cancer, lupus and consumption. Dr. Waldstein's theory is that "injections of pilocarpin stimulating the lymphatic glands would increase the number of white corpuscles in the blood, and thus re-establish the blood's original germicidal power. There seems to be fairly satisfactory evidence that the white corpuscles are active foes to the invading bacteria or germs of infectious diseases. Dr. Waldstein believes that their number can be increased and their beneficial action intensified by pilocarpin. He had proved this, it was said, by observation and experiment in two hospitals."

The curative effect of pilocarpin in cancer and similar diseases does not appear to be as yet well established. The cure is still in the experimental stage and a very great deal will yet have to be done before it can be relied upon. The most that can be said of it at present is that it has been used with good effect in a case of lupus. It has been tried in cases of consumption without any apparent beneficial effect.

DISAPPOINTED AND ANGRY.

Mr. Sifton, the Attorney-General of Manitoba, who was supposed to be quietly and seriously deliberating upon the course which he and his colleagues in the Government ought to pursue on the Sobol question, went to Haldimand and made that question the theme of a series of stump speeches. Those speeches showed that as far as he was concerned the adjournment of the Manitoba Legislature was a sham. He required no time to deliberate. He had made up his mind and he was determined to do his best to prevail upon the electors of Haldimand to condemn the Dominion Government for the course they had pursued in the matter. His efforts were not crowned with success. He in fact failed most conspicuously. It is evident that the electors of that county were not charmed by his arguments. He had to return home a greatly disappointed man.

He, it appears, had placed great reliance upon the Orangemen of Haldimand. He evidently believed that when he raised the standard of opposition in that county and appeared as the champion of what he called Manitoba's rights, the Orangemen would regard him as a hero and vote for the McCarthy candidate to a man. When he found that his stirring appeals had fallen flat on the ears of the Ontario Orangemen he was greatly disgusted, and when he visited Montreal after the election he gave vent to his feelings. This is how he spoke of the Orangemen whom he had failed to convert:

"Mr. Sifton," writes the interviewer, "evidently feels very bitterly against the Orangemen. He does not think that the resolutions passed by the lodge in support of Manitoba are worth a snap of the fingers, and when asked if he thought they were unreliable as a political factor, he replied: 'On the contrary, they are very reliable—about for you, and go out and vote for my opponent. I know where they are. They are quite reliable. The Orangemen came to our meetings and applauded. Apparently they were enthusiastically in favor of Mr. McCarthy—and I must say that some of their really worked out and voted for him—but most of the men who shouted the loudest at our meetings went out and voted for Mr. McCarthy. It is pleasant to go with the big crowd, you know.'"

Mr. Sifton in his anger and disappointment is unjust to the Orangemen. Whatever may have been the failings of the men of that order, they are not the cause of the trouble that has befallen the Government.

SHARP CRITICISM.

The San Francisco Argonaut is very severe on the daily papers of that city for the way in which they are dealing with the Durrant case:

"The daily papers have been attempting to defend their hygienic and sensational accounts of the Emmanuel Church murders on the plea of 'satisfying the detectives.' If the

papers have aided the law in any way, it would be difficult to tell what it is. They have blazoned forth to the world every disclosure made by the police, apparently in order that the criminal or criminals may be duly warned. For example, the finding of Marian Williams's purse in the pocket of one of Durrant's coats, was printed with whoops and yells in every daily in the city. If Durrant is guilty, it afforded him an opportunity to concoct a plausible story as to its presence there. So with every link in the chain; if Durrant is the murderer, this publishing of clues will help his defense; if he is not, it will keep the true murderer warned as to the movements of the police, and hence keep him out of the clutches of the law.

THE CITY MARKETS.

There is no change in the general tone of the markets this week. Hungarian flour has advanced about 25 cents per barrel at wholesale this week but every daily in the city is steady. Small fruits—strawberries and cherries in particular—will be in stock during next week. Current retail quotations are as follows:

Flour—Ogilvie's (Hungarian) per bbl.	5.40
Lake of the Woods (Hungarian) per bbl.	5.40
Three Stars per bbl.	5.35
Victoria per bbl.	5.35
Lion per bbl.	4.75
Salem per bbl.	4.75
Super per bbl.	4.75
Flour—Clarifier per bbl.	4.50
Wheat—Solid per bbl.	2.00
Oats, per ton	24.00
Barley, per ton	24.00
Brass, per ton	20.00
Corn, whole per ton	20.00
Corn, cracked per ton	20.00
Onion, per 10 lbs.	60
Potatoes, per lb.	6
Celery, per bunch	1.00
Rhubarb, per lb.	1.00
Cabbage, per lb.	3
Carrots, per lb.	3
Hay, baled, per ton	12.00
Green peppers, per lb.	1.00
Celery, per bunch	1.00
Butter, cream, per lb.	20 to 25
Butter, salted, per lb.	10 to 15
Cheese, per lb.	30 to 35
Hams, American, per lb.	12 to 15
Bacon, American, per lb.	12 to 15
"Long clear" per lb.	12 to 15
Shoulders, per lb.	12 to 15
Lard	12 to 15
Cottolene, per lb.	12 to 15
Meats—Beef, per lb.	12 to 15
Mutton, per lb.	12 to 15
Pork, fresh, per lb.	12 to 15
Turkey, per pair	10 to 12
Geese, per pair	10 to 12
Fruit—Apples, per lb.	6 to 8
Oranges (Calif.) per lb.	6 to 8
Lemons (Calif.) per lb.	6 to 8
Strawberries, per box	12 to 15
"Solid" per lb.	12 to 15
"Halbush" per lb.	10
"Cod" per lb.	10
"Small fish" per lb.	10
"Colchans" per lb.	10
"Smelts" per lb.	10
Asparagus, per doz.	20 to 25
Lettuce, per doz.	35

THE HEAVENS IN MAY.

(From the Post-Intelligencer.)
Venus is visible more than 116,000,000 miles from us, and during May she shines within the distance by over 20,000,000 miles. The observer of our fair evening star has the delightful vision of Venus made us, as an evening star in the West, in the spring and summer of 1892. She was the brightest of the stars in the sky, and her light was the delight of all eyes. She will increase in brilliancy until August 13. So our summer evenings will be bright with her growing loveliness. Much as we admire her, we are still a little disappointed that she is not so near as she seems to be. She is still trying to win the favor of Jupiter, and as she nears the great planet it is interesting to watch their mutual smiles. They exchange courtesies on the 18th, and Jupiter looks very happy over the prospect of meeting the goddess of love and beauty. It is more than once she has met him with all the grace of love and beauty only to leave him weeping. However, the goddess of love and beauty is still watching the affair with a sort of delight, as it is still a distance that lends enchantment to the view.

Venus sets at 10:19 p. m. on the 1st, 10:10 p. m. on the 15th and at 10:52 p. m. on the 31st.
The wily Mars looks quite small since his meeting with Jupiter on April 25. He visits the Twins this month, and no doubt Castor and Pollux will revive his drooping spirits. Mars sets at 11:47 p. m. on the 1st, 11:24 p. m. on the 15th and at 10:55 p. m. on the 31st.
Jupiter shows his majesty as an evening star in the west, and his lordship appears as a distinguished rival of the lovely Venus. They pass within about two degrees of each other on the 18th, and their conjunction is the astronomical feature of the month. Venus is approaching Jupiter from the West.
Saturn shows as a bright evening star in the east, rising at 6:12 p. m. on the 1st, 5:11 p. m. on the 15th and at 4:04 p. m. on the 31st.
Uranus is in opposition with the sun on the 8th.
The moon makes her conjunction with several of the planets in quick succession towards the close of the month. With Neptune on the 24th, Mercury on the 25th, Jupiter on the 26th and with Venus and Mars on the 27th.

OF INTEREST TO ALL.

"During dangerous weather of this sort," said the old doctor, "the most careful persons are apt to catch a cold. In their chests that will extend worst to the lungs if not attended to. It usually makes its presence known by a constricted sensation just under the breast bone, where the flesh is the thinnest. When you experience this feeling, procure at once a glass of water, and a cup of water as hot as you can bear to take in the mouth and to swallow. There is no better medicine in the world to arrest the progress of a cold than hot water, and, besides its effect upon the stomach, and the system generally, it is beneficial in the highest degree. And a cup of water as hot as you can bear to take in the mouth and to swallow. There is no better medicine in the world to arrest the progress of a cold than hot water, and, besides its effect upon the stomach, and the system generally, it is beneficial in the highest degree. 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