

SUDDEN CONVERSIONS.

It is amusing to see how free traders can become, when the exigencies of an election require it, the most rabid of protectionists. Although there is a high duty on fresh and canned meat some of our free traders of the other day object to the subsidy given to the Australian line of steamers because they have brought to Canada, purely as an experiment, a few carcasses of frozen mutton and a small quantity of canned meats. We did not think that ardent free traders like Dr. Milne and Mr. Marchant would be so quickly and so easily transformed into ultra-protectionists. The suddenness of their conversion must lead those who hear them to suspect that either their professions of attachment to free trade were false and insincere or their present zeal in the cause of protection is put on for election purposes. There are very few protectionists in the country who would sacrifice the prospect of a profitable trade with Australia and New Zealand merely because a little frozen and canned meat might now and then form part of the cargo of one of the steamers. It seems to us that these new converts to the doctrine of protection are a little too loud and too extreme in their professions.

ONE OF THE MYSTERIES.

Is there any one in Victoria, Liberal or Conservative, who can, to adopt the language of Mr. Bodwell, expound the policy of the Opposition on the school question upon convincing grounds? Has any Liberal yet said—and in this inquiry we include Mr. Bodwell himself—in clear, distinct and definite terms, what the Opposition would do in the matter if power were placed in their hands? We hear a good deal about the iniquity of coercing Manitoba, and we are told in thrilling tones to keep our hands off Manitoba, but beyond a few indefinite and ambiguous generalities we have not been told how the Opposition propose to settle the question. Mr. Laurier has talked about resorting to the sunny and soothing ways of diplomacy, and he has declared that he would inquire into the facts. This is all very fine, but suppose that the stubborn Manitobans should turn a deaf ear to Mr. Laurier's honeyed accents, which they certainly would if he asked them to give the minority schools of their own, or that the commissioners of inquiry give a report as unmeaning, as indefinite and inconclusive as one of Mr. Laurier's own speeches—which we are sorry to say commissions of inquiry are wont to do—what course would the Opposition then pursue? No answer has as yet been given to this question, and the leading Liberals one and all avoid answering it.

As we all know the Government of Manitoba have definitely and distinctly refused to redress the grievance of the minority. They say that there is no grievance to redress. In taking this position it is believed that they are backed up by the great majority of the people of Manitoba. It has been said that if Mr. Greenway and his colleagues showed the slightest disposition to come to a compromise with the minority on this school question they would be immediately repudiated by the men who have placed them in power.

Has Mr. Laurier, we ask, any means at his disposal by which he can change the minds and soften the hearts of the majority of the Manitoba electors? If he has, why does he keep it a profound secret. Will the people of Manitoba grant to Mr. Laurier, because he is such a very nice, sweet-spoken man, what they have refused to Mr. Bowell and his colleagues in the Government? Does Mr. Laurier propose to abandon the question? Will he leave the Manitobans to settle the school question among themselves, regardless of the petitions and appeals of the minority? If he does it would be the easiest thing in the world to say so. If he did this there would be a distinct and a fair issue between him and the Government. He would then have a policy. But he has said nothing of the kind. We are surprised that the zealous anti-coercionists, the sincere advocates of non-interference, have not put this question to him squarely before now. It seems to us that if they were in earnest they would have done so, and would have required of him a simple and definite answer—yes or no.

Mr. Laurier has been beating about the bush ever since this Manitoba school question was raised. He has not taken a decided stand upon it. He has talked in such a way as to lead confident followers to believe that he has a policy up his sleeve, which, when it suits his purpose to shake out, will settle the whole difficulty in no time. There again, he has given his hearers to believe that he expects some time or other to appeal to the Protestants of the Dominion to interpose in behalf of the Manitoba minority. This does not look like non-interference, but points to a policy the very reverse of non-interference.

We are not surprised that Mr. Laurier's uncertain attitude and indefinite utterances satisfy the Grits, for their

main object is to get into power, as the Dutchman advised his son to get money—honestly if he could, but any way to get money. But surely conscientious Conservatives who believe that Manitoba should not be interfered with will not consent to be led by a man who will not tell them where he is going. They should get from the Liberal Leader a clear and convincing exposition of his policy. They should find out from him whether or not he intends to pursue a policy of strict non-interference. If he will not give them a plain and definite answer it is safe for them to conclude that the cry "Hands off Manitoba," which some of his Western followers have taken up, is adopted for the purpose of deceiving and misleading them.

AN INDEPENDENT VIEW.

The Toronto Week, which is perfectly independent with respect to politics, and is admitted to be conducted with great ability, takes a common sense view of the Manitoba school question. It is evidently not partial to separate schools, but it puts itself in the place of those who conscientiously object to a school system which is purely secular. It says: "While Protestants, as a general rule, deplore the determination of their Roman Catholic fellow-subjects to insist upon separate schools, the larger majority feel that it would be impolitic, as well as unjust, to coerce them into attending schools to which they object, and we doubt very much whether the fanatical denunciations of the extreme ultra-Protestants find sympathy with the large majority of electors. It does seem unfair to insist upon the members of that creed being compelled to pay double rates, that is, in support of public schools, which they do not approve of, and at the same time support schools which their church requires them to attend. It is a serious concession for the country to be obliged to make, and if it could be avoided the large majority would gladly not have to make it; but as it is a question of faith and not merely of practice, we must bow to the situation."

The Week is decidedly of opinion that it would be unwise for the people of any province of the Dominion to attach undue prominence to this Manitoba school question which, after all, is of minor importance and directly affects a comparatively small number of the inhabitants of the Dominion. It asks: "Are the people prepared to allow those trade relations questions to be decided or disposed of by a side issue? We believe not, and we hope to see yet a sense of justice and of moderation and fair play exert a strong effort to put this vexed question of separate schools into the limbo of dead and forgotten issues. There are so many much more serious matters to unite about that we must not allow our national strength and national good feeling to be dissipated in ungenerous sectarian disputes. If the energies and abilities of our people need exercise let our political leaders take up the question of the development of the Northwest. How shall our millions of acres be brought into the market? How can our thousands of inhabitants be made millions? How can we put our militia force into proper condition? How are we to induce the English people to divert their investments from rotten South American securities into good Canadian bonds and mortgages? The English financial papers are openly declaring that English investments are leaving the United States, and they are looking in other fields in which to invest their capital. We want that capital here badly. Every day this mischievous separate school agitation is kept up damages our chances of getting any investment whatever made here. Our enemies take advantage of our dissensions—they even fan the flame. Candid friends who damn us with faint praise now point in the English papers to these troubles and prophesy our inability to settle them. We appeal to business men and men who have something to lose, to interfere before it is too late and insist that their representatives give this question an immediate quietus."

There is a great deal to be said in favor of the Week's view of the situation. Every one that thinks must see that it will be unwise in the people of this or any other province to give such prominence to this question that other and greatly more important questions will be overlooked and lost sight of. If designing Grit politicians are allowed to use this question so as to divide the Conservatives, in order that they may snatch they spoils of office, they will surely wake up to see how egregiously they have been duped when it is too late to repair the mischief that has been done. If Laurier and his Grit fellow schemers can set the Conservatives quarrelling about religion while they look on and say nothing to commit themselves on the question in dispute they will be delighted. It is evident that "Divide and Conquer" is their motto at this moment. The Conservatives of Victoria are, we are pleased to see, too wide awake to help him to succeed. The citizens of Victoria understand their true interests too well to allow Laurier and his tools to throw dust in their eyes.

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX!

Sleepy.

It is man's duty in the day time after a good night's sleep, there's indigestion and stomach disorder.

BEECHAM'S PILLS

By removing the waste matter which clogs the system, will cure all Bilious and Nervous Disorders, and will safely relieve sick-headaches.

Covered with a Tasteless and Soluble Coating.

Wholesale Agents, Evans & Sons, Ltd., Montreal.

For sale by all druggists.

ESTABLISHED 1879.

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REAL ESTATE AGENT,

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LOANS EFFECTED, RENTS AND INCOME COLLECTED, DEEDS PREPARED, ETC.

For Sale--1388-Acre Farm

ABOUT 1000 ACRES OF WHICH IS PLOUGHABLE PRAIRIE OF FIRST-CLASS QUALITY.

120 Head of Cattle, 1 pedigree Hereford Bull. 12 Horses, Ploughs, Harrows, Reaper, Wagon, Sleds, and usual farm implements. Double Harness, Chain Harness, Bull Chains, Saddles (ladies' and gents'), Bridles, etc. Blacksmiths' Bellows, Anvil and Tools and Carpenters' Tools. Nine-room House, shingle roofed. Stable for 10 horses, with hay loft above. Stone Root-house, Store Buildings, Dairy, Cow Sheds, etc., etc. About 7 miles Standing Fences, in good order, Corrals, etc. Small lot Household Furniture, Stove and Pipes, Cooking Utensils, Crockery, etc.

THIS PROPERTY is within easy distance of many of the most important Gold Silver and Coal Mines in West Kootenay. The soil is the best bottom land, and the locality is one of the few places in the Province where so large a piece of good farm land can be found in one block. A river runs through the property, and rainbow trout are plentiful and afford capital sport. Deer abound in considerable numbers. Bear, Wolf, Coyote and other large game are to be found in the hills. There are two creeks recorded and belonging to the estate; one flows all the year round. Limestone and brick clay are to be had in the valley.

THE TITLE is Crown Grant. Immediate possession can be given.

THE CATTLE are well bred. A much larger herd could be farmed with the place. The bunch grass on the hills in the vicinity covers many thousands of acres, and is available to the few land owners in the valleys.

THE CLIMATE is not severe. The station was for many years the winter quarters of the H. B. Co.'s pack trains.

THE SOUTH-WEST KOOTENAY AND OSOYOOS Divisions of Yale District, British Columbia, judging from the actual ore products of the mines to date, are destined in the next year or two to be the richest and most important mineral centres in the world.

For Sale - 20,000 Acres of Farm

IN CONTIGUOUS BLOCKS.

Beautifully watered, forming one of the finest estates in the Province; house and farm buildings; 2,000 head of cattle; 50 to 80 horses; easy approach; good roads; railways projected to property and the estate is in close proximity to some of the best developed and most promising gold mines in the District. The price of the whole is extremely moderate. Principals only treated with.

These localities are rapidly settling up, and as farm land is limited, great inducement is offered to any person or corporation having capital and knowledge necessary to work these Estates. A store, hotel and blacksmith shop could be run in connection with the farm.

ALONE IN ITS KNAVERY.

The reader of the Eastern newspapers will look through them in vain for any expression of doubt as to the genuineness and the constitutionality of Col. Prior's appointment to a seat in the Cabinet. They all, Liberal and Conservative, take that appointment as a matter of course. The Victoria Times, as far as we know, is alone in its professed scepticism with regard to Mr. Prior's status. We observe, too, that no lawyer who has a reputation to lose, even here in Victoria, questions the power of the Premier to select a Controller as a colleague in the Government.

MRS. PRIOR DANGEROUSLY ILL.

It will be heard with regret by the friends of Hon. E. G. Prior that Mrs. Prior is dangerously ill, and now lies in a critical condition at the Jubilee hospital. It will not therefore be expected that Col. Prior for the present give to political affairs all the attention which otherwise they would claim, and the public will appreciate the reason for his temporary absence from the scenes of political action.

CHESS TOURNAMENT.

The tournament of the Victoria Chess Club is still progressing, the results so far being as follows:

	Wm.	Lost.
C. Schwengers	7	0
B. Goward	3	0
B. Williams	7	1
B. Schwengers	6	1
C. E. Clarke	6	1
R. H. Johnson	3 1/2	3 1/2
Capt. Mitchell	3	3
P. Wollaston	2	3
C. D. Aytton	2	3
T. Lawrie	1	4
P. T. Johnson	1 1/2	7 1/2
J. Earsman	0	2
P. Goepel	0	4
J. Sterling Floyd	0	3
W. Scoocroft	2	2
H. Kemp	0	8

A stimulant is often needed to nourish and strengthen the roots and to keep the hair a natural color. Hall's Hair Renewer is the best tonic for the hair.

A CUTTING REPLY.

Mr. Lecky's Answer to Those Who Objected to Him on Account of His Religious Views.

Mr. W. E. H. Lecky, one of the candidates for the representation of Dublin University, was objected to by some of the electors on account of what were supposed to be his religious opinions. Some of his opponents declared that he was an Agnostic and a Materialist. Some of the electors had, it appears, asked of Mr. Lecky's committee a statement of that gentleman's religious belief. To those who thus attempted to give the election a religious complexion in his speech on nomination day he gave the following reply:

"There is one other subject to which I am obliged to allude, though I confess I should gladly have passed it by with the silence of contempt. I mean the persistent and systematic attempts which have been made to give this election a religious character, to raise a religious cry, to gain votes by circulating in every form attacks on the personal religious belief of one of the candidates. I confess that since Macaulay's scathing denunciation on the hustings of Leeds of the intrusion of such matters into an election contest, I had hoped that they had entirely disappeared. Were I to be asked on this platform any such question as to my personal beliefs as was asked of Macaulay, I should give the same answer that he gave—I am a Christian—and I would refuse to answer one word more. In England, indeed, such topics are very rarely introduced into a political election, and if they are introduced they are speedily repressed and suppressed. Here it appears that this is not the case. If a stranger who knew nothing of what was going on had come to Dublin within the last few days, he might easily have imagined that you are electing not a member of parliament, but a member for an ecclesiastical council at a time when religious intolerance ran peculiarly high. Very rarely, I suppose, of late years has there been an election in which the odium theologium has played so great a part, and I am told that it is notorious that a large proportion of the votes that will be given against me will be due to the employment of this weapon, and that it is upon it that my opponents are chiefly basing their hopes of success. I

do not think that this will reflect honor either on those who have employed these means or on those who have silently acquiesced in and profited by them. I have myself no fear that this method will succeed. The long array of distinguished clergymen representing all that is most eminent in learning, piety and influence in the Irish church who have been good enough to support me is sufficient to show how little its best and purest elements sympathize with these attacks, and I have little doubt that the disgust and reprobation which several distinguished clergymen have expressed to me at the means that have been employed in this election are fully shared in countless humble personages throughout Ireland. Some votes no doubt will be gained, but they will be purchased by a deep and lasting discredit."

The distinguished historian's opponents were well answered. Nothing can be more contemptible than to attempt to raise a prejudice against a candidate for a political position on account of his personal religious belief. The introduction of the religious element so-called is in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred as unnecessary as it is unfair. There can be no doubt that the great majority of those who cavilled at Mr. Lecky's candidature because in their opinion he was not orthodox in religion, were not fit from an intellectual point of view to blacken his boots.

AGAINST THE CONTRACTORS.

New York Tailors Have Determined to Establish Co-Operative Shops.

New York, Dec. 30.—The executive committee of the Brotherhood of Tailors has not yet decided as to the location of the two co-operative shops which they propose opening in a few days, and for which \$1,000 has been appropriated from the funds of the brotherhood, at the suggestion of Meyer Schoenfeld. Leader Schoenfeld is sanguine that the proposed plan will prove successful, and will eventually lead to the total extinction of the contractors. He claims a large number of manufacturers have already asked for estimates of the tailors, and at the same time have given assurances of dealing directly with the tailors in preference to the contractors. Schoenfeld has engaged sewing machines and other apparatus

for the equipment of the new shops, which he expects to be running by Wednesday next. A mass meeting of the locked-out tailors took place to-day. Speeches were made by various leaders.

SHIPS AND SHIPPING.

Yesterday Morning's Heavy Blow Detained the "City of Kingston" and "Joan."

Yesterday morning's gale came as predicted, being the heaviest blow of the season. Most of the regular boats were prevented from leaving on time, but this was the chief effect of the storm along the wharves. It was almost noon before the Joan got started, and it was after 1 o'clock when the City of Kingston sailed on her first morning trip from Victoria. Being broadside on to the wind she made several unsuccessful attempts to leave her dock, but once her bow was pointed to the wind nothing held her back.

Another trio of sealers have cleared for cruises to the Japanese Coast. Each carries a full white crew, and will no doubt sail as soon as the weather moderates. The trio are the Fortuna, Capt. T. O'Leary; the Allie I. Algar, Capt. Colin Locke; and the Umbrina, Capt. Campbell.

Since taking up the morning route the steamer City of Kingston has not put her fares back to the old mark. The cut rates still prevail, much to the satisfaction of the public.

The schooner Rainbow, Capt. Sears, has been chartered by the British Columbia Fishing & Trading Co., to temporarily replace the Thistle while the latter vessel receives an overhauling.

The barkentine, C. C. Funk, which was out down by the schooner Volant, has gone on the dry dock at San Francisco for repairs.

ENTERED.
Str. Charmer from Vancouver.
"City of Kingston" Port Townsend.
"Rosalia" "

CLEARED.
Str. Charmer for Vancouver.
"City of Kingston" Port Townsend.
"Rosalia" "

"And you will never forget me!" asked the summer resort girl of her lover, the dry goods clerk. "Never," he said, absently; "is there anything more to-day?" Detroit Free Press.

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