

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1898.
COME OUT IN FORCE.

The friends of the local government, and that surely includes nearly every one in Victoria, ought to see to it that their names are enrolled in the membership of the Provincial Political Association. It makes no difference what a voter's preferences in federal matters may be, if he is for British Columbia and believes that the administration of the Hon. Mr. Turner has been such as to merit public confidence in his ability and readiness to fight the battle of the province in the future, he will find nothing in the plan of the association to which he cannot subscribe. The office of the secretary of the association on the corner of Fort and Broad streets is open every day, where any persons who desire to do so can examine the by-laws of the association and subscribe their names to them. They will entitle them to a vote at the convention for the nomination of candidates, to be held on the 9th instant. A large convention is hoped for, because it is the wish of the executive committee that as many persons as possible shall be consulted as to who should be put in nomination for the city. Every one will be welcome, provided he is willing to agree to abide by the choice of the convention and vote for the candidates selected. A broader invitation could not be given. At the same time to avoid mistakes it has been decided to adopt a rule under which admission to the convention will be regulated by ticket issued to each person who subscribes the roll of membership, or, in the case of those persons who have not time to attend at the secretary's office, an application card, to be procured from any of the members of the executive committee. While there can be no reasonable doubt as to the result of the election in this city, the friends of the local government and all who wish well for British Columbia should come out in force at the convention in this city. The effect of a strong convention in this city will be felt in all parts of the province. Though victory is certain, every one should work as though he felt that there is imminent danger of defeat.

AS TO SELF-SEEKERS.

Mr. Cotton stated at the opposition meeting at Vancouver the other night that what the province wanted was a government composed of "men who are not self-seekers." This is one of Mr. Cotton's phrases. He has a taste for such things. Last year his pet expression was "stupid people." Every one who did not agree with him was "stupid." He has indulged in a little variety, and every one who does not see eye to eye with him in politics is a self-seeker. It is not very clear how this term can be applied with truth to the present administration or any of its members. It implies that the men who are characterized by it are looking for personal advantage. A self-seeker is a man who is seeking to promote his personal gain. There are five members of the provincial cabinet. Will Mr. Cotton take some opportunity, either in his newspaper or on the public platform, to show which of them has used his official position to advance his personal interests, when he did so and how he did it. He must either do this or stand condemned as a mere phrase-maker, which in point of fact describes him about as well as any other words that can be suggested. He invents sounding phrases and believes that he is enunciating great principles.

The charge that anyone is a self-seeker comes with a mighty and poor grace from the gentleman, whose supporters thought so little of his loyalty that they required him to give them a pledge in writing that he would be true. It comes with a specially poor grace from a man, who spent a whole session of the legislature in seeking to get into the government, which he now so bitterly opposes. Mr. Cotton's whole ambition for years has been to get a place in some government, any government, so long as there was a salary attached to the position. With this object, he played the most ignoble part ever taken by any man in British Columbia politics. While he was openly standing in with the opposition, he was secretly plotting against them. Self-seekers, indeed! Mr. Cotton ought to leave epithets like that to be employed by some one else.

THE CASSIAR CENTRAL.

Yesterday's Colonist contained a news item regarding the shipment of a large amount of supplies to Cassiar by the Cassiar Central Railway Co. This is not the first time that such news has been published. The company is engaged extensively in operations in the north although very little is said about them, the plan of Mr. Hirschel-Cohen, the manager, being to avoid publicity so far as is possible in connection with his business transactions. The public will remember what dire misfortunes to the province by reason of the passage of the bill to aid this company in the construction of its railway were foretold. As was pointed out yesterday in the Colonist, one-fifth of the period in which the company must select its land has expired and there is yet to be heard the first complaint from a single individual that his plans have been interfered with in the slightest degree by the concessions granted to the company. On the other hand, a large number of prospectors have secured employment at good pay coupled with an interest in their discoveries. Many thousands of dollars have been spent in the purchase of supplies and transportation, and an efficient business establishment has been maintained by the company. These things mean very much for the province, and they are only the beginning of the company's very extensive operations. It will not be long before railway construction will be begun on the road to Dease Lake, whereby

employment will be given to a very great many people, and a market will be provided for many thousands of tons of farm produce. As between the gain and loss to the public resulting from the government policy as exemplified in the Cassiar Central grant, the balance is on the side of the former. Indeed, there is really nothing at all upon the other side of the account; and yet we have been told that this Cassiar Central railway plan was a sufficient reason for turning the government out of office.

Let us consider just what this scheme is. It is not a grant of any land, but only a lease subject to conditions which are to the advantage of the general public and eliminate from the bargain any of the features of a monopoly. The area embraced in the prospective lease is comparatively small when the extent of unoccupied land in northern British Columbia is taken into consideration. What is the territory lying between the fifty-sixth and sixtieth parallels of latitude. It is an area which for convenience of calculation may be said to be 500 miles wide, measuring east and west, and 300 miles wide measuring north and south. That is to say, it contains an area of 150,000 square miles or 96,000,000 acres. So far as is known, all this enormous extent of country is as well worth prospecting as is the reserve out of which the Cassiar Central Co. is to select its leasehold. The amount of that leasehold is considerably less than one one-hundredth part of the whole area of northern British Columbia. In the estimated area given above no portion of the province below the head of Portland channel on the west, and the Peace river on the east is taken into account. The leasehold is not to be taken in a single block nor is the company at liberty to select land wherever it pleases. The selections must be made in blocks four miles square and the blocks must be not less than four miles apart. This provision gives the company one block of four miles square to two blocks of four miles square remaining to the crown. That is to say, instead of getting half the area, as they would under the ordinary plan of granting alternate blocks, they get only one-third of it. It will be seen from the terms of this subsidy that it does not give the company anything like a monopoly of the 10,000,000 acres reserved to them. After the company has selected its land and located claims thereon, it at once becomes a direct contributor to the revenue of the province. It pays taxes upon its property of any kind precisely as any private individual or any mining company does. It pays \$50 per annum as a specific tax for each mining claim which it holds, and it at any time it transfers a claim or any portion thereof, it must pay \$100 to the revenue. In case its cuts timber on any of its leased lands, it pays the same royalty as is charged to a one-half interest in his discoveries provided it shall decide to accept the same within 60 days after notice of discovery. If this option is not accepted, the discoverer may at any time within two years sell his property to any person who chooses to buy it. After the expiration of the two years, if the discoverer has not disposed of it, the company may take charge of it, develop it and sell it, paying the free miner for his one-half the proceeds of any bona fide sale. These are the legal restrictions surrounding the company's lease, and in addition thereto the public have the protection of the business interests of the company which will lead it to encourage the development of all properties within the reserved district.

In consideration of these concessions from the legislature, the company is to build 75 miles of railway, which will connect the waters of the Stikine with the Dease river, which in turn is a tributary of the Laird—a river flowing to the great Mackenzie and having tributaries through a vast extent of territory in British Columbia and the North West Territories, concerning which not much is known further than that the indications are favorable to the discovery of valuable minerals within its borders. Such is the Cassiar Central railway agreement which has called forth such various adverse criticism from the enemies of the government. So far from being a measure calling for condemnation at the hands of the electors, it is one deserving of their heartiest endorsement. There is no guess work about the advantage it will be, for, as was said at the outset, the company is already expending its money liberally in the employment of labor and the purchase of supplies.

LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN.

Lost, strayed or stolen, two things called platforms. One of them was made by Charles A. Semlin, Francis L. Carter-Cotton and Donald Graham. It was a remarkable thing. There never was anything like it before. There never will be anything like it again. It passed across the political horizon like a Queen's birthday firecracker and disappeared in the gloaming of his darling, and has never since been heard of. What has become of it, no man knoweth. An ancient legend tells of the disappearance of the Pleiades: Arthur Sullivan has sung of the Lost Chord; Andree has gone some where—no one knows where; yet we can at least guess at the whereabouts of that thing called a platform, which the three opposition Tailors of Tooley Street evolved from their in-

ner consciences or elsewhere on that fine summer day in 1897, there is neither trace, scent nor echo. A faint memory lingers in the minds of people who are interested in curiosities that such a thing once was. What is it? Will not Mr. Francis L. Carter-Cotton, if he has safely recovered from the shock of his embrace with Mr. Joseph Martin, late of Winnipeg, take some convenient opportunity of suggesting a theory that will fit the case? The other thing called a platform was adopted before it was born by an alleged convention of Liberals held in Westminster. Subsequently it was brought to the light of day by the united efforts of a special committee, but it has gone. Like the shadow of a vision, it has left not a wrack behind. Where oh! where is it gone? The anguished heart of the average oppositionist, when he thinks of its untimely departure into the regions of the unknown must feel like solacing himself with that classical song beginning, "Where, oh! where has my little dog gone?"

It is really cruel on the part of the inventors of these two extraordinary creations of the human intellect to suffer them to be at large, untraced, for and alone in the wilderness of political doubt and uncertainty. Is there none of them, like that fellow in Shakespeare, that could call up spirits from the vasty deep, who can by some magic power bring back from the limbo of forgetfulness these two marvellous productions of human ingenuity which have vanished.

"Like a snow flake in the river;
A moment white; then melts forever."
THE FARMERS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

If the agricultural population of British Columbia withholds from the government an expression of confidence at the forthcoming election, it will not be because a painstaking and intelligent effort has not been made to promote their welfare. It may be said without fear of successful contradiction that no provincial government in Canada has done as much in the same length of time for the farming interests as the British Columbia government has done during the last two years. It has made a successful effort to deal with the dyking question on the lower Fraser. It has provided for a beginning of a system of irrigation. It has afforded the farmers means of protecting themselves from ruinous competition and of securing the best possible facilities for marketing their produce by the establishment of farming institutes. It has aided the important work of education in subjects not dealt with in schools, but in which men of mature years are interested, by the establishment of travelling libraries. It has provided a plan whereby the farming communities can secure money for immediate development upon the most favorable terms. It has encouraged dairying, fruit raising and sheep husbandry. It has not simply waited for the farmers to ask for measures of relief, but has anticipated their demands. For which of all these good works do the opposition ask that the government shall be condemned? Will the opponents of the government throughout the agricultural community state what it is that the government has not done which it ought to have done and what it has done that it ought not to have done? Has it not adopted a policy in other respects that is calculated to open the eyes of the province to new and extensive markets?

'The claim will be made that the government, in refusing to abolish what is known as the mortgage tax, has incurred the resentment of some so-called champions of the agricultural interest. On this point a few things may be said. The mortgage tax so-called is not a burden borne peculiarly by the farmers. Indeed, it is probably more of a burden upon the owners of city property than upon anyone else. That it is a tax which is defensible upon principle cannot be successfully denied. It is quite right that money invested on mortgage should be taxed as well as money invested in anything else, but it must be admitted also that money lenders have been able to take advantage of borrowers and compel the latter to pay a tax upon investments when the same are in the form of mortgages. How to relieve the borrower from this tax, and at the same time compel the lender to contribute his share to the revenue is a problem of great difficulty, notwithstanding the airy manner in which it is dismissed by such great political economists as Messrs. Forster, Higgins and Cotton. But there is an evil exists, which must be remedied, is conceded and by no one more than by the government, which asked the house to appropriate a sum of money for the appointment of commissioners, who will look into this and other subjects between now and the next session of the legislature, and see what can be done to relieve the mortgagor without giving the mortgagee privileges enjoyed by the possessor of no other description of property.

Some of the extreme champions of farmers' interests will doubtless seek to make it appear that the government ought to have arranged for the redemption of all outstanding farm mortgages and the substitution of new ones bearing lower interest, but this is not reasonable. The cheap money law, as it is called, goes quite as far in this direction as is safe. It is utterly hopeless for the government of any country to undertake to redeem outstanding mortgages in the manner suggested. If the opposition were in power to-morrow they could not undertake to do it, and, what is more, they have never said that they would. They have contented themselves with growling at the government for not doing what they know perfectly well cannot be done. The true remedy is a community of farmers burdened by debts, incurred during a period of inflation, is to do what can be done to bring about good times again, and place within the reach of the farmers means whereby they can convert their credit into money at a

enable them to take advantage of the new opportunities of becoming prosperous. The farmers of British Columbia are not a lot of mendicants begging at the door of the legislature for favors to be doled out either by the government or the opposition. They are industrious, hard-working men, suffering, in many cases, from over-confidence and a desire to get ahead a little faster than the conditions of the country warrant. All they asked was that something should be done to open new markets for them, and that they might be placed in a position to get money for business purposes on as reasonable terms as other business men can get it. If this were done for them they would take care of themselves without coddling on the part of the government or mawkish expressions of sympathy on the part of the opposition. It has been done.

If poor British Columbia is on the high road to destruction, how comes it that so distinguished a citizen of Manitoba as the Hon. Joseph Martin was willing to risk his future here? Since the Hon. Joseph has been in the province he has, according to himself, been strictly out of politics, he has also been a candidate for the Chief Justiceship; he also has been an aspirant for a position in the present cabinet; he has also been the leader of the independents, and at the last accounts he was a confirmed oppositionist of the Francis L. Carter-Cotton stripe. We do not know if there is anything else in the political merry-go-round that the Hon. Joseph can be; but if there is he will be it. Our own impression is that he will shortly go back to where he started, that is to being strictly out of politics. The voters of Vancouver will give him a boost in that direction.

Mr. Francis L. Carter-Cotton expressed the desire the other night in Vancouver to meet Hon. Mr. Turner face to face and discuss the financial situation with him. There is an impression here in Victoria that Mr. Cotton sat opposite Mr. Turner for three long months in the legislature during the session just ended. He was face to face with him every day and several times for nearly all night. Why did he not then discuss the financial situation with him? More noteworthy still is the fact that the financial position of the province came up for discussion several times while he was face to face with the antagonist whom he now burns to meet. Mr. Cotton is the bravest debater in Christendom when there is no one around to answer him.

It is said to be the intention of President McKinley to administer Cuba after the fashion adopted by Great Britain in Egypt, and that a complete study of the British method is being made by the treasury officials. The great difficulty about this is that under the American system, the chief administrator is likely to be changed every four years, a condition of things which would be almost prohibitive of good government.

Mr. S. Perry Mills is a candidate for the suffrages of the electors of Esquimalt. He told the people at Colwood that he was in favor of Mr. Turner but against his government. Query: How will Mr. Mills be classified politically? A year's subscription to the Semi-Weekly Colonist will be given to any one sending in the first correct answer.

The Rossland Record pleads for the observance of the Fourth of July at Rossland in reciprocity for the observance of the Queen's Birthday there. The Colonist believes in doing everything reasonable to promote international good feeling, but it would draw the line at a Canadian celebration of the Fourth of July.

The resolution of the Chicago Irishmen against closer relations between the United States and Great Britain does not appear to have been received with much favor by the American press, which rightly regards the interests of the whole English-speaking race as infinitely more important than the prejudices of discontented Irish-Americans.

We observe that the opposition papers are quoting with approval the statement of Mr. Higgins to the effect that, when the electors vote this time, they will not be voting for him but for a change of government. To ask people to vote for Mr. Higgins seems to be rather more than any one thinks is reasonable.

All is alleged to be serene between the Brown oppositionists and the Martin oppositionists. Whether the lion has swallowed the lamb or the lamb the lion, or whether, like the Kilkenny cats, they have swallowed each other, has not yet been made public. Possibly time will tell.

The Columbian says that Hon. Mr. Turner informed his friends in Vancouver that the election in that city would be on strictly Dominion lines. This is wholly untrue. Mr. Turner informed his friends in Vancouver that it was his desire that the election should not be run on Dominion lines.

The Toronto Globe thinks that Rossland should become a large and flourishing city. There is no doubt about that. Rossland will grow, but its growth will keep pace with the development of the mines surrounding it. There will be no mushroom work.

The United States papers now refer to the operations at San Juan de Porto Rico as a fiasco, and it is alleged that the President has directed the commanders of the squadron not to risk any more such performances.



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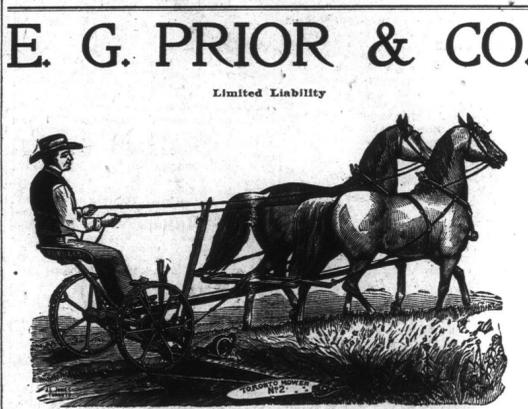
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Can a grand jury find a true bill without any evidence? This point was raised in the case of the Queen vs. Nichol. The presiding judge did not express any opinion, and the Crown officer thought best to have the indictment sent back and some evidence submitted. But is it not good law that a grand jury can make a presentment without calling any witnesses, that is, based upon the knowledge possessed by the members of that body? We think so. Moreover there is no means of ascertaining whether or not the grand jury had evidence before it. The proceedings of that body are secret. What a member of it may tell his fellow members, they are sworn not to divulge. The presentment is the end of all inquiry as to how it came to be found. The grand jury may make a presentment against any one, without the Crown knowing that anything of the sort is intended, and it is in the duty of the crown officer in such a case to prepare an indictment, to which the accused person can be called upon to plead. While the practice is for the Crown officer to send in indictments to the jury, this is not essential. The jury may return such presentments as they believe proper, and the court may amend such presentments so as to make them accord in form with the requirements of procedure.

Mr. John Bryden, M. P. P., has received a requisition from 230 voters in North Nanaimo asking him to allow himself to be again nominated for that riding and he has consented. In his card he declares his approval of the policy of the government and promises to continue to work for progress and development. Both personally and as a member of the legislature, Mr. Bryden is a gentleman, whom to know is to highly respect, and North Nanaimo is fortunate in securing his services in the legislature.

Recommendations to mercy are very well in their place; but there is such a thing as running them into the ground, and it is a good thing that our judges do not allow themselves to be unduly influenced by them. Every lawyer knows that often a recommendation to mercy is simply a means used on the part of sensible jurymen to bring stubborn men to consent to a verdict.

The Midway Advance, opposition, thinks the opposition press has a good deal of reason for refusing to regard the commission to inquire into the lands and works department as necessary. Seeing that the charge appeared in the Times, we are not sure that there may not be very much in which the Advance says.

The Rossland Miner has a very appreciative notice of Hon. Mr. Turner, who it declares has shown politically an personal that he has great faith in Kootenay. The latter portion of the observation is based upon the fact that Turner, Beeton & Co. have a large and prosperous mercantile business in Kootenay, where they maintain a branch house, Kootenay, being peopled chiefly by men of business instincts and energy, will prefer to trust the interests of the province in the hands of a business man rather than in those of a respectable, though inexperienced man like Mr. Semlin, or a political adventurer like Mr. Joseph Martin.

In to-day's Colonist will be found an extremely interesting letter from J. B. Mercer, of Nanaimo, on co-operative fruit raising. There is no doubt that his suggestion has a genuine business value.

The Rossland Miner urges the citizens of that riding to be very careful in the selection of a representative to the local legislature. The advice might well be taken by other ridings.

Seven years for a "confidence" game will not afford much encouragement to the floating criminal element on the Coast who may contemplate coming to British Columbia.

The failure of the police authorities to secure an ante-mortem statement from Mrs. Marsden was commented upon at the time by the Colonist. We note that in the penitentiary and be forever after disfranchised.

The call for troops in the United States has demonstrated that the National Guard is a perfectly useless military organization. It was never anything more than a sort of a club.

FOR IN SEAR French Ba couver a Nov Reasons the In Vancouver French ball has been tal Nearly two tists, headed arrived at and were s Vancouver, day that the capt the lea where they Hotel Vanco Terwagne a and Louis N continent w of negotiat the final ret for the purp balloons for M. Varicle is day now an balloon will Mr. Varicle able reputati in balloon a second to no sonal friend plorer, as is kindly conse sensitive an evening. M been classed scientists an with a balloo perfect as t tleman of v was only too illustrations interview prog led long ene countries to friend kindly "You see," history of b people of nea sidered that tion is more else, but it s now parks a of the syste very interesti and other E now serve us times of war, menting has hands of me The bicycle h has lea course the bal enormous an does not ad means strik tal and enor "When Am name was br tific societies Sweden and patrons and t give him eve being only a was not exp ence of an or twice und by balloon. on. M. Stru fessional, ha trips with M. let. Natural one or two t an ordinary many times, b that they we take travel of ing not had could not for "According which will b good deal of the old style while the de the conseque the pressure stronger the Then you be come to the loon floated lower, havin prevent strik out ballast, and the ball bye you ha ballast and your balloon to descend t undertaken this gas as "My princ to a certai it at will on an aeri 150 yards l the balloon, on the bal to become t weighs a gr ac first the is thrown i to a conven trailing alor course sup house for t end. As v lighter and reses on th reach a pl from the gr hold up th extremely s as if you kno experience "Now, An of the rop would do j would sever if the end of call the bal of the dyad the rope, s can be app down to th point and leaving Spi termixed an balloon, be metres, and 600 pound away to a not been m but this in ous for he come down down to the wind a had he use the reckon was drifted