

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1896.

Published Every Monday and Thursday by The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited, Liability.

TERMS: THE DAILY COLONIST. Published Every Day except Monday. Per year, postage free to any part of Canada...

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST. Per year, postage free to any part of the Dominion or the United States...

ADVERTISING RATES. REGULAR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING. As distinguished from everything of a transient character...

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THE ISSUE IN MANITOBA.

We the other day took it for granted that the school question was the sole issue of the election contest in Manitoba.

The Winnipeg newspapers of the 16th, the day after the election, have come to hand, and let us see what they say about the issue at the polls.

The Winnipeg Tribune, the organ of the Greenway Government, a party paper of the same class and pretty much the same calibre as the Victoria Times, is of course jubilant over the "glorious victory."

The Dominion authorities, however much they may be under the dictation and influence of the Roman Catholic hierarchy of Quebec, will never dare attempt the coercion of Manitoba now.

After a few sentences of triumphant boasting, which under the circumstances may be regarded as excusable, the Tribune continues:

Mr. Greenway has now secured the mandate which he asked the people of Manitoba to give him, and he knows that the province will stand at his back in resisting any and all attempts at coercion.

These extracts from the leading Government paper of the province sufficiently indicate what it believed the issue in the contest just ended to be and what must be its result.

Now let us see what the Winnipeg Free Press, a moderate paper with, it is said, a leaning to the Conservative side, has to say about the contest and the significance of the victory.

The result of Mr. Greenway's appeal to the voters of Manitoba leaves no room for doubt of their attitude toward remedial legislation which is supposed to be presented to Parliament at Ottawa.

From this we see that however the Free Press and the Tribune may snap and snarl at each other on other subjects they are in complete accord as to what was before the people at the late election.

Now, let us ask the Nor-Western "What it was all about?" The Nor-Western, we may say, is the only straight Opposition newspaper in Winnipeg.

The general results of the election yesterday were no surprise to the people of Manitoba. The fake issue on which the Government went to the country was already being stated, a scarecrow; but to a considerable extent at least it was a successful one, and caused a rally in support of the Greenway Government, on the assumption that to support it was to support the school act of 1890, and to oppose it was to advocate its abolition and the restoration of separate schools.

In the next paragraph it gives some inkling as to the strength of the minority, and shows why it was not stronger. It says:

The Greenway majorities are not sufficiently large in the different districts to cause any great exuberance of feeling among the supporters of the Government when the shameful manipulation of the lists is considered and it is remembered that enough Conservative voters have been disfranchised in almost every constituency.

Here we have the three Winnipeg daily newspapers the day after the contest declaring that the school question

was in effect the only issue at the polls, yet the Times tries to make its readers believe that this was not the case and sneers at us for being ignorant because we said it was.

A FUTILE OBJECTION.

The local organ of the Opposition asserts that in our attempt to show that Manitoba is repudiating its constitutional obligations we carefully avoided "the point of real importance."

If our contemporary gave a little independent consideration to the subject it would find that the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has really nothing to do with Manitoba's constitutional obligation as regards the denominational minority.

What the Constitution of Manitoba—the Federal compact—does is to give the denominational minority the right to appeal to the Governor-General-in-Council against an act of the Provincial Legislature.

The Dominion Government then; as they have power to do, heard the appeal and gave their decision. That that decision is in accordance with the judgment of the Privy Council gives it moral strength, but it would have been equally constitutional if the Judicial Committee had not been consulted at all.

The gold reserve is continually diminishing, but the demands upon it do not decrease. The necessity of keeping up the reserve by some means is very apparent, for if the Government should any day find itself unable to redeem its paper with gold fearful confusion and widespread disaster would be certain to ensue.

Common sense suggests that the Government should forbid the re-issue of paper that had been redeemed, but Congress will not permit this to be done. So the only alternative is to borrow gold. The Government has already borrowed \$162,000,000 gold to keep up its reserve to the point of safety, and this, with the present popular loan of \$100,000,000, will make \$262,000,000 borrowed to keep up the credit of the United States currency.

THE POLICY OF PIRACY.

It is amusing to see the American newspapers abusing Great Britain for her "hoary policy of piracy." Great Britain has done more than any other nation—more indeed than all the nations put together—towards filling up and utilizing the waste places of the earth.

It was while pursuing this "policy of piracy" that Great Britain took possession of the larger part of the continent of North America. She planted colonies on the land she conquered and fostered and protected those colonies while they were weak and unable to defend themselves.

It is quite certain that it is in the interest of the Government, as it is its object, to do all in its power to promote the welfare of the Province as a whole. We cannot see why the Opposition will not do what they can to help him to effect that object.

It is to be hoped that the present Premier, who is liked by opponents as well as supporters, will not from motives that are purely factious be hindered from doing the good he proposes to do and that it is in his power to do. We say this because we are satisfied that for some time past much of the opposition to the Government's measures has been initiated and carried on mainly from personal and party motives and not with a view to further the interests of the province.

very fact that the language in which that history is written is English, and that English is the mother tongue of the vast majority of United States citizens, is evidence of the strongest kind of the obligations they are under to the people and the policy of England.

THE NEW LOAN.

There is a lively controversy in the United States over the new loan. One set of controversialists say that the loan is absolutely necessary, that the salvation of the business of the country depends upon its being successfully floated.

A merchant whose bills payable would bear the same proportion as this to his available cash would be in a ticklish position. He, when he paid a bill, would lessen his liabilities by the amount of the bill.

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SOME IMPORTANT UTTERANCES.

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"As a matter of fact," the report says, "he (Mr. Powell) affirmed the doctrine that there was no such constitutional principle in this country as provincial autonomy, and in support of his contention he argued that the basis of the British constitution required that in all things every man should be under the control of the Imperial Parliament.

The Governor's Speech this year is a plain business statement and indicates that the Government propose to go to work in a workmanlike way. The speech, too, shows that they do not intend to neglect or overlook any provincial interest that requires to be cared for or assisted.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

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Mr. Laurier's utterance on the Manitoba school question is almost amusingly indefinite. It reminds us of nothing so much as the judge's charge in the famous case of Bardell vs. Pickwick.

Mr. Laurier admitted that the difficulties of the constitution were very great. Mr. Powell had stated that the principle of provincial autonomy did not exist. Such a doctrine could not for a moment prevail. It would be giving the lie to the whole history of Confederation.

to administer its affairs to the best advantage, and it is foolish as well as wrong to waste any of it in needlessly throwing difficulties in the way of the Government.

Of course questions arise in which there is room for a difference of opinion, and on such questions it is every member's duty to stand up for what he believes to be the right; but opposition on legitimate grounds is very different indeed from the indiscriminating opposition which is bound to do its best to thwart and defeat the Government.

We hope to hear less croaking in the Legislative Assembly this session than we have heard heretofore. If the Jeremiahs of the Opposition had been correct in their calculations, and if their predictions had proved true, the province would now be on the wrong side of the verge of ruin, and not only would it have ceased to advance but it would be positively retrograding.

It is impossible to say what harm the disjunctive statements and the gloomy predictions of the Opposition have done this Province. If it is not now discredited abroad, and if it is not avoided by every man in Great Britain and elsewhere who has money to invest, it is not because men who opposed the Government have not done their utmost both in the Legislature and out of the Legislature to produce that ruinous result.

We shall have ample opportunity during the session to comment upon the different measures which are spoken of in the Speech, and of placing before our readers the honest truth with regard to the condition of the Province. We have thought it best at the opening of the first session of the new administration to direct attention to what have been the principal impediments to useful legislation and to the rapid and healthy development of the resources of the Province.

SEVERE.

The Montreal Gazette is severe on the Times of this city. In its issue of the 16th it says: On the morning of January 6, the Victoria, B.C., Times printed a large portrait of the Opposition leader over an announcement, in big type, which read as follows: "Laurier is called in—Consulting with the Governor-General this afternoon at Ottawa—Bowell is content to go under, having defeated the Tupper design."

It is quite true that, strictly speaking, no province possesses independent self-government, for the Federal Government has the power of the veto, and there are many subjects altogether outside the provincial jurisdiction. But the tendency is to make the provinces within the limits marked out by the constitution independent though not altogether autonomous.

AS USUAL.

"By some mysterious process," says the Times, "the idea has been lodged in some convulsion of the Colonist's brain that the province of Manitoba was bound by the constitution to provide separate schools for the Catholic minority." Our contemporary then proceeds seriously to deny what the Colonist never asserted or thought of asserting. This is a specimen of the ordinary method of our Grit contemporary. It states what is either wholly false or an absurd distortion of the position we take and then goes on to prove that what we do not hold and what we never said is unsound or untrue.

We repeat, we never entertained or gave expression to the idea that the Province of Manitoba is bound to provide separate schools for the minority. What we have said and what we maintain is that Manitoba is bound to carry out in good faith the terms on which it entered the confederation. This, we trust, is clear enough.

Manitoba by the terms of Confederation gave to the denominational minority of its inhabitants the right to appeal to the Governor-General-in-Council against any act of its Legislature by the operation of which they considered themselves aggrieved. It also by the federal compact agreed that the appeal

of the minority should be submitted to the Dominion Parliament in order that it might find a remedy for the grievance of the minority, if in its opinion that minority had been aggrieved.

Whether or not the particular case before Parliament warranted or justified a remedy Mr. Laurier did not think it politic to say. The passage we have quoted might be taken as an excellent specimen of plausible, non-committal political oratory. The agility and the skill of the dodger are to be admired, whatever may be thought of the speaker's political courage and political honesty.

The indefiniteness and elusiveness of the speech of the Leader of the Opposition did not escape the notice of the Finance Minister, who, good-humoredly but pointedly, showed how little real significance there was in Mr. Laurier's plurge about the Manitoba schools. The following is the passage of the report of Mr. Foster's speech in which he dealt with Mr. Laurier's enigmatical utterance on the school question:

Allusion had been made to a grave question which was to come up for the consideration of the House. No one doubted that the question of the Manitoba schools was a grave question. He was not going to discuss it at present, but the time would come before long when the House must settle down to consider the matter with a full knowledge of its gravity and its bearings, not only upon the little group of people in Manitoba who felt that they had been deprived of certain rights which had been guaranteed to them, but in its effect upon the country as a whole, as being even-handed justice to every minority, every class and every condition of people that dwelt under the constitution and performed the duties of citizenship.

After five years he had got as far outside the lines of Torres Vedras as to say "there is an appeal, a right to interfere; some men say it ought to be granted; some men say it ought to be denied. I take my stand on the definite and well understood ground that it may be denied or granted as the circumstances permit." (Ministerial laughter.) Mr. Laurier's tactics were childish, and contained no principle of fixed statesmanship in them. The time was coming, however, when the lines of Torres Vedras would no longer shelter the Liberal leader. The question must be reached sooner or later, and then, after long years of wanderings and wanderings, Mr. Laurier would have to cast a vote that would declare where he stood upon the question.

U. S. PACIFIC CABLE.

The house committee on commerce gave a hearing to-day to Col. Spaulding, who is working in the interests of the Pacific cable company of New Jersey, so called because it has been incorporated by that state. Unlike the Pacific cable company with which Admiral Irwin is identified, the Spaulding company is chartered for a connection between the United States and Hawaii, while the former company proposes to lay its cable to Japan.

The company has secured a subsidy of \$40,000 a year from the Hawaiian government. Col. Spaulding proposes to give his concessions to the United States if the government will undertake to lay a cable. As an alternative, the company offered to invest \$1,000,000 if the United States will guarantee bonds for a term of twenty years.

Courtney Boyle, speaking to the Bradford chamber of commerce, said the year 1895 had witnessed a steady improvement in British trade. There was, he said, a two per cent. increase in imports, mainly of partially manufactured articles and \$10,000,000 in exports, more than half of which was due to woollens and worsteds; the American takings of these having been immensely larger.

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We hold that the majority of Manitoba and the friends of that majority should cheerfully acquiesce in the submission of the grievance of the minority to the arbiter of their own choosing, and that when they protest against such submission and declare that it is "coercion," they do what they can to violate the federal compact and to repudiate the terms under which the province became a member of the confederation.

BRITISH COLUMBIANS ABROAD.

Copies of the Wimbledon News just received contain the following reference to a fashionable concert recently enjoyed by the residents of New Malden, which will be read with interest by British Columbians in view of the prominent part taken in the affair by Mr. James A. Douglas and Mr. John Douglas, grandsons of Sir James, and formerly of this city, who are completing their education in the old land:

"The old people of New Malden are much to be congratulated on having such an entertainment as was provided for them on New Year's Eve, at the Schoolrooms, New Malden. By the kindness of a lady from London the services of the following artistes were engaged: Madame G. Scott and Mr. F. W. Churcher, both well-known professors; Mr. James A. Douglas, Mr. John Douglas (pupils of Mr. F. W. Churcher), also Mr. E. F. Humphrey (tenor). At 6 o'clock a tea was provided for the old people, during which time a small orchestra, consisting of Madame G. Scott (piano), Mr. John Douglas and Mr. F. W. Churcher (violins), Mr. James Douglas (concert), Mr. W. Auld (clarinet), Mr. F. J. Tringham (bass) played a suitable selection of music, which greatly pleased the company. Tea over, a move was made to the large hall, where the following programme was gone through: Piano solo, Madme. G. Scott; song, "Eileen Alanah," Mr. E. F. Humphrey; cornet solo, "The Lost Chord," Mr. James A. Douglas; song, "Whisper and I shall hear," Madame G. Scott; piccolo solo, "Danse de Satyrs," Mr. Churcher; song, "An evening song," Mr. E. F. Humphrey; cornet solo, "The Lost Chord," Mr. James A. Douglas; song, "Ave Maria," Madame G. Scott; violin solo, "Scene de Ballet," Mr. F. W. O. Archer. The piano solos by Madame Scott were splendid performances, her two songs being very effectively rendered. The violin obligato by Mr. Churcher greatly enhanced the charm of her songs. Mr. E. F. Humphrey delighted his audience with his two songs, which were also given with excellent taste. Mr. James A. Douglas played his cornet solos in good style, which showed great promise for one so young; his performance was a credit both to himself and to his master. The violin and piccolo solos by Mr. F. W. Churcher were given in his usual masterly style, and after a short speech by the Rev. J. Challacombe, who expressed the thanks of all to the lady who had so kindly given them the entertainment, the audience dispersed well satisfied with the treat that had been provided for them. No encores were allowed, but all the artistes received a warm reception."

SIR CHARLES.

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THIRD GOT DOWN

Most Exciting Session Parliament Vim and Tupper a Synod The Disgraceful in the Vict (From Our Own OTTAWA, JAN. 18. and parliament has work of the session have been the most experience in the over 14 years. The measures were on Mackenzie to resign and the subsequent seven ministers had bolt out of the bin anticipated such a had been nothing to lead to the storm was brewed however, that in members of the Cor impression prevailed leadership was desired chosen to publish the Government's views. Even conservative tried to steer a clear two wings of the Com mitted that the opp

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