

The Colonist.

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THE DAILY COLONIST

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SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE ONTARIO CABINET.

Honorable J. P. Whitney is now Premier of Ontario. He has formed his Cabinet, the members of which have been sworn into office and are at work in their respective departments. The new Ontario Cabinet is composed of the following members: Premier and Attorney-General—J. P. Whitney, K. C., M. L. A., Dundas. Minister of Crown Lands—J. Foy, K. C., M. L. A., South Toronto.

rior to any we have had for many years. It is significant that the Globe and other leading Liberal papers have accepted the position with good grace, and are extending to the new ministry every consideration, in fact, they might almost be said to be supporting it. They at all events express the desire to give the new ministry a fair trial before indulging in criticism. Necessarily no member of the new Government had any experience as a Cabinet Minister, and therefore he cannot be expected to be quite familiar with the affairs of his department and be quite at ease for some months yet.

As a matter of reference, we append the details of the results of general elections in Ontario prior to the last: 1897—The Globe reported 39 constituencies for the coalition Government and 42 for the Liberals. The defeat of certain Liberals, afterwards known as "the nine martyrs," who claimed that they had been elected to support the coalition, changed the face of the result. 1871—Liberals 41, Conservatives 32 and Independents 7. Subsequently the Government were beaten on division and resigned. 1875—Liberals 50, Conservatives 33, Independents 4. 1879—Liberals 58, Conservatives 30, Independents 2. 1883—Liberals 46, Conservatives 36, Independents 2. 1888—Liberals 54, Conservatives 34. 1894—Liberals 50, Conservatives 25, Independents 5, Patrons of Industry 11, P. A. A. 2. 1898—Liberals 47, Conservatives 44, Patrons 1, Independent 1, vacant 1. 1902—Liberals 51, Conservatives 47, Independents 2.

THE QUEBEC SITUATION.

The political situation in Quebec is rather acute, and the outlook at present is not very bright. Hon. S. N. Parent will have to resign. Three of his Ministers have left him, and it is said they have a majority of the members on the Opposition side of the House with them. As the Parent faction only numbers 38, it is apparent that if he cannot alter the allegiance of some of the members now accepted by him, he will either resign or accept defeat when the House meets. The particulars of the quarrel which culminated in the resignation of three of his colleagues have not been made public, neither party to the dispute cared to talk for the present. It is a quarrel, however, in which some of the French-Canadian members in the Dominion Parliament take a keen interest, and active hand, so that it is more than domestic in its character. The majority of the party in Quebec Province are apparently opposed to Parent as leader, and repeated efforts have been made to get him out of the way by force of position. The Premier is very strong and popular in the city of Quebec, which has been Mayor for some time, and that fact is probably one of the causes of complaint against him. Though he is not a speaker in any degree of fluency, he is an able administrator, and will be decided by his own. As Mayor and as Premier he has done much towards financial reconstruction and improvement.

PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY

Parent is a very shrewd man. In fact, as the sequel has shown, he has been so shrewd as to over-reach himself. Although the Quebec Parliament had still a whole year to run before its natural expiry, and although there were no issues of importance before the country to justify an early dissolution, he took advantage of the Liberal sweep in Dominion politics to spring an election, which did not give the Conservatives time for organization or preparation. His course was rightly regarded throughout the Dominion as an abuse of the prerogative of the Governor-General to dissolve the House of Commons, and as a protest against the conservative opposition in the Legislature decided, as a party, not to contest any of the seats against the Government. The result was, of course, a walk-over for the party in power. That success, however, was the undoing of Mr. Parent. Friends developed during the election campaign as to who should be the candidates, in which Cabinet Ministers were opposite sides. In other words, Mr. Parent has been visited with swift punishment for the abuse of his prerogative as Premier. The leader of the Conservative party in Quebec was very severely criticized for the unusual course referred to, taken by him to the strength of the Ontario Liberal party went with him, and subsequent to that the holding of office was a struggle, which culminated in the decisive defeat of the Ross Government at the recent elections.

HONORABLE A. S. HARDY

A colleague of Mr. Mowat and a member of the Provincial House for twenty-three years, succeeded and retained the office until October 21, 1893, when he retired owing to ill-health. The then Minister of Education, Hon. G. W. Ross, took office as Premier, and the rest of the story is familiar to all our readers.

SIR MATHEW CROOKS CAMERON

Another name familiar to politicians of a past generation, and a very able man, was the leader of the Conservative opposition in Ontario from 1871 until 1878, when the post was taken by Mr. W. R. Meredith, now Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal, which position he accepted in Ontario, 1895.

MR. G. F. MARTER

was leader for one session after the retirement of Mr. Meredith. Mr. J. P. Whitney assumed the leadership April 2, 1896, and vigorously fought the battles of the Opposition until his success of recent date. As to the personnel of the new Conservative Cabinet, we cannot say much from personal knowledge, and except the statement of the Toronto Mail and Empire and other newspapers on that score. Hon. J. J. Foy, it is said, will become Attorney-General after the coming session of Parliament, and the Premier will take the Department of Crown Lands. Colonel Matheson has made a special study of Ontario finances, and the Doctor Pyne, it is said, has devoted his life to the study of educational matters. Mr. Monteith is a practical farmer and described as the master of all branches of agriculture. Mr. Hanna is a very able debater and is said to have good executive capacity. The Mail and Empire remarks: "On the whole, the new Cabinet is, in intellectual strength, su-

perior to any we have had for many years." It is significant that the Globe and other leading Liberal papers have accepted the position with good grace, and are extending to the new ministry every consideration, in fact, they might almost be said to be supporting it. They at all events express the desire to give the new ministry a fair trial before indulging in criticism. Necessarily no member of the new Government had any experience as a Cabinet Minister, and therefore he cannot be expected to be quite familiar with the affairs of his department and be quite at ease for some months yet.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The mover and seconder of the Address to the Legislature Tuesday evening found many compliments from their friends upon the able and clear manner in which they presented the views and points of the Government's policy, and their own views on the political questions of the day. Mr. Ross, the mover, was supported by the Opposition in parliamentary debate, and his presentation of his year's justified the expectation of his friends. Both he and Mr. Taylor, the seconder, showed, however, that they did not merely echo the wishes of the Treasury benches; but that they had well defined views of their own to present for the consideration of the Government. In particular, Mr. Ross laid stress upon the railway situation and developed his case in such a way as to leave the impression that he had given careful study to the subject. These views were, however, not in accordance with his policy, one local, one transcontinental. He advocated local lines in the South and the development of the complete systems already there. In respect to transcontinental lines, he pointed out that the Grand Trunk Pacific under its contract is bound to come sooner or later, and that it is not in the interests of the Province to have a railway for territory it is bound in its own interests to enter. The Canadian Northern, soon to be at Edmonton, he regarded as a possibility of that railway seeking a transcontinental terminus on the coast of British Columbia, and which would be operated by the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific. Mr. Ross took occasion to refer to the rumor of a consanguine alliance having been entered into among certain of the supporters of the Government to defeat it and to state that he was glad to give a denial of what was charged.

Mr. Taylor dwelt largely on the importance of the memorandum sent by the Government to the Dominion authorities in behalf of Better Terms. In his opinion the arguments presented were unimpeachable, and he believed that justice of our case could be denied. In dealing with the complaints against provincial taxation, by which about \$7,000,000 was added to the tax position which they had to say to the taxation secured through customs and excise to the Dominion Government, he pointed out that the Dominion Government annually which went to the coffers of the Dominion. Mr. Taylor made a plea for the members of this district who were forced to contribute by being shut out of Manitoba and the Northwest by Americans using them as a slaughter ground for their cattle stocks. Those men, he said, though they contributed largely to the revenues of the Dominion Government, were not treated by the Provincial Government, but they did complain of being excluded from their only available market by which to dispose of their own produce for the outlay made to establish and build up their business. Mr. Taylor also concerned himself with the matter of a sound policy of assistance to railways, and in this connection advocated in the city of Quebec, which has been Mayor for some time, and that fact is probably one of the causes of complaint against him. Though he is not a speaker in any degree of fluency, he is an able administrator, and will be decided by his own. As Mayor and as Premier he has done much towards financial reconstruction and improvement.

THE EIGHT-HOUR SMELETER BILL.

In referring to the proposed eight-hour smelter law yesterday, we had no occasion to refer to the rights of the workers whose interests are affected. We believe that the present smelter day is a source of depression, and that it may have a reasonable claim for consideration in asking for some reduction. The smelter industry is one of the hardest, only work eight hours a day at the present time, and the duties of the smelter, though the hours are long, are not as arduous as those of the miner. In the statutory limitation of hours in any circumstances, for the reason that the smelter industry is one of the hardest, only work eight hours a day at the present time, and the duties of the smelter, though the hours are long, are not as arduous as those of the miner. In the statutory limitation of hours in any circumstances, for the reason that the smelter industry is one of the hardest, only work eight hours a day at the present time, and the duties of the smelter, though the hours are long, are not as arduous as those of the miner.

THE STATE OF THE FINANCES.

Judging from the comments of some of our contemporaries, there is a number of persons who consider that the Government by an exercise of statesmanship has effected a number of financial and other miracles. We are not given the slightest hint of the state of the Dominion finances, and we are not given the slightest hint of the state of the Dominion finances, and we are not given the slightest hint of the state of the Dominion finances. We are not given the slightest hint of the state of the Dominion finances, and we are not given the slightest hint of the state of the Dominion finances. We are not given the slightest hint of the state of the Dominion finances, and we are not given the slightest hint of the state of the Dominion finances.

A CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

It has frequently been commented upon that in the keeping of the Provincial accounts there has never been a capital account opened. It is true that without one there is less opportunity to juggle with figures. At the same time, a less favorable result is shown. Such enterprises as the Parliament buildings, the Fraser River bridge and school houses, etc., are not realizable assets. Nevertheless, they represent an asset and the expenditure of money in a useful and necessary form. The new Westminster Columbian, in dealing with the public accounts, has this to say incidentally regarding the matter: "A table needing revision, is that appearing as a frontispiece and purporting to be the balance sheet of the Province. From the standpoint of the Premier, no doubt the statement is all that it is intended to be, but it falls so far short of being an account of the assets and liabilities of the Province that it should not be published as such. The 'assets' appear to include little more than the book debts, many of which are of very doubtful value, and the showing of nearly nine million dollars of liabilities in excess of assets is not fair to the Province. The accountant no doubt will say that it is not the habit of governments in Canada to include under assets anything like the Fraser River bridge at New Westminster, or the Parliament buildings at Victoria; but when we are publishing thirteen

ing development. Labor is given employment at a rate not exceeded by any other section of the state. There is absolute harmony between employer and employee. There are six dividend-paying mines operating in the Coast of Alaska and 50 organized labor unions doing deadwork. Stripped of the glamor of all sentiment, an eight-hour law for the mine workers of Idaho practices a more humane and more just working capacity by 20 per cent, without reducing its cost of living. While the Legislature has power to pass a law fixing the number of hours constituting a day's labor, it has not the power to say what that labor shall be paid, and it is impossible to legislate a minimum rate of wages for an eight-hour day might result in conditions such as have existed in Colorado for the past two years. This bill does not meet with the approval of the miners of the Coast of Alaska, who would rather preserve existing conditions than be put upon an eight-hour day basis with the 20 per cent wage reduction which would assuredly follow.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The Government has every reason to congratulate itself on the result of the debate on the Address which came to a rather abrupt termination yesterday afternoon. We have heard a great deal about the coincidence of the McBride administration, of its incompetency, of the hardships it has imposed on the country through excessive and ineffectual taxation, of its having placed a lie in the mouth of the Lieutenant-Governor in imposing a tax on the Province, and of its having placed a lie in the mouth of the Lieutenant-Governor in imposing a tax on the Province, and of its having placed a lie in the mouth of the Lieutenant-Governor in imposing a tax on the Province.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHEAP POWDER FOR SETTLERS. Sir—Now that both the Central Farmers' Institute and the legislative assembly are about to consider the needs of the province, will you permit me to discuss the above question through your columns, with a view to bringing to the attention of those bodies; and in order that some system may be arranged at the present session for the settlement of the province, and for the settlement of the province, and for the settlement of the province.

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on a party with those engaged in the present industry of mining. The proposed statutory conditions, and we trust that the members of the Legislature, irrespective of party or political considerations, will realize the grave responsibility of their action in this matter, and will refuse to be party to a measure, however well intentioned, which would imperil its success at a critical time like this.

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gration. This points to the necessity of increasing the water supply according to some plan which will be recommended by the expert who has the matter in hand at the present time. Whether it be upon the lines of the agreement entered into with the tramway company, or upon some other lines we cannot say, but to avoid the increase of the rate of insurance, some comprehensive plan must be adopted.

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of Vancouver \$15 per 100 lbs., but could be got in carload lots for \$10 per 100 lbs., and in large quantities probably much cheaper, because the more of it used the cheaper it can be made.

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From Tuesday's Daily Free Record—Just as the weather is sufficiently chill to cause a turn-out of the army, there would seem to be a fate at work in the epidemic—some for almost every day.

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Advertisements for Sprott-Shaw Business University, Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne, and various other notices and notices.