

## The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 1895.

## LEGISLATION NEEDED.

The general use of the bicycle appears to call for a modification of the rules of the road. The authorities generally, not of one country but of many countries, look upon the cyclist with suspicion and dislike which are not very well concealed, and the cyclist is accused of entertaining but a very slight regard for the rights of humble pedestrians of all ages and both sexes. In France the riders on bicycles are, it seems, particularly self-assertive and selfish. This has caused the Paris Figaro to write concerning them in the following strain. It suggests that all pedestrians shall be duly numbered and registered, and that they shall be compelled to ring a bell or blow a horn when crossing a street or meeting a bicycle on a public road. At night all unmounted cyclists shall wear a lantern suspended from the neck by means of a stout cord, and be furnished with regulation red side lights. No cyclist shall proceed at a faster rate than one mile in two hours while within the city limits, and this provision will particularly apply to messenger boys and people who are in the habit of attending local confagurations. Any pedestrian who gets knocked down by a bicycle shall be mulcted in a heavy amount for the first offence, and for the second shall be transported for life to some mountainous district. It is hoped that a strict compliance with these regulations may do away with the annoyance and danger now attending the use of the bicycle.

We do not think that such drastic legislation as this is required to establish the supremacy of the bicycle on the streets and "highways" of this country. But we are of opinion that some regulations should be drawn up and enforced for the comfort and safety of both pedestrians and cyclists as well as of those who still find it convenient and indeed necessary to move about the city in vehicles of one kind or another drawn by horses. There is, we believe, a harsh civil regulation which forbids bicyclists using the sidewalks. This is fairly well observed, though we now and then see the bicycle riders asserting their supremacy by using them. Then the audacious pedestrian, whom the law does not yet require to hang a bell about his or her neck, or wear a lantern, is sometimes startled by seeing a bicycle glide past, of whose proximity he or she has had no warning. This is wearing on the nerves, and perhaps a little dangerous. Then we see that the aldermen of some of the cities are very much exercised about the costume worn by some of the lady riders of bicycles. They seem to think that a law regulating the length and fashion of lady bicyclist's costumes is necessary for the preservation of good morals.

## AMERICAN OPINION.

The Cornell crew got very little sympathy from the true sportsmen of the United States. These men do not believe in winning a race when there is no race, and they do not believe in men who have not learned to row and are, besides, badly trained taking upon themselves to represent the United States in a great English boat race. This is how the New York Times scores the defeated Cornell men:

The Cornell crew was beaten at Henley yesterday obviously because it had not acquired the art of rowing. It may and probably is true that it also had not acquired the art of training for a race, and that several of the crew came to the start in a far from satisfactory physical condition. But that is equally the result of ignorance. It takes an intelligent man to coach a crew so as to get the best work out of it. But Cornell put its crew into the hands of a man with whom it was disgraceful for a party of gentlemen to be associated. Courtney was at one time a fast sculler, but he was never a great oarsman and a tricky and dishonest performer. When he had agreed to row a man of whom he was afraid, he used to fall ill and have accidents happen to his boats. Even if he had been an honest and plucky oarsman, he is not a man of education or intelligence enough to be intrusted with the training of a college crew.

The results of his tuition are what might have been expected. It is quite true that a crew can row a faster stroke for a mile and a quarter than it can keep up for three miles or four. How much faster is a question that needs intelligent consideration on the part of the crew's coach, which evidently in this case it did not get. The crew started at a stroke which it not only could not keep up over the course, but at which it rowed itself to a standstill before the course was half covered. From that time on it was in a state of collapse, and the exhausted oarsmen were tumbling about in the most helpless and ridiculous fashion.

With regard to the heat that was won without being rowed, the Times is equally hard on the Cornell crew. It says:

That a crew of American students should not know how to row is of very much less consequence than that it should not know how to behave, which is the painful conclusion that must be drawn from the exhibition at Henley. The umpire made a mistake on Tuesday in giving the word to start before the English crew was ready, a mistake which he tried to amend by offering a special prize to be raced for between the crew that won by a walk-over and the crew that was left at the post. Obviously Cornell, even if it had pulled over part of the course through a misapprehension, should have declined to take the heat until it had really won it. The question was the same as that submitted to Sir Richard Sutton when the Puritan fouled the Genesta and the judges authorized him to sail over the course and claim the race. He answered that he had come here for a race and not for a walk-over.

This is how United States citizens who are gentlemen as well as sportsmen look upon the performances of the unfortunate students from Cornell. The criticism of the Times does not err on the side of lenity, and there is not a trace of that spurious nationality that makes the utterances of many Americans who are neither gentlemen nor sportsmen on the subject so intensely vulgar and so stupidly offensive. It is unfortunate that it is this latter class who are

most conspicuous. This is why Englishmen who are not well acquainted with the best class of Americans believe that the loud-voiced and coarse-natured assertions of American claims and American superiority represent the American sportsmen generally. They do not. As there were found among the English spectators of the race men who spoke and acted in a manner discreditable to their class and their nation, so there are in the United States men who take an interest in sports who do not possess the spirit of sportsmen. But the whole nation is not to be judged by the way in which the odds and the fools belonging to it conduct themselves.

## WHERE IS HE AT?

Now it is the Vancouver News-Advertiser which is asking where Mr. Laurier stands on the Manitoba school question. It says:

In connection with the question of the Manitoba schools it would be a matter of interest to a good many people if Mr. Laurier would say whereabouts he really stands in regard to the matter. In the case of an ordinary politician—much more a statesman—or of a political party, of course, it would not be necessary to ask such a question. But with Mr. Laurier and his friends things are very different. For more than a year past this question has been in an acute stage. For that period it has been clearly seen by men of both political parties that the subject would have to be met and grappled with in some way. Neither the late leader of the Government, Sir John Thompson, nor the present Premier hesitated to meet the question fairly and boldly when the time or occasion required him to speak or act in regard to it.

But Mr. Laurier did nothing of the kind. He shirked the whole question and simply tried to snatch a victory from, as he supposed, the dissensions which existed among his opponents. Now this singular course can only be explained in two ways. Either Mr. Laurier has reached a decision at all on this school question or he has not the courage to declare it.

## A GLANCE BACKWARDS.

There are many persons in the different provinces of the Dominion who believe that the separate school provisions were placed in the Constitution at the instance of the politicians and the people of Quebec. The sections of the British North America Act which extend protection to the denominational minorities of the different provinces are represented as a Quebec device intended to operate for the benefit of the Roman Catholics of Quebec and elsewhere. So strong and so general is the impression made by those who have held this view that in many parts of the Dominion it would be considered rash and perhaps dishonest to call in question its correctness. It is nevertheless a false impression. A glance at the history of confederation shows that those who were most desirous to have protective clauses inserted in the Constitution were Protestants, for the benefit of the Protestant minority of Quebec.

The case of the Protestant minority of Lower Canada, as Quebec was then called, was in the Confederation debate forcibly stated by Mr. L. H. Holton, who is remembered as one of the most honorable as well as the most able of the Protestant public men of that Province. The debate took place in the Parliament of Canada and the subject under consideration was the Constitution of the proposed Confederation. At an early part of the debate Mr. Holton said:

"Another question which he had proposed to put had reference to the educational system of Lower Canada. The Hon. gentleman, then John A. Macdonald, must be aware that this was a question on which there was a great deal of feeling in this section of the province amongst the English speaking or the Protestant class of the population. Amongst that class there was no phase or feature of those threatened changes which excited so much alarm as this very question of education. While the Minister of Finance had said that the Government would bring down amendments to the school laws of Lower Canada, which they proposed enacting into law before a change of government should take place, and which would become a permanent settlement of that question. The question he desired to put was whether they intended to submit these amendments before they asked the House to pass finally upon the scheme of Confederation, as it would undoubtedly exercise very considerable influence upon the discussion of the Confederation scheme, and probably in the last resort from several members from Lower Canada."

Later on in the debate Mr. Holton said: "The English Protestants of Lower Canada desire to know what is to be done in the matter of Education before the final voice of the people of this country is pronounced on this question of Confederation."

Mr. Macdonald's reply was: "There was a good deal of apprehension in Lower Canada on the part of the minority as to the possible effects of Confederation on their rights on the subject of education, and it was the intention of the government, if parliament approved the scheme of Confederation, to lay before the House this session certain amendments to the School law, to operate as a sort of guarantee against any infringement by the majority of the rights of the minority in this matter. . . . Before Confederation is adopted the Government would bring down a measure to amend the School Law of Lower Canada protecting the rights of the minority."

All this goes to show that the Protestants of Quebec were previous to Confederation fearful lest their rights in the matter of education would not be protected in the new scheme of government which was being devised. Let us see what the Catholic members of Parliament, Irish and French, said to quiet the apprehensions of the Quebec Protestants.

Mr. D'Arcy McGee, who represented a Lower Canada constituency, said:

"I have no doubt whatever that with a good deal of moderation and a proper degree of firmness all that the Protestant minority in Lower Canada can require by way of security to their educational system will be cheerfully granted to them by this house."

Sir E. P. Tache, then prime minister, speaking in reply to a speech made by Mr.

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Sanborn, a Protestant representative of Lower Canada, said:

"Mr. Sanborn gave expression to the fear that the Protestant English element of Lower Canada would be in danger if this measure should pass. He said as much as this, that in the legislature of Lower Canada (now Quebec) acts might be passed which would deprive educational institutions there of their rights and even their property. But if the lower branch of the legislature (that is the provincial one) were intransigent enough and wicked enough to commit some flagrant act of injustice against the English Protestant portion of the community, they would be checked by the general—that is the Federal—Government."

The Hon. Mr. Dorian, the chief of the Rouge party of Quebec, sympathized with the Protestants of Lower Canada in their demand for protection. This is part of what he said:

"There is at this moment a movement on the part of the British Protestants in Lower Canada to have some protection and guarantee for their educational establishments in this province put into the scheme of confederation should it be adopted; and far from finding fault with them I respect them more for their energy in seeking protection for their separate interests. I think it but just that the Protestant minority should be protected in its rights in everything that is dear to it as a distinct nationality, and it should not be at the discretion of the majority in this respect, and for this reason I am ready to extend to my Protestant fellow-citizens in Lower Canada of British origin the fullest justice in all things, and I wish to see their interests as a minority guaranteed and protected in any scheme which may be adopted."

The Hon. Mr. Laframboise, whose name indicates his nationality, said in the course of the debate:

"There is one certain fact, and that is that the Protestants of Lower Canada have said to the Government, 'Pass a measure which will guarantee to us the stability and protection of our educational system and of our religious institutions and we will support your scheme of Confederation; unless you do we will never support you, because we do not wish to place ourselves at the mercy of a local legislature, three-fourths of the members of which will be Catholics.' I admit that in doing this they have only done their duty, for who can say, after all, what ten years may bring forth?"

The debate is most interesting, but we have quoted enough of it to convince our

readers that immediately previous to Confederation the Protestant minority of Quebec were determined that in the constitution of the New Dominion their rights in the matter of education should be well protected. They will see that the representatives of the French inhabitants of Lower Canada were quite willing that all the protection they desired should be extended to them. It is quite evident that if the Lower Canadian Protestants had not been so tenacious of their rights, and so fearful that they would be wrested from them under Confederation by the majority, nothing would have been done by the framers of the constitution in the way of protecting the rights of the minority of Ontario save to have been satisfied with their condition, and to have said very little about their educational rights being secured to them.

## THE ORGAN'S ATTITUDE.

Our contemporary the Times is very severe upon us because we saw no expression of its own opinion in the comments which it made upon the extracts it reproduced from Conservative papers that do not agree with the Government in the course it has taken on the Manitoba school question.

We have read those comments over again and we are sure that no reader, however honest or able he might be, can see, however any expression of the organ's own opinion on the merits of the Manitoba school question. They are simply our contemporary's way of chuckling over the difficulties of the Government's position. This is the attitude which the Opposition generally has assumed and has retained from the first. It has seen the Government dealing with a question which is both exceedingly difficult and exceedingly important. It has observed that by doing what they believe to be their duty in the matter the Government have incurred the displeasure of some of their friends, who do not hesitate to express their disapproval in the plainest and strongest terms. The Opposition, without giving the slightest hint as to what they would do if they were placed in a position similar to

that which the Government occupy, jeer at them and do what they can to increase their difficulties. This is not a patriotic or a prudent policy, for no one knows how soon it may be when those who now form the Opposition will have the same difficulties to encounter which the Government are doing what they can to surmount. These gentlemen will not be in a very pleasant position when they find that the course which the Government are taking is the only one open to them to pursue, and that they must follow it or admit their inability to deal with the question. Our contemporary, having no responsibilities, cuts the Gordian knot without further hesitation, and we congratulate it upon having spoken plainly and taken an attitude that can be understood. It believes in a policy of complete non-interference. It would not have either the Federal Government or the Federal Parliament move a finger to remedy the grievance complained of by the minority in Manitoba. It will be seen, we presume, before very long whether the Times agrees with the Leader of the party of which it has been so long the local organ, and the majority of that party. Is non-interference the policy of the Liberal party?

## THE LAW RESPECTED.

The quiet but effective way in which the law is enforced in the mining districts of British Columbia extorts the admiration of travellers from the other side of the national boundary line. They are amazed to find in this Province mining camps free from lawlessness of any kind and to see men going about their work as safely and as free from apprehension of any kind as they do in the hearts of the great cities and the rural districts of the East. This is how Clarence King concludes an eloquent paper on British Columbia's immense mining field, in the Inter Ocean:

The mining laws and regulations instituted by the provincial government are excellent in their liberality and wise in provision. At first they followed our previous example and granted with each location extra lateral rights to follow a vein on the dip under the surface of another proprietor, but they soon saw that it would

be wiser to make mining laws for sound title than for the benefit of the mining lawyers, and they repealed the act and substituted "square locations," the only safe basis of ownership. The new towns are exceptionally orderly and decent. All miners are licensed from year to year at a fee of \$5, the license being revoked for ill behavior. In consequence the same swagging bullies who terrorized with impunity in the disastrous strikes and riots of our Ouer d'Alene are here under control, going about their legitimate business as meek as sheep. An official called the gold commissioner has general oversight of the administrative phase of the mining industry, using his large powers to the great satisfaction of the mine proprietors.

British Columbia is a rich and permanent mining field which will always be chiefly operated by our countrymen. The physical conditions are novel and in some respects trying, but not enough so as to discourage or delay our race of miners, who are at home anywhere in mining affairs, from the Yukon to Central America. They will teach the Columbian to mine and they will learn the value of a government that permits no miners' unions to trample on business or personal rights.

Last year the world produced 553,700,000 tons of coal. To this total Great Britain contributed 185,000,000; the United States 170,000,000; Germany 74,000,000; France 25,250,000; Belgium 10,500,000; Austria Hungary 10,250,000 tons. Five million tons were raised in Australia, four in Canada and three in British India.

M. Stambouloff, ex-premier of Bulgaria, was returning home this evening from the union club accompanied by a colleague, M. Petebhoff, when they were attacked by four persons armed with revolvers and knives. M. Stambouloff received several wounds in the head and lost a quantity of blood. His condition is serious.

CHICAGO, July 8.—Five men were badly injured and several others bruised to-day by a wreck on a Paulina street electric car running at a high rate of speed. When near Taylor street it jumped the track and dashed into a Carb motor car, which was broken in pieces.

Mr. Sjo of the Chinese legation in Washington, an enthusiastic cyclist, rides a man's wheel on account of the peculiarities of his national dress.

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