

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE ELECTIONS

A special despatch from Ottawa to the Times of this city says it is generally understood in the capital that the general election will be held on October 26th or 27th, although it may be delayed a week later because of the inability of the government to make the necessary preparations in time. While it may be assumed that our contemporary's correspondent is correct, nothing can be accepted as certain until the official announcement is made, for until the Governor-General has given his assent to a dissolution it is always possible that one may not take place. We have heard expressions of surprise that while other governmental intentions are known some time in advance of actual announcement, a dissolution is not until finally determined upon. The reason of this is that a dissolution of parliament is the prerogative of the Crown, and it would be very irregular for a premier to make known what he intends to do. Hence until it is formally announced in the Gazette that Parliament has been dissolved, we shall all have to depend upon the more or less indistinct rumors that get into circulation. We are inclined to think that the latest report will be found to be accurate. The Conservative party is ready for the contest whenever it is brought on, and will go into the fight with full confidence of success. The issue will be the question of good government. The people of Canada, who have an opportunity of saying whether or not they wish a continuation of the methods that have obtained during the last four years, methods which have brought the administration of affairs into disrepute and have done great injury to the good name of Canada. The Liberals will have no alternative. They are indeed their terrible and costly blunders in regard to the financial side of fiscal policy, the reason why they should not any longer be entrusted with the control of affairs. It is fitting that the attention of the people of the Dominion should be directed upon the crying evils, which in the absence of extravagance, waste and graft, have fastened themselves upon the country. There is nothing in the history of excellent country when it is necessary to think of nothing but the purifying of the administration. Upon this question the people of Canada will pronounce, and no legitimate effort ought to be left untried that will conduce to the danger of permitting the present method of conducting their public business to continue. This issue may not be very spectacular, but we need good, honest government in Canada more than we need spectacular government. The first thing to be done, it seems to us, is to displace the men by whom the present conditions mentioned have been brought about, and that this should be done by a sane policy of Canadian development, which will secure to the people what they need at a cost that they can afford to pay. Two months' fight for clean government is before the people of Canada. Let the fight be vigorous and straightforward. Then whatever the result may be, the country will be the gainer by it.

AN INTERESTING OCCASION

In Halifax on the 19th instant, there was unveiled, in the Province Building a tablet commemorative of the establishment of representative government in Nova Scotia a century and a half ago. The anniversary is more than usual interesting. We are accustomed to speak of the claim of self-governing dominions, which Britain has staked the world, and it is worth remembering that it was in Halifax in the year 1758 that the first of these was established. It ought not to be forgotten that the earliest movement for self-government in the British colonies was in Nova Scotia, which found expression in the legislative body now known as the Nova Scotia House of Representatives. It was there that the fight for Responsible Government was waged with the greatest keenness, but always along the lines, wherein the provinces of old Canada exhibited a marked difference. It may be mentioned that the early settlers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick showed a resolute determination to maintain the right of self-government. The first important debate in the New Brunswick legislature took place in the year 1786. Our memory serves us to the year in which the first legislature met, and the subject was the right of members in the course of this debate the whole subject of representative government was discussed, and several important resolutions were tabled. In the end those who stood for the representative nature of the responsible Government, Nova Scotia did not imply party government, as most people seem now to think it does. But without further reference to these bygone days, the story of which contains much that is valuable for instruction and guidance, we may quote with hearty approval the words of the Halifax Chronicle used in connection with this interesting occasion above mentioned.

THE NORTHWEST COAST

The provincial ministers who have been making a tour of the northern part of the British Columbia coast, have come back with a very high appreciation of this part of the public domain, and are very hopeful as to the place which it will occupy in the future of the province. Without going into any details, it may be pointed out that the Northwest Coast region of British Columbia presents a development problem that is somewhat unique. The islands on which population will be established and where industries will be developed are numerous. There are many islands along the shores of which there will be some of the best water transportation routes in the world. These localities can be served only to a very limited extent by railways. Water transportation must always play an important part. To build a railway on the mainland from Vancouver north would be a practical impossibility, but it would have to be located a long way from the coast. On the other hand Vancouver Island presents an excellent means by which railway communication can be extended nearly half way along the whole western seaboard of the province. This is a feature of very considerable importance, and it is certain to be recognized in connection with transportation questions in the future. There has been any occasion to think of up to the present. As soon as Prince Rupert is established as a centre of population and business, and this will be before many months have passed, the imperative need of quick transportation to the south from that point will be felt, and people will not rest content with steamship communication if anything else can be secured. It is obvious that there will always have to be some water transportation in southern business from Prince Rupert, because it is impossible to locate a line of railway on the mainland that could, in point of time and expense, compete with steamship service. If the transit can be greatly reduced by extending railway communication the whole length of Vancouver Island. When this is done, it will be a twenty-four hour journey from Victoria to Prince Rupert, and about the same to

building immediately the public offices, and the fact that the money which is considered desirable by the local authorities. The proposal that money should be advanced to enable the people to rebuild their homes was one that could not be entertained. The people of Fernie are not paupers. They are, for the most part, in a position to make a comfortable living. Although they were in very many cases left destitute by the fire, some of them doubtless had insurance, and very few of them have been deprived of their means of earning a livelihood. It was a very unfortunate thing that so many of them were burned out at the same time, but as far as advancing money to rebuild is concerned, the principle would be just the same if only a few houses had been destroyed, and we do not think the province should adopt the idea that, whenever a house is burned down, it is the duty of the government to let the owner have the money with which to rebuild. If this were feasible in any case, it certainly would be in that of farmers, who are unfortunate enough to lose their dwellings by forest fires. It is not in this kind of a frequent occurrence, but it has never yet been suggested that the government should assist in rebuilding. Fernie will, as a result of things got squared away, be just as needed as ever. What the people need is temporary relief, and this is forthcoming. Apparently they have plenty of money to guard against any distress, if the money is properly distributed. The necessary expenditure in connection with the works to be undertaken by the government, the coal company and the railways, will give employment to many people, and as the mines will be reopened, there ought not to be any shortage of money in Fernie. For these reasons we think that the government has acted in a very liberal spirit.

THE NARROW VIEW

We notice in the St. John Sun an article regarding the alleged duty of that constituent of Public Works, Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, who offers for re-election. Our contemporary says that the "Conservative" as conceding that the Minister has been a good representative so far as the public interest for his constituency goes, but declining to support him "because we can't back on the party." This does not think this right. We submit to our contemporary that its view is a very narrow one. We are not going to say anything just now. Many Conservatives might very properly be returned by acclamation when he was before this constituency for election, but a cabinet minister, even one of those who voted for Mr. Beckwith, being that of opinion. But surely it will not be contended that the reason why they should now think that Mr. Templeman should be re-elected is because of his record in the past. A cabinet minister, even one of those who voted for Mr. Beckwith, being that of opinion. But surely it will not be contended that the reason why they should now think that Mr. Templeman should be re-elected is because of his record in the past. A cabinet minister, even one of those who voted for Mr. Beckwith, being that of opinion. But surely it will not be contended that the reason why they should now think that Mr. Templeman should be re-elected is because of his record in the past.

THE CATTLE EMBARGO.

Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P., says that the reason why the British Government will not remove the embargo on Canadian cattle is that we are afraid to do so for political reasons. This is not just the way Mr. Greenwood puts it, and may not be misrepresented, we quote what he said to a recent interviewer: "No one is more keen about this matter than I am myself. The reason why the Government has not removed the embargo is simply political necessity. The Conservative party, whose country now enjoys a monopoly of the English market for live stock, is not going to give up the favor the removal, but it is an open question, considering that we are opposed to it, whether the government would be supported in repeal." Mr. Greenwood is right in that if the tariff reformers mean what they say the embargo would be quickly lifted, but we confess to see how they reach this conclusion. The tariff reformers might naturally be expected to be in a hurry to get rid of the embargo, because they stand for protection to British industry, of which cattle-raising is one. It does not seem reasonable to hold them responsible for the Aquatic failure to give effect to a policy which he is supposed to favor, and one that seems to be directly in line with the description of free trade of which he is the present the most conspicuous champion.

THE SIMPLE LIFE.

We may not all agree with Sir Wilfrid Laurier in politics, but there is no person that he is teaching the people of Canada that he is not to be forgotten. He told the Medical Congress recently held that he had regained his health, and he had had a broken a few years ago, by following the simple life. This does not mean abstained from all social pleasures, but simply that he lived a life of the result in all things except work. The result is that he is today, as he is a story told of a man, who felt terribly seedy one morning and got being asked how he came to be in such a state said: "I really do not know. I dined as usual at seven o'clock, and did not drink more than usual. Then I went to the theatre, and had only two drinks between meals, and we pay the penalty of our excesses, wondering all the while why the matter with us, and usually attributing it to some cause that had nothing whatever to do with it. 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