

# The Colonist.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1892.

## NO TIME FOR PARTIZANSHIP.

We saw at Washington the other day party lines obliterated and every member of the house of representatives and senate vote affirmatively on a proposal to appropriate \$50,000,000 for national defence. We have seen the same disregard of party lines in the British parliament, and on several occasions, when the peace of the Empire has been threatened, we have seen the legislatures of the provinces of British North America sink partisanship out of sight. We have no doubt whatever that, if it should appear at any time that the Dominion ought to come to the help of the Mother Country, there would be only one party in Canada, namely, the party of loyalty to the flag. This is as it ought to be, but we submit that it is not only when an enemy is thundering at our gates that Canadians should remember to be Canadians first and partisans afterwards.

Party feeling runs very high, altogether too high in Canada. On many occasions a bitterness of feeling is evinced for which there is no real justification, and men not only charge their political opponents with being dishonest, incapable and corrupt, but act as though they believe such to be the case. Public speakers and newspapers make a practice of flinging out against their opponents charges of dishonesty, which, if true, should land them in the penitentiary, and if even colorable imply the existence of a condition of things in Canada that is rotten in the extreme. It is a remarkable fact that very few public men in Canada have accumulated wealth, but on the contrary most of them failed to acquire even a competency. That mistakes have been made in policy, that unjustifiable acts of administration have been committed, will not be denied; and we suppose this will continue to be the case as long as human nature remains the same, but in the matter of personal honesty, and devotion to the best interests of the country, we believe Canada has been extremely fortunate in the men whom the vicissitudes of politics have forced to the front, and this observation is as true now as at any time. No political party either in the Dominion or the provinces can claim a preponderant share of honesty, ability or patriotism. This being the case, we submit that there is too much acrimony in our politics. Our political struggles are too personal; they partake too much of the character of mere strife for office.

If we are all ready to lay aside the bitterness of party rivalry in the face of great danger, ought we not to be willing to do so in the face of great opportunities? A great opportunity has come to Canada, the greatest in all its history, the greatest that this generation need hope to expect. Through the fortune of politics it has come about that the party now in power at Ottawa is that with which the Colonist has not been in sympathy, but we feel that we would be taking a most unpatriotic course if we did not forget this while discussing the great issues now before the people of the Dominion, and in considering what line of policy ought to be adopted to enable the country to improve to the utmost the matchless prospects now before it. There would be some pleasure in seeing old and tried political friends restored to power, but we would be willing to forego that pleasure for the present if the gentlemen now in office can devise plans whereby the most can be made of the golden opportunity now at hand. Hence we feel it to be a patriotic duty to support such measures introduced by the Liberal ministry as we would have supported if they had been introduced by a Conservative ministry, and to assist instead of hampering the development of what seems to be a timely and necessary policy with the same heartiness as we would have assisted a Conservative government in carrying out what it might seem to be a timely and necessary policy. In short, we desire to take the same position in regard to the lines of policy adopted by the federal government in this critical hour of our country's prosperity as we would adopt, if it were unhappily necessary to take measures for national defence. A well-informed gentleman from Ontario said to the Colonist yesterday that he was more than gratified to see how all over Eastern Canada there was manifested a disposition to lay party politics aside for the present and join hands in making the very best possible out of advantages now presented to us. The statement has lately been made in the despatches that party lines seemed likely to be badly broken over measures relating to the Yukon. For ourselves, we can hardly see where there is room to draw party lines on such questions at all. The party in power must frame a policy in such matters, and unless that policy is utterly indefensible, unless it can be shown that it will work evil to the Dominion, the nature of the emergency is such that it ought to be adopted. This is no time for quibbling over details. We protest against using the business interests of Canada as gambits in the game of political chess.

We plead for more patriotism and less partisanship. We plead for a union of all the best minds of the country in an effort to realize to the utmost

the benefits of our unequalled geographical position and our stupendous natural wealth. There are plenty of questions upon which politicians may differ, and around which parties may wage war, without jeopardizing the interests of all the people in such a commercial and industrial crisis as the present.

## THE VACANT JUDGESHIP.

Much adverse comment has been brought out by the Ottawa report that the vacant Chief Justiceship is to be filled by the appointment of a barrister from one of the other provinces. Not only is the feeling very general that there are at the bar of British Columbia gentlemen in every way fitted for the position, but there is no good reason why Mr. Justice Walkem should be overlooked in the matter of promotion. He is the senior judge, has been in harness a long time and is infinitely more familiar with the procedure and the general conditions of British Columbia than anyone fresh from the other provinces could possibly be. The suggestion has been offered that Mr. Justice Walkem should be made Chief Justice, and Mr. Justice Drake be given the salary hitherto paid to Chief Justice Davies for discharging the duties of judge in admiralty, most of the work of which position has recently fallen upon Judge Drake. This would leave a puisne judgeship to be filled, and it ought to be possible to find a man at the British Columbia bar fully qualified for the post. We agree with those who are unable to see why the government should go outside the provincial bar, when it comes to filling vacancies on the bench.

But the proposal to appoint a lawyer from the East to the vacancy seems open to the charge of illegality. Section 97 of the British North America act is as follows:

Until the laws relative to property and civil rights in Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the procedure in the courts of those provinces are made uniform, the judges of the courts of those provinces appointed by the Governor General shall be selected from the respective bars of those provinces.

By the terms of union between British Columbia and Canada it is provided that so much of the British North America act as is not altered by that agreement shall apply to British Columbia as fully as if the province had been one of the original parties to the Union. We submit that this provision extends the 97th section of the act to this province, and if this is the case, it is not within the power of the Governor General to appoint a judge for British Columbia except from the British Columbia bar.

There is another reason why the appointment to this province should be made from this province. The procedure of our courts is under the Judiciary Act, which is the same as is in force in England, and our impression is that in some of the Eastern provinces the procedure is very different. If this is the case, it would be unfair to the other judges to put over them a man who was unfamiliar with the practice of the courts, unfair also to the bar practicing before him, and unfair also to suitors, who have a right to have their cases adjudicated upon by a judge familiar with the procedure with which he deals. We have a law in this province requiring barristers from other provinces to reside in the province six months before being admitted, the idea being that they must have time in which to familiarize themselves with the statute law of the province. Most, if not all, the other provinces have provisions of the same kind. It is certainly remarkable if a man must pass through a period of probation and study before he can issue a writ or even write a dunning letter, and yet may be pitchforked into a Chief Justiceship without ever having seen the province.

## A PATENT MEDICINE JUBILEE.

A somewhat unusual episode occurred at Lowell, Mass., a short time ago, when the J. C. Ayer Company celebrated the jubilee of its organization by a banquet and appropriate ceremonies. The only excuse we need offer for mentioning such an incident in this place is that, in addition to having given employment to hundreds of men for half a century, this well-known company has by its liberal patronage of the newspapers done much to make the press of America what it is to-day. Everyone knows that the success of newspapers is due to advertising. It is only the revenue derived from advertisers that has enabled the newspapers of this continent to find a profitable field in nearly every village and hamlet. The owners of proprietary medicines contribute immensely to this source of income, and, if we are not mistaken, the J. C. Ayer Company were pioneers in this field. It is only right, therefore, that when such a concern enters upon the second half of its century of active business life, some mention should be made of the facts. The record of this firm in the advertising world is unsurpassed and we think unrivalled. Other houses may have paid out more money for short periods, but for half a century this company has contributed thousands and tens of thousands of dollars to pay the expense of producing the newspapers of more than one continent.

The best answer to make to the assertions in the Times that "overwhelming evidence is now forward to prove that for the present the Stikine route is unavailable for traffic of any kind" is the fact that Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann

sent twenty-four horses to the river by steamer on Wednesday. But since reference has been made by that paper to the sources of information at the disposal of the Colonist, we may say that the statement made in this paper that "the ice is in such a condition that a week ago travel was interrupted, and no word has been received since except that if the weather turned cold it would be all right," was based upon a letter written from twenty miles up the Stikine by a gentleman whose duty it was to report the actual facts of the case. On Tuesday the Colonist said: "It is quite inaccurate to say that there is no likelihood that any of the parties now on the way will get up the river on the ice. The season has been exceptionally mild and the ice which formed in December has been worn away by running water. At the same time cold weather sometimes comes in March; if it does, parties on the river will get through all right." On Sunday the Colonist said that progress up the river had been stopped awaiting a frost. These statements tell the literal facts of the case, and they are all that the Colonist had to say on the subject. They refer only to the parties that were actually on the river. At the date of the last advices from the river all these parties, who number probably a thousand men, with several hundred horses, were waiting on the ice in the hope that cold weather would allow them to proceed. We do not know, nor does anyone in Victoria know, if the hoped-for fall in the temperature has taken place, and it is perfect nonsense for the Times to pretend that it has any sources of information on the subject. If cold weather has come they have probably gone on; if it has not, presumably they will come back or else go into camp until the river opens. What object the Times has in lending its aid to the Seattle and Tacoma papers in their endeavor to prejudice the public against the Stikine river we cannot imagine.

The Toronto Globe, speaking, let us hope, with authority, says that "whatever advantage to our trade arises from the fact that Canadian goods will go into the Yukon without paying duty will be unflinchingly maintained, and the business community can safely reckon upon that as the prime basis in all calculations on the matter." If the Globe and its Eastern contemporaries had spoken in this tone eight months ago, when the British Columbia papers were standing alone in the fight for the retention of Canadian trade by Canadian merchants, it would have meant millions of dollars to the country. The Globe thinks the Ontario government could well afford to spend money in advertising the advantages of the Ontario cities as outfitting points.

The San Francisco Chronicle says the Canadian land trails to the Klondike are crowded with sufferers from Arctic cold. It refers particularly to the Stikine. In view of the fact that the trouble on the Stikine has been that the weather was not cold enough to enable the teams to make a sleigh road, the Chronicle will have to excuse us for asking it where it got its information about the treasure hunters on the Stikine dying of pneumonia and meningitis or coming back to the coast with frost-bitten hands and feet. The Stikine, we may inform our contemporary, does not flow over the Chilkooot or White Pass.

OUR United States neighbors are beginning to realize how greatly they will be under obligations to Canada for a route to the gold fields of Interior Alaska and are more pleased in consequence because an attempt is to be made to find a passable way up the Copper river. Such information as is now available about that river is calculated to discourage all expectations of that kind.

PRESSURE is being brought upon United States life insurance companies to get them to suspend the operation of the clauses in their policies by which forfeiture is the result of the insured's volunteering as a soldier. The United States pension system is a good deal like life and accident insurance for soldiers and their families.

THE Post-Intelligencer says it is altogether doubtful if a route can be found for a railway from Lake Teslin to a British Columbia port. What nonsense this is! The country is by no means a difficult one from an engineering point of view.

WHEN does the department of public works propose to put a sidewalk down in front of the new post office. The delay is utterly inexcusable. But it is fair to say that no one tries to excuse it. All that is done is to neglect it.

AUBREY BEARDSLEY, artist, is dead. No matter where he goes in the next world, he cannot see anything worse than what he used to draw in this one.

A CHICAGO dispatch says the United States cavalry is getting ready for the invasion of Cuba. This seems a little premature, unless the cavalrymen are to swim their steeds to the island.

THE deficit in the last eight months in the United States revenue under the Dingley tariff reached \$51,000,000. That tariff passed the golden line between revenue production and prohibition of imports.

## CONTRACT LABOR.

The object of the bill introduced by Mr. Macpherson, which passed its second reading on Thursday, is in some respects laudable. What the introduction of the measure intended is to secure the unskilled workmen of British Columbia from competition from the cheaper unskilled labor of the East. There will be a good many miles of railway built in this province during the next few years, and under normal circumstances a large number of men would be brought from the East to work on them. Men can be hired more cheaply there than in this province. We sympathize with any effort that may be made to give our people here at home the first chance at such work; but we are in great doubt as to legislation of the character of the measure in question. As there were seventeen votes for the bill on second reading we may assume that it will be passed, in which event the Lieutenant-Governor will be called upon to use the discretion vested in him as the representative of the Governor-General and the Crown, as distinguished from his powers as the head of the government of the province, and say whether he will give his assent to a measure, which affects the whole scheme of confederation. We argued in the case of the Oriental labor bill, which Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney reserved for the assent of the Governor-General, that under our plan of Union it is incumbent upon the lieutenant-governors of the several provinces to keep always in mind their dual capacity. In one sense they are bound to accept the advice of their ministers; but, as the Sovereign may at times take the responsibility of acting without such advice, or even contrary to it, they may, and indeed must, if they think any measures passed by the local house are antagonistic to Imperial policy or the principles upon which the union of the provinces is based, refuse their assent, and throw the responsibility upon the Governor-General, who, with his ministers, are the proper custodians of such matters of policy or principle.

We recognize fully how very unpopular it is among a large section of the community to take any position which may be construed as hostile to labor; but no good can possibly result from advocating measures that are not likely to become law, and it is for this reason that we point out what seems to us to be an insuperable objection to Mr. Macpherson's measure. By the terms of Confederation, Canada became one country and Canadians acquired the right to pass freely from one end of it to the other, engaging in such labor as might offer. It is true that the power to legislate as to property and civil rights is vested in the provinces, and the hiring of men in Quebec to work in British Columbia is the exercise of a civil right. But we submit that the authority to deal with such questions is subject to the implied proviso that it shall not be exercised in such a manner as will defeat the object for which the British North America Act was passed. Pushed to its extreme limits there is nothing which the expression "property and civil rights" will not embrace. Every attribute of citizenship comes under this definition. In the argument against the constitutionality of "the Canada Temperance Act 1878," it was contended that these words were dominant in the distribution of powers between the federal and the provincial legislatures, but the decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada and of the judicial committee of the Privy Council show that they were not accorded that value.

We do not suggest that in the event of Mr. Macpherson's bill becoming law the courts would hold it to be unconstitutional. On that point we express no opinion. But a measure, though quite constitutional, may be objectionable from the standpoint of general policy, and on that ground the representative of the Sovereign may withhold his assent, without which it cannot become law. This assent is not a pure formality, although ordinarily that is all it amounts to. It is a very real prerogative, and the officer in whom it is vested cannot clear himself of the responsibility of exercising it. We have treated the question, not to argue against the measure, but simply to show that in entering confederation we submitted ourselves to the free movement of labor, as well as of the products of labor, throughout the Dominion. It may bear hardly upon some people; but so does the right of a merchant to send East for farm produce without paying duty upon it.

## THE PEACE RIVER COUNTRY.

One of the secondary results of the great interest taken in the gold fields of the North is likely to be the opening of the Peace river country to settlement both by farmers and miners. The Peace is a part of one of the great river systems of America. Rising in what are called on the maps the Peak mountains, a range running north and south about midway between the Coast and the Rockies, it cuts through the latter chain and empties into Lake Athabasca, at a distance of more than a thousand miles from its sources. Lake Athabasca receives also the waters of the river of the same name, flowing from the south, and discharges its flood by the Great Slave river into Great Slave lake, out of which the Mackenzie river flows to the Arctic

ocean. The greater portion of the Peace river is in the territory of Athabasca, but the greater number of its tributaries are in British Columbia. The district which it intersects east of the Rockies is described in the highest terms by all persons who have resided there, or who have explored it. It is a level prairie country and extremely fertile. The claim is made, upon what appears to be unimpeachable authority, that it is well adapted for the growth of wheat. The summer climate is very delightful, the long days of almost constant sunshine being very favorable to the growth of vegetation. In winter the cold is often very great, but probably owing to the lower altitude of the country, as compared with the prairie region further south, there is an absence of blizzards, and the spring opens earlier because of the influence of the chinook winds.

In the great trough between the Pacific range and the Rockies, the Peace receives two important tributaries, namely, the Findlay from the north, and the Parsnip from the south, or rather, the two streams unite to form the main river. The region drained by the Parsnip is pretty well known. It is suited to mixed agriculture. Whether it is gold-bearing remains to be determined. Like all the other rivers of British Columbia, its sands carry gold, but so far as we are aware no rich ground has been discovered there. The Findlay flows out of a region that is almost wholly unknown. One of its tributaries is the Omeka, in the valley of whose tributaries there are rich placers. But the chief portion of the Findlay is in country that has hardly been prospected, owing to its remoteness from a base of supplies. Some parties have recently gone into this region, and rich strikes are reported on what seems to be good authority. The summer climate in this region is very fine, and though the winters are cold, they are not as long as in Eastern Canada. Unlike the Yukon valley, the gold-bearing portions of the Peace River valley will likely be settled permanently even after the placers are exhausted and the quartz mines have been worked out.

The cry that is going up for a railway from Edmonton to the Yukon and for another from Ashcroft to the Golden North will stimulate interest in the portion of British Columbia just referred to and undoubtedly lead to its being rapidly settled. We do not think that the least doubt exists as to the richness of this great region from the gold-bearing point of view. This year thousands of people will penetrate it. They will go from the South by the road from Ashcroft; they will make their way across the mountains from Edmonton; they will go via the Nease or the Skeena. The country is quite easily reached now. With a little improvement the Fraser will be navigable for a very considerable part of the distance to it. It is a promising region from which much may be expected in the near future.

THE Rural New Yorker estimates the number of hens in the United States at 375,000,000 and the number of other domestic fowls at 40,000,000. The estimated annual product of hens' eggs is 14,400,000,000 eggs, which at 15 cents a dozen come to \$168,000,000, to which must be added \$125,000,000 for the value of the poultry sold, whereby the meek and lowly hen is found to contribute \$293,000,000 a year to the wealth of the nation. That is to say the hens produced more value than the wheat fields, or the cotton fields, or all the mines, or the hogs. One year's yield of eggs and poultry would more than pay for all the cattle in the country. We suppose the average would hold good for Canada and that we may credit nearly \$25,000,000 a year to the hens of the Dominion. Here is a chance for a statistician to get in his work. If nearly sixteen billion eggs are produced in the United States and Canada in a year that means 228 per head of the population, which in view of the fact that a great many eggs are exported, a great many more are used for hatching and a very considerable number are spoiled, is not too high an average. But who would have supposed that the hens of Canada could more than pay the interest on the public debt three times over.

"BABYLON and other Poems." This is the title a work by Joseph W. Dorr. It is an illustrated volume from the press of the Commercial Trading Company, Tacoma. The principal poem is a historical romance of the days of Nimrod. The author says it is "an inspiration." The author says that the book has been written for the common people and not for critics. He will be apt to find the common people his severest critics. If he can please them he need care for no one else. If we were to undertake to criticize we should have to find several faults with the construction of the various poems. There is a poem on "Victoria Arm." The author proposes to go up that sheet of water and he on the ground "with my hat over my eyes and look up at the sky," a somewhat difficult performance if he had had a crown on it. The verses on "Fishing" are somewhat clever. Mr. Dorr sings of the typewriter girl and does that very useful member of the community no more than justice. The work throughout is crude, but the subjects dealt with are all such as are calculated to awaken the sympathy of the reader, and the homely thoughts are clothed in homely words.

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## SALISBURY

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From N

LONDON, March 1. Illness is more seriously admitted, but not known until the noted. Occasional hectic symptoms have local information, more for nearly two years seriously aggravated and overwork, and every order of Dr. Bro. everything, notwithstanding of the national crisis was only by pointing results of disregard of the eminent physician's request to obey his order. Medical authorities consulted in Lord Salisbury's case, emphasize the fact that he is an only too common complication of influenza, they add that careful cases results in the appearance. Moreover, no means the fact was considered a few Lord Salisbury's chief for his compulsory present moment, is the culprits may arise in the has carefully developed understanding with G. in Far Eastern matters have made some understood that the P. heart upon interposing nature to the French move, if successful popular in England, for sentiment here is st. other foreign prejudices bry is convinced that card to play.

New York, March editorially to the tempo of Lord Salisbury, the says. "The announcement bry's illness will cause cern. His commanding distinguished career, his the present critical state affairs in four continents with greater interest than other contemporary statesman, all the world eyes him and hopes for his As the executive head of the of the greatest empire on is of course variously reg to the friendliness or host nations to the British poli is the chief exponent. strongest diplomatic o probably view with reg hension his withdrawal knowing well that they have in his place no more manly antagonist than he. "Lord Salisbury is a whom in his official capa may well look with kindl eyes. He has been the British interests over the He would doubtless, al occur, be a ready champion interests over those of ar world outside of the An To him, as a man, the sy nation is given no less wa of his own."

## CHICAGO FIRE

Seven Story Business Block Many Lives Sacr

CHICAGO, March 16.-A curried to-day at Wabash Adams street, across the Wellington hotel in a built by a number of business men as the hotel were restrained from jumping i A number in the burning jump and four were killed. Fifteen others were injured. The entire front of the blown out by a terrible lowed by several others in sion, and the entire build covered with flames. It is able that anyone in the the building who did not windows could have escap The fire was brought shortly before noon. It is that the fatalities, accord test estimates, will not be Estimates as high as 60 w it is believed that these been much exaggerated. far as known are: Will president of the Oldstead pany; Miles A. Smith, Wrightwood avenue; S. employed by the W. A. O tific Company.

The building and conten loss. In half an hour after out, the structure, which high, with an 80 foot fro deep, was levelled to the part of what is known as t structure" with a front of iron columns.

Insurance men at the fi los on contents will be in hood of \$350,000. The ele tracks which pass the damaged, and there will \$10,000 to \$15,000 for th plate glass in the store on side of Wabash avenue, building adjoining the no damaged and the conten water and partially burr here is estimated at \$50,0. Three hundred girls w the Sweet, Wallace & C plies, and when the fir panic ensued. Many u