

The Colonist.

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1893.

AFRAID OF THE FACTS.

The News-Advertiser claims that Mr. Turner is prevented by his oath of office from making public the correspondence which led up to his dismissal. This is a matter upon which there is grave room for doubt, for it is not by any means certain that such correspondence is of the character covered by the official oath. Our contemporary says that there are three ways in which the correspondence may be made public. The present government may publish it at such time as it sees fit; it may be published after the legislature meets, or it may be made public as the result of a motion in the House of Commons. The way, we suppose, to be taken to be the government's view of the matter. Test the justice of it by applying it to the case now before the people of British Columbia. The Lieutenant-Governor has dismissed his advisers and called in others. His action in so doing is necessarily a part of the issue upon which the new ministers will appeal for re-election. If His Honor should decide to grant his present ministers a dissolution without waiting for the legislature to meet, his action in dismissing his ministers would be the chief, and indeed, the only question involved in the election. Yet, according to the News-Advertiser, there is no way of getting at the facts, except through a vote of the house when it meets, or through a vote of the House of Commons, if that body shall decide to take up the conduct of the Lieutenant-Governor and investigate it, unless, indeed, the present advisers of the Lieutenant-Governor, who are the gainers by His Honor's action so far, and who have everything to gain by keeping the correspondence secret, if its contents are likely to tell against them, shall decide to make it public. That is, the people are to be asked to pronounce upon the Lieutenant-Governor's conduct without knowing his reasons, a proposition which is as unjust to the Lieutenant-Governor as it is unfair to the deposed ministry. To state such a proposition is to refute it.

As to the investigation of the matter at Ottawa, it is doubtless perfectly true, as the News-Advertiser says, that it may be investigated there. So may the action of the Governor-General be investigated in London. But if the Governor-General should indeed himself take the politics of the Dominion, we fancy the people of Canada would insist upon pronouncing their verdict upon his conduct, and upon knowing all the facts, so that they could do so intelligently. Have the rights of British Columbia any less rights as to their local affairs than the people of Canada have in regard to matters of federal politics? We do not believe it. The issue in which the action of the Lieutenant-Governor is concerned is one that the people of the province are quite competent to settle, without any help from Ottawa.

The News-Advertiser says that no language is considered too severe to be applied to His Honor by those who condemn his action. This is grossly untrue to the Lieutenant-Governor's critics. The strongest word used in the whole discussion by the Colonist has been "arbitrary." Indeed, this paper has been scrupulously careful to confine what it had to say to the principle involved, and to abstain wholly from any reference to the Lieutenant-Governor personally, and we have not observed that any of our contemporaries have done otherwise. The truth of the matter is that His Honor's present advisers are afraid to have the facts brought to light. They hope to keep the people in ignorance of the reasons of the late dismissal until after the by-elections are over.

SOME CONSTITUTIONAL POINTS.

The Colonist has been frequently asked if the new government can meet the house without the new ministers going before the people. It has also been asked if a member of the house can resign pending the election of a speaker, also if the Lieutenant-Governor can dissolve the house before it has been convened in session. Answering the last question first, there is no doubt that a dissolution can be ordered at any time, but our impression is that no precedent can be cited for one between an election and the assembling of the house. Such an exercise of the prerogative would be unwarranted, because the Lieutenant-Governor has no right to presume that when the house meets the government of the country cannot be regularly carried on. On the second point there is no doubt. A member can resign pending the election of a speaker. The constitution expressly provides for this. A member who desires to resign when there is no speaker, or if the speaker himself desires to do so, he may address his resignation to two members of the house, who will carry the same to a new election to the registrar of the Supreme Court.

THE FRUITS OF DELAY.

The steamship Mananasse has been tied up for several days on libel proceedings, and nothing can be done to release her because there is no admiralty judge. This occasion makes unnecessary, and some alarm among shipowners and shipmasters. They fear that at any day some seaman or other person may, for some shadowy reason, tie up their vessels, and as a consequence they are keeping as clear of British Columbia ports as possible. Vessels that used to lie in the Royal Roads, while waiting for the cargo now go to the American side of the strait, where the captains know they can get an admiralty case passed upon without having to lose a whole season's business. Thus, as in the case of the Mananasse, the ship makes a heavy loss, and, as in the case of vessels lying in American waters instead of ours, the city of

executive council must consist of members of the legislature, which is not now the case in this province, and will not be until the newly appointed ministers have been re-elected. This does not apply to Dr. McKechnie, who is not an office holder.

A BLUNDER AT THE START.

The Constitution Act of British Columbia provides that the executive council "shall be composed of such persons as the Lieutenant-Governor from time to time thinks fit to appoint, not exceeding six, and shall include the following officers, namely: a Provincial Secretary, Attorney-General, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and a Minister of Finance and Agriculture." The Semlin cabinet as originally formed, contained no Provincial Secretary. Hence it was not an executive council within the meaning of the constitution, and the inference seems to be that any such cabinet may have done officially between the time of its appointment and the date at which Mr. Cotton was made Provincial Secretary pro tem. is not legal. Perhaps the point is of no great practical importance, because it is doubtful if the government did very much during the two days; but it is worthy of note that two days after Mr. Semlin was called in the province had no executive council.

THE WATER BY-LAW.

The new water-by-law seems likely to pass the council. Some of the remarks made in the course of the discussion were of the comic. The degree of anxiety displayed by one or two of the aldermen because some people might not find it perfectly convenient to call at the water office was amusing. People must be taught to find time to attend to their municipal duties. The great reason why things are in such a slipshod state in this city is to be found in the unwillingness of people to go or to be put to a little trouble. If workmen in every other city can find time to go to the water office and pay their rates, they can surely find time to do so in Victoria. We do not believe that one workman in fifty would raise any objection. Workmen have as much appreciation of their public duty as any one else, and their self-constituted champions make a mistake when they create a contrary impression. There is no better citizen in any community than the industrious man who goes out every morning to earn his day's pay at manual labor. He knows his duty to the community, and is the last man who will object to doing it. The proposed restriction upon window-washing was worthy of comic opera. We wonder some one did not propose to regulate the time when a man should be allowed to take a bath. What is it that its use must be hedged around with as many details as though it were whiskey in a prohibition town? In regard to keeping the office open late and early for a few days each month for the convenience of the public, there can be no possible objection to that, but we do not believe it would be found necessary when their rates at the office they will find time to do so during ordinary office hours. After the first few months the water rates would be included in the rent in most cases, which would save the large majority of the people from having to go to the office at all. If there are many people who, like one alderman, are willing to pay to have the collector call upon them, we have no doubt they could easily arrange that matter with that officer. It might be somewhat expensive, but doubtless the collector would be willing to earn a few honest dollars by calling upon such persons as might desire him to do so after office hours. He would, of course, make his own arrangements with them. We do not think that people who are willing to pay their rates at the office should be called upon to bear the expense which others are willing to incur in order to be saved the trouble of walking up to the City Hall. It is a that Alderman Williams' suggestion that water should be free to those persons who keep pretty lawns and gardens, open to the public, cannot be carried out, and we suppose it is impracticable.

MR. HOOLEY'S ARISTOCRATIC FRIENDS.

Mr. Hooley's aristocratic friends have been writing to the papers, and lately very tersely the situation a little, but they do not make it any the clearer. Lord De La Warr, for example, denies with much indignation that he received £25,000 for becoming a director of the Dunlap Tire Company. He says that all in connection with this company, and the total of the sums received by him from Dunlap promoter would not exceed £25,000. The £28,000 was for certain "indefatigable exertions" which his lordship had made, and he describes those "indefatigable exertions" by saying that he "devoted several days and nights to the large staff of clerks working for some days under his personal supervision. For this great labor he had no hesitation in receiving what he thought was a voluntary gift from Mr. Hooley of £8,000. Lord De La Warr was not at the time of writing his letter able to give particulars as to the remaining £15,000 which he admitted having received; but claims to be "morally justified" in taking the amount he received from Mr. Hooley was a millionaire and was giving these large amounts out of his own pocket, presumably through pure goodness of heart. His lordship may be a man of truth, but if he is given credit for veracity, it must be at the expense of his good sense. He got £28,000 from Mr. Hooley, according to his own admission. For this he did a few days' work supervising the allotment of some shares. He also allowed his name to go upon certain directorates. He denies that the money was paid as an inducement for him to accept the directorates; but we fear a hard-hearted public will take stock in his own explanation. Lord De La Warr says he is going to pay all the money he received back into the insolvent's estate.

PROLIFIC IN PREMIERS.

We are inclined to think that British Columbia holds the record for making and unmaking premiers, that is in Canada. The province entered confederation on July 20, 1871, or a few days more than twenty-eight years ago, but the first premier under the new constitution did not take office until some time in December, 1871. He was J. F. McCreight, and he held office until December 23, 1872, that is for a year. He was succeeded by Amor DeCosmos, who held the position until February 11, 1874, or not quite fourteen months. G. A. Walkem, Mr. Justice Walkem, then came in and remained in for nearly two years, going out on January 27, 1876. Then came A. C. Elliott, who, taking office on February 1, 1876, held on to power until June 25, 1878, or two years and nearly five months. Mr. Walkem then came back, that is on June 26 of the same year, and held the premiership for nearly two years, going out on June 13, 1882. Robert Beaven came in on the same day, and remained in the premiership until January 13, 1883, or exactly seven months. William Smith followed, and held the fort until March 29, 1887, or four years and two months, the longest premiership on record in this province. His term of office was terminated by his death, and his attorney-general, E. B. Davis, succeeded him, remaining in power until his death in August, 1889, having been first minister for five years and five months. Then came John Robson, taking office on August 5, 1889, and holding it until his death, two years and ten months later, or until June, 1892. On July 2, 1892, Theodore Davie was made premier, retaining office until March 4, 1893, or two years and eight months. On March 4, 1893, J. H. Turbott was sworn in, retaining the land until August 15, 1893, or a little over three years and five months. Thus, including Mr. Beaven's recent short term of a week, Mr. Semlin's makes the thirteenth premier the province has had since the union. Since 1867, which was the beginning of confederation so far as the Dominion Provinces are concerned, the Dominion has had eight premierships. Quebec has had eleven, Ontario has had four, Nova Scotia eight and New Brunswick eight. Manitoba had five premiers since the province was created in 1870, and Prince Edward Island seven since that province entered the union in 1873. So even if we discard Mr. Beaven, who was chief adviser of the Lieutenant-Governor for a week though he was not sworn in, British Columbia holds the record.

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Victoria loses valuable trade. If the Dominion government can spare five minutes to look into this matter, they will perhaps realize the scandalous consequences of their delay in filling the vacancy on the bench. We do not suppose there is any chance of this. A vacancy on the British Columbia judiciary has become simply political bait.

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The provincial assessor should make some enquiries into the details of the recent sale of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway. It is stated, the lands have been sold in connection with the railway, it is just probable that the extensive grant of land which the N. & F. S. railway company received from the government is subject to taxation. Should the lands granted to the company be subject to taxation, a more liberal land policy would result.—Nelson Tribune.

MR. MARTIN IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

During the last years the Liberal party spent in opposition there were two members of it who proved extremely entertaining to the general public, and their labors in the due discharge of their duties attracted and entertained people principally because of their blazling individuality. Just as the infant terrible of the family always finds a large and tickled audience, composed, for the most part, of people who are not so attached to the subject as to prevent them from enjoying fun at his expense. Sir John Macdonald once referred to them as the "Black Bart" and the "Yellow Martin." Both were men of much force of character, who did considerable service for the Liberal party and cause, and how it has been publicly explained so far as we can remember. Mr. Martin quitted Dominion politics and went to British Columbia, where he has speedily emerged from the main crowd and become one of the leaders, if not the principal leader, of the opposition. Mr. Martin chose the right side in provincial politics, or there certainly was no need of a change of government, the iniquities of some of the members of the Turner Government, including those of the premier, having attracted the attention even of the London Times. But Mr. Martin's character has not changed at all, and he is as amusing on the Pacific slope as ever he was in Eastern Canada, and there, as his chief desire was to be on the winning side, but he could not pick the winners in the contest he refused to make a choice, and the people therefore would have nothing to do with him. The man who dismissed the Turner government is the boy orator's father, and in view of this it is just probable that the claims of the boy orator for a seat in the cabinet will receive some consideration.—Nelson Tribune.

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HE PAID FOR HIS DINNER.

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Advertisement for B. Williams & Co. Clothiers, featuring '20 Cases NEW FALL SUITS' and 'Just to Hand'. Includes an illustration of a man in a suit and text: 'Write for Samples and self-measurement forms. B. WILLIAMS & CO. CLOTHIERS. Hatters and Outfitters, 97, 99 Johnson St. Victoria, B.C.'

Advertisement for E. G. Prior & Co. Limited Liability, featuring 'PORTABLE FARM ENGINES'. Includes an illustration of a portable farm engine and text: 'Just received a carload of PORTABLE FARM ENGINES. With iron wheels, not wooden ones, as shown in cut. Manufactured by the Jas. Leffel & Co., Springfield, Ohio. These engines are particularly well adapted for farm work, being amply sufficient for running small threshers, feed cutters, grinding mills, etc. The entire boiler is made of steel, and is of the class known as the Cornish Return Tubular Boiler, the safest and most economical boiler made. All kinds of fuel can be used. The engine is simplicity itself, and is made of only the very best materials. Our prices for same are very moderate. We can refer as to their success to some of the best known farmers in B. C. who have bought them from us. We also have some 3 H. P. upright engines by same makers. Call and inspect these engines at Victoria or Vancouver, or send for catalogues and prices.'

Advertisement for DR. RICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER. Includes text: 'A PURE GRAPE CREAM OF TARTAR POWDER. DR. RICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER. Awarded Highest Honors, World's Fair Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair'. Includes an illustration of a woman and text: 'What Dr. A. E. Satter Says. Buffalo, N.Y.—Gents—From my personal knowledge, I can observe the effect of your Shiloh's Cure in cases of advanced Consumption, I am prepared to say it is the most powerful remedy that has ever been brought to my attention. It has cured my two associates, and the thorough inquiry into the conditions and necessities of the agricultural industry. The work of the commission was about half completed.'

Archbishop La... Attitude... Sir Wilfrid's... a Settlement... (From Our... Ottawa, Aug... vin said to-day... in Rome he had... the Pope on his... Manitoba schools... ceedingly reason... school question... "and if our auth... sider the attitude... would willingly... he asks. While... understood to be... on the statement... personally," said... any way connect... question, I wish... Canadian milita... The man assid... trusting people... means of a bogus... been identified... um worked the d... terior for valuab... ing Yonker. Sir... sent himself as e... tionary survey... by means of tele... tion, in Mr. Ogilvie... there that Macdon... Woodstock, Aug... Middleton, who h... days, representing... Pacific agent for... stock railway, turn... been identified... ceiving grant rec... through which his... run, and indus... of bills, all of whic... AFRICAN EXP... British South Afr... Ruin Wrought b... Abnara, Aug. 23... umn of the 25... left Camp Bara... along the left ba... denced post on Ben... Mettench on Sunda... traversed the form... tically populated J... is now completely... with the whitening... bodies of the trib... dervishes who year... evidences of miser... skillfully built der... and crumbling... town of 5,000 hous... desolation, its hous... blocked with skele... entrid with corpses... seen are disposed... second brigade pass... their way to the... high, and the sid... reconnoitered the... within 50 miles of... message easy for... advance is expect... and it is not unlik... be captured by the... The heat is tryin... in good condition... DOMINION... Port Huron Off... Conference—On... sent Elect... Grand Trunk O... much exercised ov... six Canadian v... back because it w... going to work in... sion's solicitor w... Montreal had the... spall placed yester... removing the old s... All the delegates... international confe... Quebec to-day. Rev. William W... Ont., died on Sund... Lindsay, Ont., h... ward system. Plans have been... Wait for the new... Trunk railway at... be the largest silv... the world. They v... 100,000 cubic feet... height. They will... autumn and fish... James Nicholson... member of the ar... died suddenly yes... Roger Clute, Q... misioner to Invest... in the Crow's N... held a session of the... nelp yesterday. McMillin, who... Victoria, passed Eng... tation is still in... not having been r... refused the applic... from \$10,000 to \$... Pugh would not... The names of L... yer of Toronto, an... McCarty, and of... lingswood, merchan... connection with... Simcoe caused by... death.