

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Our Conservative friends have clear and distinct ideas about the management of the departments of government when they are in opposition and therefore irresponsible. They are under annual deficits ranging from a million to a million dollars. The Post Office Department for nearly two years has been reducing the domestic rate by one cent, and as for knocking off three cents on letters directed to Great Britain or any other part of the Empire, the idea was a mere pretence to be worthy of a passing mention. When the Postmaster-General told it was visionary and impracticable; that it would produce no good results; that poor men would be compelled to pay a million and a half in general taxation for the benefit of the business men who make the chief use of the mails.

The rates have been reduced and the deficit has been wiped out. But the opposition is not nonplussed. While the deficit remained it was conservative in its policy; it could think of nothing that would improve the financial condition of the department. It can find no fault with the rate at which postal facilities have been extended. All that could reasonably be expected has been done to remove every just cause of complaint. But the opposition party which made such a bungle of the business when it had the opportunity is not satisfied. It is held to be wrong to make the department self-supporting. The men who would not venture upon a reduction of the domestic rate of postage are now clamoring for rural free delivery. We are yet behind the United States, which has adopted such a system with markedly good results. They do not mention the enormous deficit which has been incurred in the republic on account of the innovation. The general revenue of our neighbors is so large that the extra expenditure does not loom up very large in their eyes. They have eighty millions of people distributed through a territory of about the same extent as the Dominion of Canada. If we undertook to institute free rural delivery we could only apply it to a very insignificant portion of the country. Its application would be so limited in extent under present circumstances that there would be a danger of creating dissatisfaction rather than satisfaction. Sir William Mulock is not a man to permit the Post Office Department to lag behind the age in which we live. The department is thoroughly up to date in all its methods. When the delivery Sir William will discover it as quickly as the Tory press.

THE COLONEL'S RESIGNATION.

So it seems Colonel Prior has suffered in silence for the last six months. He was a martyr, and the people of British Columbia knew it, for he would not open his mouth to vindicate himself. According to his own story, which is corroborated by his most prominent supporters, he carried out to the very letter. When he appealed to the electors of this constituency to reject Mr. Bodwell and select him, Colonel Prior said he would resign his seat if he did not as a member of the government secure the immediate commencement of the construction of the Canadian Northern Railway. He failed in his mission and he handed in his resignation. But the Colonel adopted a new and entirely original method of satisfying his conscience. He believed the usual course under our form of government for a minister to follow when he wishes to retire is to present his resignation to the Premier. Colonel Prior tendered his to a committee composed of Messrs. D. R. Ker, George Russell, W. H. Price, W. Mable, Hugh H. MacDonald, and J. R. Mackenzie. These gentlemen accepted the document. Nothing more was heard of it until six months later. It is said to be still in the custody of D. R. Ker. Mr. Ker must have felt highly honored by such a mark of confidence. But no satisfactory explanation has been vouchsafed as to why he was thus selected to receive and act upon a document which was intended for the consideration of the Premier and which a Minister alone has power to deal with. Colonel Prior's conscience may have troubled him to such an extent that in order to obtain his natural rest of nights he was impelled to make a "clean breast" of the whole matter to some one. He loved the people devotedly and could not bear the scoffs and jeers of the shallow class who cannot enter into the spirit which inspires the true patriot in his devotion to his country. But he loved power more. As it salve to his lacerated feelings he wrote out his resignation and sent it to a committee which he knew would make a proper use of it in the interests of all concerned. If he had left it with the Premier it might have been accepted, and a very promising public career would have been brought to a somewhat inglorious end. If he had consulted his constituents they might have indicated in a most unmistakable manner that they expected him to carry out his pledges to the letter. He well understood the views of such stalwarts as Messrs. Ker, Russell, Price, Mable, MacDonald and Mackenzie. Possibly he had consulted them previously. Men who are stupid enough to give publicity to such statements as appeared in the Colonist this morning in the evident belief that they justify the course of Colonel

Prior as the representative of Victoria are capable of almost any political foolishness. The probability is that that resignation was prepared for the purpose of a headline against certain possible conditions. We have even heard it ascribed to a being Mr. Dunsmyth, who had a disquieting leaning in the direction of Mr. Eberts, into a reasonable frame of mind. The Colonel was out for the Premiership. He bargained for it before he went into the government. He would be satisfied with nothing less. If he had not got it he would have resigned and the document he would have handed to the Premier in such a case would not have been the one held by Mr. D. R. Ker.

We know Colonel Prior to be a bluff, honest, hearty gentleman, entirely above the guile of the ordinary politician. But there will be considerable speculation about several matters connected with that extraordinary resignation which was not intended to be presented until there was no danger of its going off. What emergency was it prepared for? The purpose of meeting? The Premier is, we know, we are not his word for it— anxious to carry out his pledges to the electors of Victoria. And yet he was just as anxious to assume the Premiership under the guise of leader of the Conservative party in British Columbia. He attended the convention which declared in favor of party lines. There cannot be the slightest doubt that if he had been chosen for the position of leader instead of Mr. Charles Wilson, Colonel Prior would to-day be at the head of a Conservative government in British Columbia. If the original ambition of the Colonel had been gratified, what would his position with respect to the Canadian Northern be to-day? All, or nearly all, the members of his government would have been opposed to it. Perhaps in such an eventuality the Premier would have dug up this extraordinary resignation as evidence that he had placed himself in the hands of his friends; told the people of Victoria that he had done his best to carry out his pledges; that if anyone was to blame it was the members of his committee, and that if there was any wrath to be distributed it should fall upon their heads. Then he would also point out that as the head of a government he would be able to do more for Victorians than any other representative they could possibly select; that it would be well to forget the past and look forward to the future. Possibly another alluring railway proposition might be hatched for the occasion. No; the Colonel is not like other politicians. For evidence of that fact, consult the columns of the Colonist.

PROHIBITION IN ONTARIO.

The referendum vote on the question of the curtailment of the liquor traffic in Ontario has proved somewhat of a disappointment. It was expected that when the electors were asked to deal with a concrete proposition they would evince an interest bearing some reasonable proportion to the importance of the subject. In an academic occasion pronounced in favor of prohibition. Since then the power of the provinces to deal with the sale of liquor has been clearly defined by the courts. The government has not felt justified in bringing into force a law approaching the full limit of its powers without first consulting the electorate in a direct way and ascertaining whether the sentiment of the province is sufficiently strong to adequately support it in any effort it might make to put a stop to the retail sale of intoxicating drink. Mr. Ross, the Premier, took a wise, but unpopular, position from the point of view of a politician. He told the prohibitionists candidly that the government would not undertake to bring the liquor act passed at the last session of the Legislature into force unless they succeeded in polling at least one more than half the total votes cast during the provincial elections of 1902. By this declaration Mr. Ross incurred the hostility of extremists on both sides. The liquor men were alarmed because they perceived danger to their craft. The prohibitionists were hostile because they believed the government had already received a mandate from the electorate which should not be ignored. The opposition declared practically that it would not touch the question at all. It received the votes of the extremists on both sides during the late provincial elections, and the Ross government had a very narrow escape from defeat. It appears to us that the attitude of the Premier has been fully justified. Something over one hundred thousand voters have declared themselves in favor of the enforcement of the act. Two hundred and twelve thousand and some odd votes were required, which would be equal to half the votes polled in the general elections held more than four years ago, when the population must be assumed to have been considerably smaller than it is to-day. This would scarcely represent a third of the names on the lists.

As we have said, the general result must be disappointing to all interested in this most momentous question. It indicates apathy and indifference. Perhaps the people are too busy to bother themselves over an issue they evidently do not believe has yet come before them in practical form. They could not have viewed the matter seriously or they would have evinced deeper interest and expressed their opinions definitely and

decided by their votes. Such indifference appears to make it quite clear that there is no such preponderance of sentiment in Ontario in favor of closing up all bars as would justify the government in the belief that it could enforce effectively the provisions of a prohibitory law. It is generally agreed that a good license law properly enforced is far more in the interest of temperance than a prohibitory law which can only be enforced in spots. The true temperance man is a law unto himself in his relations with intoxicating drink. But there are others. They will obtain liquor surreptitiously if they are denied it under the law. The question is, would their condition be improved under a system of prohibition which did not prohibit?

There can be no gainsaying the fact that Ontario under a strictly enforced license law occupies a more enviable position to-day on the question of temperance than any of the so-called prohibition states of the American union. And every year records an improvement. The principal cities do not issue licenses in proportion to the increase of population. Some of them are actually making reductions. In many of the less populous districts the houses which at one time sold intoxicating drinks have been put out of the business because of the wanting demand for their commodities. In the business houses and manufacturing the services of men who shun the wine cup, whose hands are clear and hands steady, are in demand. The sentiment of the community as a whole is overwhelmingly in favor of the curtailment of the liquor traffic within well-defined limits. Under the circumstances it appears to us that the prohibitionists were not well advised when they forced the issue which was put to such an unsatisfactory test yesterday. Better to strive for the goal by a sure and well-defined highway than to run the risk of becoming lost in the labyrinth of an uncertainty.

THE AMERICAN INVASION.

Canadians cannot but feel flattered at the amount of attention their country is attracting in the United States at present. There was at a time when as a people we were contemned and our inheritance was regarded with scorn, real or affected. All that is changed. There are American spies out now traversing the land and ascertaining the feelings of the people towards their southern neighbors, while the leading newspapers of the republic are devoting a great deal of space to the consideration of our present status and our future prospects. There seems to be a general consensus of opinion that now is the time to attempt to bring about more intimate commercial relations with this rising young nation. The opinion, once so general, that Canada could be starved into submission for a partnership, is never now encountered. Instead there has arisen a general appreciation of the fact that henceforth the region north of the dividing parallel is going to be the scene of the highest activities on this continent, and that it would be well if the people of the United States could devise a policy which would insure to themselves a share of the good things this fruitful portion of the earth will surely produce in great abundance.

It is gratifying to Canadians to know that their neighbors wish them well. It is true there is an element of selfishness in the new spirit; but that is also true of nearly all human impulses. Our neighbors hope to be partakers in the larger life which is awakening in Canada. One journal indicates pretty plainly the source of the stream of cordiality when it remarks that it is plain before long a large population of American origin will be scattered all over the vast region north of Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana and Washington, and that the vast areas of uncultivated land will furnish shelter and sustenance for many great communities. In what direction will the resulting trade and commerce find an outlet? That is a question the answer to which must be furnished through the present and the incoming Congress. "Ay, there's the rub." Congress is a very difficult machine to manage. It takes no heed of the warning of the St. Paul Globe that "one of the most remarkable social phenomena of the immediate present is the movement of American population into Canada, that movement continues with unabated vigor. The people are rushing up into western Canada each succeeding day as fast as steam can convey them. They embrace all classes, nationalities and conditions of American society, and they come from every section. As far west as Mississippi and Louisiana, as far east as Oregon and California, and as far west as Maine and Vermont, the flood of outgoing population finds acquisition. When, at the opening of spring, the Canadian authorities have opened up to access vast tracts of good lands which are still closed to settlement, it seems altogether probable that the movement will take on new vigor."

As we have more than once pointed out, this invasion is exciting no disquietude in the minds of Canadians. The settlers who are pouring into Canada have undergone a natural process of selection. They are the flower of the population of the territories from which they hail. They come not to conquer the country but to reduce the wild and wealthy soil to subjection. They will prove loyal to the flag and the institutions under which they find protection to life and

property and absolute liberty and freedom. They will have the advantage over their neighbors from other lands that they will commence operations with a thorough knowledge of the conditions which confront them. They have already had the experience which fruitfulness in knowledge.

Canadians are not consumed with anxiety about the effect of this invasion on the direction in which the resultant trade and commerce will find an outlet. Nor will they admit that the matter must be settled by the present or any other Congress. We have a Parliament which may insist upon having a voice in the matter. But it does us good to observe that the agitation for an improvement in the trade relations of the two countries has been transferred to the southern side of the boundary. Our neighbors have set their correspondents to corresponding; they are agitating for reciprocity; they have actually arranged for a reciprocity convention at Detroit; they are appealing to Congress. All this will be of benefit to them if it lets light in upon a darkened understanding. In the meantime there is a disposition in Canada not to pay attention to any of these movements. We are as indifferent as Congress, while at the same time quite active in preparing routes by which the resulting trade and commerce may find an outlet. We have at present within our borders one of the greatest railway systems in the world. We will soon have others. We have also the largest stretch of inland navigable waters on the face of the globe. Much of the resultant trade and commerce will find its way east to the best and the most stable markets in the world; a great deal of it will come west to a region in which it would be foothold for the most cheerful living optimist to attempt to outline the limits of the demand. Yes; Canada's all right. Her prospects cannot be affected by the action or the inaction of the Congress of the United States of America.

Suppose all the bye-elections were to go against the government and the Premier felt that the only course left for him was to resign. Would he place his resignation in the hands of Mr. D. R. Ker or in those of the Lieut.-Governor? An ordinary Premier would hasten to the King's representative, but the Colonel is no ordinary man. He does not believe in following stereotyped, constitutional practices. Neither does he consider Mr. Ker an ordinary individual. The senior member of his committee was through the peculiar workings of the Colonel's peculiar mind invested with responsibilities which ordinarily fall upon the shoulders of the Premier; now that the Colonel has been made Premier Premier Mr. Ker has gone up a notch also. And if the Premier were to lodge an resignation in the hands of Mr. Ker, what would happen? Would the message be lost for six, or even twelve months, to see what might turn up? Where will we land if these peculiar political practices be set up as precedents? Talk about burlesques! He was a false friend who induced the Colonel to publish that resignation story.

Conservatives are ever looking for signs of the disintegration of the government. They observed a sure one in the resignation of Mr. Tarte. The disappearance of the Minister did not cause a ripple on the surface of the political waters. Another cause of exaltation, the resignation of the editor of the Toronto Globe, that is a certain indication that the Liberal party is soon to be rent in pieces by dissension and that the day of Conservative triumph is at hand. Are editors really such important factors in the political sphere as that? We have seen several Conservative editors disappear without taking with them any important section of the party. Mr. Wilson is an able man and he made the Globe's position as the leading newspaper in Canada impregnable, but it is scarcely conceivable that his withdrawal from the editorial chair for the purpose of taking charge of an independent journal will have any effect whatever upon the fortunes of the Liberal party. The readers of the signs of the times know that perfectly well. The fact that they are catching at such paltry straws proves that the waters of adversity are still high around the "grand old party."

By the majesty and grandeur of Thomas's demeanor, became reckless and formed messianic. An exchange notes that the stalwart footmen of six feet or more who so long were in favor among the ultra-swell set of New York have been displaced by good-looking boys between 12 and 15 years of age, especially on carriages. Handsome little fellows of the Fauntleroy type are now quite the correct thing.

We have heard of politicians placing themselves in the hands of their friends. Ambitious young men often do that to their own destruction. Colonel Prior is the first politician we ever heard of who dispatched his resignation to a Premier through a channel in which he knew positively it would be lost. Apparently there is something new under the sun.

Mr. John Morley is reported to have found the sorting and arrangement of Gladstone's papers an even heavier task than he had anticipated, and there is apparently no certainty as to the period of publication of the biography.

The average of wrecks in the Baltic sea is one every day throughout the year.

THE REFERENDUM

A COLUMN OF CONCISE COMMENT BY CITIZENS

Since last week nothing definite has developed in the several prominent questions now before various public bodies, with the exception of the Carnegie library matter, the council having defeated Ald. Vincent's motion deciding upon lot 1, block 70, the city property at the north end of the causeway as a site. At Monday's meeting a communication was received from Stephen Jones and others pointing out the advantages of a site on the northwest corner of Yates and Blanchard streets. The property could be acquired for \$7,400 and the petitioners offered \$2,900 of that amount. This communication was tabled. On the various subjects a number of Victorians, as attested by a Times reporter expressed themselves as follows:

Alluding to the Bernier offer D. W. Higgins, ex-speaker of the legislature, is opposed to giving any grant to what he describes as a mad-cat purpose. He fails to see any good that has ever resulted from an enterprise fitted out for the polar regions, and he is surprised to learn that after all the disappointments of the past and the futile results of previous expeditions the idea of finding anything worth having at the North Pole is still entertained by sensible men and practical governments. Some people cling to the idea that "Symme's Hole" really exists at the North Pole, but that fable has long since been exposed. If the city has any spare money they can compare with it. I contracted a severe cold several years ago, which from neglect developed into urinary trouble, and threatened Bright's disease. As one of my friends was cured of Bright's disease through the use of Peruna I thought I would try it also, and used it faithfully for three and one-half months, when my health was perfect once more. I have never had any trouble since, and therefore think it is just

Rowland Machin, agent of the Ben-nett Fuse Co., of Camborne, Cornwall, is not enamored of the Bernier proposal by any means. The city would of course gain a certain amount of advertisement, but it would not be worth the sum that the explorer demands. He pointed out that Victoria has already been the starting place of one expedition, that of the Blakely to Coos Island, and he doubts if the city was benefitted by the advertisement it must have received through this fact. If Victoria wants to spend \$15,000 there are other requirements for a far more pressing character to be met.

As to the site for the Carnegie library Mr. Machin agrees with Ald. Vincent that the lot at the end of the bridge should be decided upon. The ratepayers have opposed borrowing money to purchase a site, the lot referred to belongs to the city, and it is there, in his opinion, where the new building should be erected. Besides, the locality is an admirable one. It is in proximity to the splendid post office, and a comparatively short distance from the palatial parliament buildings across the bay. The adoption of the Yates street lot means the expenditure of money in the removal of the present pumping station, while the post office is already available. By all means build on it.

L. G. McQuade, president of the board of trade, believes if it is possible to raise \$15,000 in Victoria in aid of the Bernier expedition in order to secure the building of the ship in this city as also the provisioning of her, the captain should receive the desired assistance. "I believe," he said, "in this city reaching out for all the business she can get. The matter was recently before the board of trade, and was there discussed. His Worship the Mayor was present, and gave his opinion that the sum required could not be raised by public subscription, basing his contention on the difficulty usually encountered in raising money for a celebration."

P. C. MacGregor is one of those who believes that the library should be as centrally located as possible. That being the case, he thinks that a building surrounded by a big plot of ground is out of the question. If the site is selected down near James Bay the residents in the north end of the city and in Victoria West would likely take objection. A site should be selected either at the corner of View and Douglas or Yates and Douglas streets.

On the Terminal railway subject Mr. MacGregor expressed himself desirous of seeing the extension of time asked for by the company granted. The city, he says, has everything to gain and nothing to lose. They would have nothing to pay until the whole scheme as proposed has been carried out. On the other hand, if the city and company do not come to an agreement the service will revert to the old order of things and the railway will become a burden on the corporation.

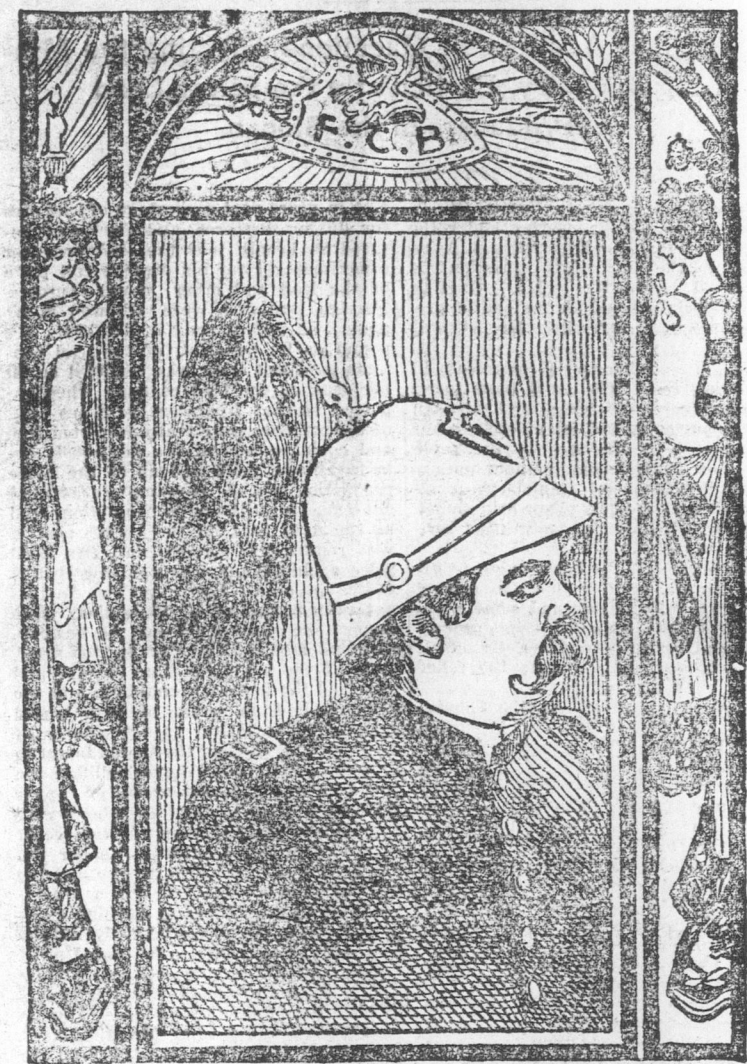
A. J. Morley, secretary of the Voters' League, is not attracted by Capt. Bernier's offer. Such proposals, he holds, should be taken with reserve, as nobody knows to where they lead. If the expedition people would spend a considerable sum of money in the city and pay dollar for dollar it would be all right. But it would be all wrong if they wanted their goods at cost and a freewill offering to the North Pole enterprise. On the whole he is not inclined favorably towards the proposal.

Regarding the library site Mr. Morley is not particularly impressed with the advantages of the site proposed by Ald. Vincent. He would like to see a larger scheme carried out, something along the lines adopted in many of the principal tourist centres of the continent. The library should be part of a more elaborate city establishment, including a public hall, an apartment for the display of goods manufactured here, the Tourist Association headquarters and so forth.

P. S. Lampman regards the site which has been proposed for the Carnegie library near the end of James Bay bridge as a very suitable one. He thinks that the position is well adapted for the purposes intended. It is a site which cannot be shut in. The view over the harbor is a charming one, and would be an additional reason why the library

A PROMINENT MEMBER OF L. O. O. F.

Threatened With Bright's Disease--Fe-ru-na Restored Him to Health.



O. FRED LINDSTROM, PAST GRAND MASTER L. O. O. F.

O. Fred Lindstrom, Past Grand Master Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Past Chancellor Twin City Lodge, I. O. O. F., 1212 Broadway, Minneapolis, Minn., writes from 1212 University Ave., St. Paul, Minn.: "Peruna has my hearty endorsement. There is no medicine I know of which can compare with it. I contracted a severe cold several years ago, which from neglect developed into urinary trouble, and threatened Bright's disease. As one of my friends was cured of Bright's disease through the use of Peruna I thought I would try it also, and used it faithfully for three and one-half months, when my health was perfect once more. I have never had any trouble since, and therefore think it is just

to give it unlimited praise.—O. Fred Lindstrom.

Catarrahal inflammation of the mucous lining of the kidneys, also called "Bright's disease," may be either acute or chronic. The acute form produces symptoms of such prominence that the serious nature of the disease is at once suspected, but the chronic variety may come on so gradually and insidiously that its presence is not suspected until after it has fastened itself thoroughly upon its victim.

At the appearance of the first symptoms Peruna should be taken. This remedy strikes at once at the very root of the disease.

A book on catarrh sent free by The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, O.

building should be located there.

ANTON HENDERSON, of the Victoria Transfer Company, does not pretend to know the relative merits of a pin or riveted bridge. He, however, believes that the Point Ellice bridge contract should long ago have been awarded. The matter should never have been delayed as has been the case. When the original tenders were called for the lowest should have been accepted and the city would have saved money.

H. P. Bell to Draw Up Another Set for Point Ellice Bridge.

The contract for Point Ellice bridge has not yet been awarded. Early in the week it was generally understood that all difficulties had been settled, and the only thing to be done was to formally award the contract to the Victoria Machinery Dept. As will be remembered, Mayor Hayward, the city engineer, Mr. Morris, the local firm's engineer, and H. P. Bell went over to Vancouver to consult with the B. C. Electric Railway Company's engineer, Mr. Camble, regarding the plans. The latter wanted more details, and according to the information given out at last Monday night's council meeting, the city had prepared a plan in accordance with the stated requirements.

It is now understood that the company's engineer still refuses to accept the plans, and a meeting of the streets, bridges, and sewers committee was held yesterday afternoon to consider the matter. It was decided that Mr. Bell should draw up new plans for a riveted bridge, which will be done at once. This will be the fourth or fifth set of plans prepared this year for the celebrated structure. First, there were the plans drawn up by Mr. Bell for a pin bridge, on which tenders were first invited. Then it was decided to have a riveted bridge, and several plans were submitted by Chas. Spratt, of the Victoria Machinery Dept. Then the company's plans were amended and the company represented by Mr. Bell is to draw up another set of plans, beginning with a riveted bridge, and one of them remarked to-day "that the Point Ellice bridge was apparently a suspension bridge; it was suspended in the air."

THAT PRIOR PLEDGE.

To the Editor:—I haven't the data at hand, but my recollection is that the pledge to resign—really resign—was not contingent upon the government's failure to pass favorable legislation, but was based upon the statement made by Col. Prior that the agreement between the government and the company represented by Mr. Greenshields contained a clause definitely making Victoria the terminus of the Canada Northern. Mr. McPhillips put the question and Col. Prior answered unequivocally in my hearing that he would resign if such clause was not in the agreement. It was subsequently shown that no such clause was there.

Perhaps the Colonel will now say that it was not there, because there was really no agreement in existence at that time, such as the three prominent citizens saw, and vouched for to the electors. Of a truth, it is time the Colonel "commenced to vindicate himself."

OLD CITIZEN.

COMPOSER DEAD.

Swampscott, Mass., Dec. 5.—Dr. Henry S. Cutler, composer and musical conductor, credited with introducing vested male choirs in this country, died here to-day at his summer home. Dr. Cutler was formerly organist and choir-master of Trinity Episcopal church in New York city.

When King Edward VII., then Prince of Wales, visited the country in 1869, Dr. Cutler conceived the simplicity of having a vested choir in Trinity similar to those in the English churches, because the Prince of Wales had decided to attend the service there. The idea was at once taken up in this country, and became general. Dr. Cutler's setting to the hymn, "The Son of God Goes Forth to War," is perhaps the best known of his compositions.

GLEANED FROM PROVINCIAL

Regulations Governing Repositories of Italy

panies Incorporated

People interested in legal affairs will be

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been approved by the April 13th, 1902. A

to the foreign office by charge d'affaires at R

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Pain Over the

HEADACHE AND CATARRH IN 10 MINUTES

That dull, wretched pain just over the eyes is not a sign of the seeds of catarrh, and it's your warning the quickest and most

Dr. Agnew's Catarrh Pain in ten minutes. Dr. Agnew's Ointment sold by Jackson & Co. and