

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1894.

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH.

The Premier's vigorous speech will, we are sure, be read with pleasure by all who take an interest in the politics of this Province. It is a complete exposure of the misrepresentations and the slanders of the Opposition. It is not creditable to the Opposition that it has been necessary for the Leader of the Government to expend time and energy in showing that the accusations brought against members of the Government by its opponents are either wholly false or malicious distortions of the truth.

It is now clearly seen that the policy to be pursued by the Opposition is a policy of slander. It is evidently the intention of its members to deluge the country with lies or with half truths, which are the worst of lies. Its Leader has opened the campaign by a speech, the staple of which was calumny and slander in all their bad varieties. His organ has promptly echoed his vile aspersions and illustrated his shameful methods. The Opposition hope that the poison which they are dispensing so freely will have time to work before the antidote can be administered.

We believe that they have blundered egregiously. The people of this Province are intelligent. They will naturally conclude that if the Opposition could reasonably find fault with the policy of the Government they would not descend to abuse and vilification. It is only because they cannot find subjects for legitimate censure and criticism that they resort to detestable personalities. It might be charitably thought that they are not so base and so mindless as to prefer slander and personal detraction to fair criticism of the public acts of public men, but the course which the Opposition have been pursuing since the meeting of the Legislature leads to the conclusion that its members almost without exception prefer falsehood to truth, defamation to argument. They have made it necessary for the Premier to defend himself and his colleagues from their mean aspersions and their still meaner insinuations; and it will have to be admitted even by his enemies that he has performed the unpleasant and unwelcome task in the most masterly manner.

He shows in the course of his speech that the scandals which the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues have fabricated and invented against the Hon. Mr. Pooley—then whom a more honorable and more straightforward man does not exist in this Province or in any other—the Hon. Col. Baker, Dr. Davis and himself are the products of malignant ingenuity and of unprincipled recklessness. He exposed the methods of the scandal-mongers and proved that they were not to be deterred from evil speaking, lying and slandering by considerations of morals, of honor or of manliness. He proved that the accusations which were not unreasonable and trivial, were false and malicious. He, too, demonstrated that the accusers of the members of the Government are hypocritical and inconsistent, that they set before the people, as offences, acts which they and their friends did as matters of course in the transaction of ordinary public business.

The Premier's speech should be in the hands of every elector. A perusal of it will show that the political capital on which the Opposition place the greatest dependence, is for their purpose, worse than worthless, for it proves to a demonstration that they are as a party devoid of truth, honor and manly feeling.

THE ASSOCIATION'S PROPOSITION.

It will be admitted that it is hardly fair that gentlemen who are public-spirited enough to undertake to do hard work for the benefit of their fellow-citizens should be saddled with heavy pecuniary obligations necessarily incurred in the performance of that work. This is the position in which some members of the British Columbia Agricultural Association find themselves to-day.

It was generally admitted that Victoria needed a good Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition Building, and it was admitted, too, that annual exhibitions of the products of the various industries of the Province would be beneficial to Victoria. In order to supply what many felt to be a want, the Agricultural Association undertook to procure show grounds, to lay them out properly, to build an Exhibition Hall, and to hold exhibitions. In doing this work they had the approval of the great majority of the citizens. It was successfully accomplished, but not without much labor and many sacrifices of time and money on the part of the members of the Association to whom it was entrusted. The building was erected and the exhibitions were held just as the hard times were coming on. The structure is a fine one and worthy of Victoria, and the exhibitions were better than it was generally believed could be got up in this city. But owing to the prevailing depression and to other circumstances over which the committee of the Association had no control, the receipts were not so large as at the outset they were reasonably expected to be. Liabilities that had been incurred could not be met, and a debt was contracted. The members of the Association became responsible for a debt which was contracted, not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of the City and the Province generally. These gentlemen had given their time and their labor, and had suffered much worry and anxiety for the advantage of their fellow citizens. Added to all this, they have made themselves responsible for a debt which, when borne only by a few, is very heavy, but which, if assumed by the Corporation, would hardly be felt.

The Association have offered to transfer to the City the property to which they, by their exertions, have given a greatly increased value, if the Corporation will free them of debt. The sum required to do this is \$25,000. The City will have good security for its money. The property is worth a great deal now, and it will doubtless increase very materially in value as time advances. Besides, it will be advantageous in many ways for the Corporation to have a large influence in the management of future exhibitions, and in any case that it may be proposed to make of the exhibition building and grounds. The present depression is not going to last for ever. When good times come again exhibitions will no doubt yield a handsome return. They do so in other cities which do not possess so many attractions as Victoria. The Association will, we trust, be able to pay its debt, but if it will not, the property is good for more money than the City is asked to invest in it.

The proposed transaction appears to be a good one for all concerned. If it is consummated, the members of the Association who have become responsible for a debt contracted for the benefit of the city will be freed from a heavy responsibility, and the Corporation, besides doing this act of justice, will have made an investment for which they get ample security. We think that when the City Councillors have had time to consider the matter, they will see that the City will be benefited by their complying with the request of the British Columbia Agricultural Association.

THE BENEFITS OF CONVERSION.
The Leader of the Opposition and his second-lieutenant, Mr. Cotton, did what they could during the debate on the Budget Speech to create the impression that the conversion of the old loans is a losing transaction for the Province. They went so far as to say that the loss on the conversion of the old 6 per cent. and 4½ per cent. loans into one 50-year loan at 3 per cent. would be more than the cost of the new Parliament buildings. They contended that the Province will have to give \$140 of the new loan for \$100 of the 6 per cent. loan, and \$125 of the new loan for \$100 of the 4½ per cent. loan, and that as the loans of 1877 and 1887 would have been paid in thirteen and twenty-three years respectively the province would, if the conversion were effected, have to pay much more than if the old loans were allowed to run their stipulated time. This is quite true, but not all the truth. There are conditions which the Leader of the Opposition and his Lieutenant, have not considered and allowed for. They conveniently omit to inform their hearers that if the whole of the two loans were converted there would be a saving annually of about \$25,000, and in addition to this sum \$450,000 sinking fund would be released for immediate use. This amount deposited at 4 per cent. and compounded for fifty years, the life of the new loan would, at the end of that time, amount to over THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

But the great advantage of the conversion of these old loans bearing a high rate of interest arises from the fact that it enables the Province to borrow in future at the most favorable rate possible for any colony. As long as these old loans bearing 6 per cent. and 4½ per cent. interest were standing without any systematic attempt being made to consolidate them, it was utterly impossible to attempt to borrow at any rate under 4 per cent. or 4½ per cent., but as soon as a legitimate and straightforward offer was made to buy up these old loans very little difficulty was found in borrowing at 3 per cent. This being the fact, and we are assured that it is, the saving made on the last loan, which bears only 3 per cent., may be fairly credited to the conversion scheme. It may be seen from this that any loans which may be required in future can be negotiated at 3 per cent., and even less. But if the old high interest debts had not been consolidated at three per cent. this could not be done. The Province would have to pay four per cent. and over for the money it needed. The saving thus effected would unquestionably be the result of the Government of the Province having had the intelligence to see the benefits of conversion and the courage to face its difficulties. We wish to call attention to the fact that several members, both of the Opposition and Government sides, had asked or suggested that the Finance Minister should give some further explanation on the cost of conversion, and the statement made by Mr. Beaven that it would cost more than the Government building. An opportunity arose yesterday and the Finance Minister got up prepared to explain fully, but the leader of the Opposition and his party refused to hear him. This says very little for the sincerity and fairness of the Opposition leader and his followers.

When Daisy was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became ill, she clung to Castoria.
When she had children, she gave them Castoria.

AUSTRALIA AND CANADA.
LONDON, Feb. 21.—The address delivered by Hon. Robt. Reid of Victoria, Australia, before the colonial party yesterday had made a great impression. He advocates subsidies to both the cable and steamship lines between Canada and Australia. The members present were warmly in favor of grants to both projects. Another meeting will be held on Thursday, for the discussion of colonial affairs.

BERLIN, Feb. 19.—The Bundesrath sent the Russian commercial treaty to the Reichstag to-day.

The Association have offered to transfer to

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9-Room House (shingle roofed; Stable for 10 horses, with hay loft above; Stone Root-house, Store Buildings, Dairy, Cow Sheds, etc., etc.

4 Miles (about) Standing Fences, in good order; Corrals, 10 miles barbed wire and staples; about 2,500 Posts on the ground, ready for use, etc., etc.

Small Lot Household Furniture, Stove and Pipes, Crockery, etc., etc.

This Property is within easy distance of many of the most important population of this district will increase this year by at least 10,000; the area of farm land is very limited, and from this it may be fairly asserted that beef and all classes of farm produce will find a ready and lucrative market. The soil is the best bottom of good farm land can be found in one block. A river runs through the property, and rainbow trout are plentiful and afford capital sport. Deer abound in considerable numbers. Bear, Wolf, Coyote and other large game are to be found in the hills. There are two creeks recorded and belonging to the estate, one flows all the year round. Limestone and brick clay are to be had in the valley.

The Cattle are well bred; a much larger herd could be farmed with the place. The bunch grass on the hills in the vicinity covers many thousands of acres, and is available to the few land owners in the valleys. All buildings and fences about the farm are a good order, and farming operations can be gone on with at once; about 180 acres of ploughing have been, so far, provided for this year's work.

The Climate is not severe, the land being about 1,100 feet above sea level; the station was for many years the winter quarters of the H. B. Co.'s pack trains. There is a weekly express in and out. Goods and supplies at wholesale can be procured on order and delivered in 48 hours.

The Title is by grant from the Crown, and is free of all encumbrances. Immediate possession can be given.

Important Railway works are now in progress within moderate distance, and two railway lines have been run to pass close to or through the estate, which can be reached in the spring in three days' journey from Victoria.

The South West Kootenay District, British Columbia, from the actual ore products of the mines this winter, is destined in the next year or two to become one of the richest and most important mineral centres in the world. Statistics show, that although the district is in its primary stage, the mines have developed ore veins rich enough to warrant the investment of over the million dollars. When these mines come to be worked systematically, there will be an

Influx of Population, which will require beef and farm produce in large quantities. The limited quantity of really good farm land in the district to supply these requirements makes this

A BONANZA!

To any person or corporation having the capital and knowledge necessary to develop and work this estate. A store, hotel and blacksmith shop could be run in connection with the farm.

P. O. BOX 188.

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THE RESULTS OF DISCUSSION.

The Opposition has failed to show that the Government has spent money improperly.

The strictest search, made in the most uncharitable spirit, has not proved that a single dollar has been wrongfully expended. The figures which have been so cunningly displayed to convey the impression that the Government has been extravagant and that it has lavished money on a favorite, represent the statutory allowances for official services and a very modest and, as we believe, inadequate remuneration for professional work. The display which was expected to do the Government such great damage has done it much good, for it shows in the most convincing manner possible that neither the Premier nor Dr. Davis received a single dollar of the public money that he was not honestly entitled to. The enemies of the Government made out the account. They drew it up so as to place the Premier in the worst possible light. Yet with all their malice, and with all their ingenuity, they have failed to show that there is an unfair or an improper item in that account. In this way the Opposition have unwittingly borne the very strongest testimony to the Government's integrity. Though they have delved into the public accounts most industriously they have been unable to unearth anything that bears the remotest resemblance to a scandal.

The Opposition has signally failed to show that the men in power have expended money improperly, and they have not even attempted to prove that the Government have been extravagant. The minister of Finance has demonstrated that the greater part of the money borrowed has been expended in the construction of public works. The financiers of the Opposition have not asserted that those public works were not needed, neither do they contend that the price paid for them has been unduly high. They, on the contrary, have tacitly admitted that the public works constructed during the last five or six years were all required, and that they were constructed at moderate cost. The Opposition themselves, then, being the

judges, the administration of the Public Works Department has been honest, economical and judicious.

It is freely admitted that the policy of the Government has not been economical as the Leader of the Opposition and late Mayor of Victoria understands economy. They have not starved the public services and allowed the public works to be neglected and to get out of repair in order that they, by raking and scraping and skimping, may at the end of each year be able to boast of an apparent surplus. Their policy has been openly and frankly one of liberal expenditure. They have proceeded on the assumption that the Province needs more and greater improvements than can be made out of the revenue of each year. They have borrowed money in order to enable them to give the people these improvements. This has been done with the hearty sanction of the people themselves. They know that the money expended on the improvements which the Government have made and are making is well invested, and that it will bring in a liberal return.

They are, therefore, not alarmed when they learn that the money expended by the Government in a given year is greater than the sum raised by taxation in that year. They know that it would be so, and that is what they intended. What they ask of the Government is to give them all the conveniences in their power, and to get them at a moderate cost. They are not afraid of going into debt if the money borrowed is expended in such a way as to enable them and their children easily to pay the debt. In this the people of British Columbia are wise. They are acting on a sound business principle. They consider that a debt is really no burden on a property or a country, if by the expenditure of the money the property is correspondingly increased in value. This is the case with British Columbia. The net debt of the Province to-day, including the Provincial Buildings, is \$2,129,175, and for this the Province has to show public works to the value of \$2,000,000. But the advan-

tage of the Government's policy is seen in the great and rapid increase of its revenue-producing power.

The income of the Province has in seven years of liberal and enlightened administration increased from \$537,385 to \$1,012,257. This is an excellent showing and it is no wonder that the credit of British Columbia stands high in the estimation of the men best able to judge of the financial standing of the countries of the world.

This then is the result of the discussion of the Government's policy. The Opposition by their attempts to malign and misrepresent the Government have been instrumental in showing that the Government have not been extravagant or wasteful, but have spent the people's money for the people's good, and that under their administration British Columbia has progressed more rapidly, both in population and wealth, than any other province of the Dominion.

THE MANITOBA SCHOOL CASE.

There are many who will be pleased to find that the Supreme Court has come to a decision in the Manitoba School case. There were some who found fault with the Government for submitting that case to the decision of the highest legal tribunal in Canada, but we think that all reasonable men, no matter what their private opinions may be on the subject of religious teaching in schools, and of denominational education, will see that the Government acted wisely in getting an authoritative decision on the subject. It is best to have important constitutional questions, such as that lately decided by the Supreme Court of the Dominion, settled once for all at the earliest possible moment. To leave them open is to perpetuate disagreement and to promote strife. When the question is settled by the proper authority the parties to the dispute will soon adapt themselves to the new conditions.

The question is now raised whether an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council can be made. We trust that this will speedily be decided, for it is important that the Manitoba school question be

taken out of the arena of controversy as quickly as possible.

If the question is eventually decided in favor of the supporters of the present school system, the decision will be very far from being like the laws of the Medes and Persians—unalterable under any circumstances. Its effect will be simply to leave the matter of education wholly in the hands of the people of Manitoba. They will be competent to alter the law at any time that a majority of them is in favor of a change. There are indications just now that there are very many both in Canada and the United States who are opposed to the exclusion of religion from the public schools. Admitting that these persons are in a minority now, it is not uncommon in these days for a minority to grow in a few years into a majority, and there is no knowing how soon this may be the case in Manitoba.

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ERASTUS

Arrested for Forgery to the Tombs of Ball

A Quarter of a Million Accused Says Be Right

New York, Feb. 21.—formerly manager for R. Mercantile Agency, build Island Rapid Transit rail ment advocate of the ann to the United States, was charged with forging and committed to the of \$25,000 bail. The arrest office of Mr. Wiman's son, S. Miller, in the Washington bench warrant, issued by soon after the grand jury twindictments charging W gery in the second degree.

Mr. Wiman expressed so his arrest, and then asked if any opportunity to get bail ought to have a lawyer and represented by counsel, made by friends to get bail, noon, but without success, in Wiman have counsel when the General sessions by the soon as it was known that been arrested, Assistant Dis Lindsay made known the which the indictment was opening it says:

"I have taken great pains these charges for the purpose myself whether any success or defense of them can be think you will agree with me, cases, more easily proved by nesses, have rarely, if ever, to the authorities.

"The association known as G. Dun & Co., with which Wiman was connected during covering the act complained of on January 1, 1889, but Mr. Wiman years previous to that time relations with Mr. Dun. was not a partner of Mr. Dun. Under the articles of the sense, no right, title or interest had no right, title or interest party or good-will of the busi thereof, for while it was a should reserve a certain percent profit, it was specially provided should receive and control the amount of profits should be determining the amount of sale.

"It was also provided in the association that he should the name of R. G. Dun & Co., regular and proper business Mercantile Agency, and that use the name of said association making, drawing or endorsing bill of exchange, draft, or other except only in endorsement of the account of the association. had a right to sign the firm's firm's purpose only. Mr. Dun a salaried man for Mr. Dun powers as only the contract gave additional power to draw Co., property of R. G. Dun & Co., property in any sense. The m G. Dun & Co., were not his any sense and the profits of & Co., not his profits, by various acts of embezzlement misrepresentation, concealment of his agreement, misuse of es of his agreement, misuse of which he was entrusted oceeded during the years 1888, '92, and up to February, 1893, from Mr. Dun the sum of \$229,018.90. This sum Mr. Dun to-day. That of his relation to the property which Mr. Wiman helped to m the name of R. G. Dun & Co., of the crime of having embezzled or the greater part of this sum, I doubt."

Affiant only makes two spec in his complaint, though he more could easily be brought "In February, 1893, the com "R. G. Dun & Co., owed \$10,000 to E. W. Bullinger city for mortgage, purchased 6th of February, 1893. W in urgent straits for money, cashier of R. G. Dun & Co. to check to the order of Mr. Bullinger of transmitting it to him instead of his account, delibera the name of E. W. Bullinger back of the check and deposited own credit in his own bank. T of Bullinger, on the book firm, was debited with the the usual course of time the accounts of Mr. Wiman's were out the knowledge of any mem firm, and since then they have Bullinger the sum which Mr. W day named appropriated by mea ery to his own use."

On the 20th day of January, further alleged that R. G. the Campbell Printing Press a factoring Company the sum for two printing presses pur May, 1892. Mr. Wiman procure cashier of R. G. Dun & Co. check to the order of Ogde treasurer of the Campbell's on that he desired to pay the ac then went to the Campbell Co. them that R. G. Dun & Co. were funds, asked them whether they notes for their account instead of Mr. Brower acquiescing in his y he made two notes covering the his own name and delivered the He then forged the name of Ogde treasurer, on the backs of the appropriated them to his own use.

All of these facts were conce the knowledge of Mr. Dun or associates, but they subsequently Campbell Co. the amount account. Mr. Wiman's off first suspected in Februar but could not be prov an examination of the firm's made, and this has only recently pleted. Mr. Dun, however, put their business relations a year his suspicions were first arou detected. Mr. Wiman offered to Mr. Dun a certain real e tereats in Staten Island of doub but Mr. Dun, learning that W insolvent, refused to accept the receive any preference over his o ar. Mr. Wiman therefore made assignment for the benefit of his Sympathy for Mr. Wiman's fami perfect knowledge of the extent o settlements, and fears for his o tory (some of whom would be more