

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1901.
TIME FOR A CHANGE.

British Columbia is a province of imperial dimensions. If it were not that part of Canada, so great are its resources of forest, farm, fisheries and mines, so incomparable is its geographical position in respect to the growing commerce of the North Pacific ocean—destined to be the scene of man's greatest achievements—that it could readily become one of the foremost countries of the world. Great as its progress has been during the last few years, and great as it is likely to be in the future, it is far below what it might have been, if it had the complete disposal of all the money which it pays in taxes and could devote it to the development of its own resources. The province pays in round numbers \$2,000,000 towards the revenue of the Dominion, and its taxation for the purposes of the local government last year amounted to upwards of \$1,000,000. There is very little doubt that at the present rate of direct and indirect taxation British Columbia will by the close of next year be contributing to the Dominion and for provincial purposes close on to \$4,000,000 a year. Great as is this sum, it is worth while mentioning that it is not greater than the amount which the people of Western Australia pay into their treasury, and the comparison is the more interesting because the population of the two countries is substantially the same. The amount is not very much greater per capita than the Australian province of Victoria pays. It is worth keeping these facts in mind because the impression ought not to be created that British Columbia is overburdened with taxation. The complaint which may justly be made is that the province does not receive an adequate return for the large amount which it pays. Owing to its great area and the scattered nature of its population, and also to the fact that a very large portion of the charges met out of the provincial revenue is, in other provinces and countries, defrayed out of municipal, township and district taxation, it is impossible to institute a very close comparison between the burden of taxation here and what it is elsewhere. But there is no manner of doubt that if the province had the full disposal of the great sum of money which it annually pays into the federal exchequer, as well as what it pays into the provincial treasury, it could meet all the demands for improvement and development, that are heard over every portion of this great domain, and at the same time administer the portion of its affairs which comes under the purview of the federal parliament, quite as efficiently as it is conducted at present. Let it not be understood that the Colonist is making a demand for the separation of British Columbia from the Dominion of Canada. Such a plan would meet with little approval at home and would be discounted in other parts of Canada and in Great Britain. For weal or for woe, Canada has been formed into a nation; and although a great and inexcusable injustice has been done and is being done to this western province, the remedy is to be sought within the confederation and by having recourse to constitutional agitation. It is time for a change, not in the political relations existing between this province and the Dominion of Canada, but in respect to the manner in which British Columbia is dealt with at Ottawa.

It is very doubtful if the eastern provinces appreciate the merits of British Columbia's claim for better treatment. One member of the present cabinet is reported to have said, when approached on the subject of railway construction in this province, "Let British Columbia build her own railways if she wants them. She's got everything else a country can need and ought not to look to the eastern provinces to help her to develop her resources." To the latter part of this proposition no man in British Columbia will take any exception. Our province asks nothing from the taxpayers of the eastern provinces, except that they will consent through their representatives in parliament to a reasonable portion of the vast surplus which we pay into the federal revenue, over and above the federal expenditure here, being devoted to the development of the province. If the merits of our case were understood in the East, so strong are they, so palpable is the injustice done us, that we feel confident that the vast majority of the Dominion—even including the minister whose language was quoted above—would see how just is the claim for a broader and more liberal policy on the part of the parliament of Canada towards this province. British Columbia is too rich a country, its people are too self-reliant to seek to place burdens upon the people of the East in order that their progress may be enhanced by the opening of its immense area to colonization and enterprise. All that is asked is that a fair account of what we pay and of what we receive be taken. We are prepared to stand or fall by what shall then appear. Instead of its being done, expenditures of a meagre kind are grudgingly made and the great projects, which are needed if the promise of the future is to be realized, are either ignored entirely, or acted upon them is postponed and procrastinated in a manner calculated to disappoint and discourage the people. In this respect, also, it is time for a change.

That the claim made above in regard to British Columbia's excessive contribution toward the federal revenue is not excessive is well understood in this province in a general way, but the particulars of the case are not as familiar to the people as they should be. In the speech delivered in the legislature April 14, 1897, Mr. R. P. Rithet went into this subject at great detail for the purpose

of combating the position that this province is a burden upon the other provinces. Shortly before he spoke, the Ottawa Citizen, in commenting on some remarks by Senator McInnes and the Hon. Col. Prior in parliament, had asked where the money was coming from to do the things which British Columbia said ought to be done. Mr. Rithet took up the contributions of the province to the federal revenue and showed that the province was contributing an enormous sum annually over and above what was expended by the Dominion on its account, the actual figures being \$1,106,024 in one year or \$10 per head of the whole population. He also showed that whereas in the twenty-four years ending 1896 the total expenditure by the Dominion in this province was under \$18,000,000, the total contribution by the province was over \$24,250,000, leaving a balance of nearly \$6,250,000 in favor of the province, which balance in our favor being augmented, after deducting our per capita share of liability for the public debt of Canada and the expense of carrying on the Dominion government, by more than \$500,000 every year. It is reasonable to say that if the Dominion would cause to be expended in this province either directly or indirectly, by way of borrowing a lump sum of money on short loans and paying the amount into a sinking fund to meet principal and interest, the sum of \$500,000 a year, it would be doing British Columbia scant justice. This amount is to be understood as in addition to the expenditures which are now made on account of the province. The allowance made in this calculation of about \$600,000 a year for the contributions of this province towards the expenses of the federal government at Ottawa, that is, the expense of maintaining the central establishment including parliament and the various departments but not the expense of administering the government in the provinces, but including the federal contribution to the revenue of the provinces, is excessive, for it amounts to about \$8 per head of the population, whereas the total revenue of the Dominion is only a little over \$7 per head of the population. It is very clear, therefore, that the allowance made is too great. Nevertheless, to be within the mark, and to make a claim which no one need fear cannot be sustained, we place the contribution of this province to the Dominion for which we receive no return whatever, at \$500,000 a year. It is time for a change in this respect and while the people of British Columbia have no complaint to make of the amount which they contribute to more consideration when it comes to the expenditure of their own money.

A favorite argument on the part of those who are indisposed to accede to the justice of our claims is that Canada built the Canadian Pacific railway, and that British Columbia is properly chargeable with the cost of at least that portion of the line which traverses the province. If this were so, the sum of six and a quarter millions above mentioned, which the province had contributed to the Dominion over and above the expenditure up to the year 1896, would more than offset the expenditure on the part of the railway just mentioned. But this great public work ought not to be taken into consideration at all. The railway was a part of the terms upon which this province entered confederation. To the wisdom of the statesmen of the day it seemed desirable that Canada should be extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and that its several provinces should be united by a great transcontinental railway. That this was sound statesmanship will not be denied, nor will it be claimed that the sole object of taking British Columbia into the union was to benefit this province. Canadian interests and imperial interests alike demanded that Canada should be extended to the Pacific Ocean and that a railway should be built to the Pacific seaboard. In view of this, it is eminently unjust to charge against the province the cost of any portion of the Canadian Pacific railway, except so far as the people of this Coast are properly chargeable with the expense of constructing public works in other parts of Canada. A large sum of money has been voted during the present session of parliament for the carrying out of the policy by which the Intercolonial railway is to have a direct entrance into Montreal. It is not very easy to see how this benefits British Columbia, yet the people of British Columbia will pay their share of the cost. In like manner they are content to be charged with their per capita share of the cost of the Canadian Pacific railway, but they protest, and properly, against being held wholly responsible for any greater portion. The case of the province in this respect is not at all unique. The Intercolonial, which cost many millions of dollars, was a part of the terms of confederation and in all the demands which were made by the Maritime Provinces for better terms the expenditure on account of this road was never taken into account. During the last session of parliament it was said, especially in the press of Ontario, in regard to the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railway, that it was a line for the development of British Columbia and should satisfy the demands of this province for railway aid. The Crow's Nest Pass railway is not, properly speaking, a British Columbia road. Only a portion of it is in British Columbia. Its great advantage as a railway will be to Eastern Canada and the Northwest Territories. If anyone will take the map of this province and compare the area through which the road will pass with the remainder of the province, two things will impress themselves upon him. One of them is that the portion of our province opened by the railway is insignificant when compared with the whole. The other is that as soon as the road gets fairly into the province and becomes a road calculated to promote provincial development, the Dominion

subsidy ceases. Its continuation is only secured by bonuses given by the province. Furthermore, the Canadian Pacific railway has afforded the merchants of Ontario and Quebec, and the farmers of the Northwest Territories a means of reaching a valuable class of customers west of the Rocky mountains. It is not easy to calculate the value of the duty paid goods purchased in Eastern Canada by the people of this province, but if the amount could be ascertained it would be found that the contributions of British Columbia to the revenue of Canada in the shape of duties paid on goods purchased in the East would more than offset the charge upon the revenue resulting from the construction of that portion of the Canadian Pacific which lies within this province. In what has been said no account is taken of the consumption of goods manufactured in Eastern Canada which forms no inconsiderable part of the trade of eastern provinces. In view of these considerations, it is surely time for a change in regard to the representations made against the demands of this province based upon the cost of the Canadian Pacific railway.

The experience of the last two years has been a disappointing one to this province. The people were certainly led to believe that the ministry of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was ready and willing to be taken as worthy of respect, then the most hopeful anticipations were fully warranted. Yet looking back we find little reason for congratulation and much cause for severe disappointment. Reference has already been made in the Colonist to the manner in which the expectations of the people have failed of realization in regard to the trade of the Yukon as a whole. But it is when we come to matters of detail that the true character of our grievances becomes more apparent. A large force of men—mounted police and militia—is being sent to the North by the Dominion government. It seems an astounding thing that with all the headquarters in this province, and all the expensive mercantile stocks held here especially for the northern trade, the conveyance of the supplies should have been given to an American corporation and that the purchases should have been made in Eastern Canada. The responsible minister said in parliament here that he had no objection in view of the fact that the transportation companies here were eager to obtain business of the kind; and, while we must accept the minister's statement as accurate, we can only account for it by supposing either that he took good care not to give anybody here an opportunity of offering, or else, was ignorant of the fact that British Columbia transportation companies could and would handle the business. There will be a difference of opinion as to which position is the more correct. In regard to the failure to purchase supplies here, it is difficult for anyone to think of offering any excuse. But in respect to both these matters, it is incomprehensible that the representatives of British Columbia in parliament, who have the ear of the government, were not sufficiently alive to their duty to their constituents to secure for them at least an opportunity of competing for this trade. While we must properly call upon the minister of militia for an explanation of his extraordinary conduct, we have a much better right to call upon our own representatives to explain why they have been so grossly negligent of their duty. They may say that they did not know that these things were going to be done, but such an excuse is worse than none at all. It was their business to know that such things were going to be done and to protect the rights of their constituents in the premises. Reasons have been given to the Colonist why certain members of parliament returned home. It is not now necessary to discuss the sufficiency of these reasons in any individual case, but the astounding fact remains that at the time when the railway policy of the Dominion in respect to the province was under consideration, and the giving out of large contracts for transportation and supplies was debated, there was only one representative of British Columbia in the house of commons. The truth is that the provincial delegation to Ottawa possesses little or no influence. It is divided in politics, which is of itself not a bad thing, but the division goes even further, for it prevents co-operation when the interests of the province are at stake, which is an outrageous wrong. It is time for a change in this respect.

The conclusion from the above statement of facts and also from other matters, which neither time nor space will permit a full discussion of at present, is that the time has come for a radical change in British Columbia party. A representation in parliament has been little more than an appanage of one or the other of the political parties and therefore, its numerical strength being small, its influence has been of little account. In provincial politics the effort of the opposition has been directed to discrediting the government and thus to weaken its influence at home and abroad. The time has come when we should lay aside all considerations excepting those tending to advance the interests of our province. What we need is an organization which has occurred, or will shortly occur, in the Vancouver representation to parliament owing to the resignation of Mr. W. W. B. McInnes. His place should be taken by a man pledged to fight the battles of British Columbia wholly independent of party. He should go to Ottawa with but one instruction from his constituents, namely, to do battle for the rights of this province. In the forthcoming provincial elections the people have an opportunity of accomplishing much in the same direction. The

present government stands pledged to provincial development. It has given an earnest of its intentions in this regard. It purposes to advance along the same little faith in that they have not dared to invite discussion of them on the floors of the house. Yet they expect the people of British Columbia to respond favorably to their appeal for an expression of confidence in their ability to carry on the affairs of this province. It is proper to analyze at some length the composition of the opposition party which is seeking endorsement from the electors, and in the references which follow to the several gentlemen now before the public, we wish to be understood as speaking simply of them in their public capacity and in no sense whatever as referring to their private relations. Mr. Martin has already been spoken of. We find next on the list Mr. Cotton, a representative of this province. His standpoint is the nucleus and rallying point of British Columbia party. Whether we are Liberals or whether we are Conservatives, there is one thing that we all ought to be—namely, British Columbians. We have in this province a heritage of priceless value. It can be developed only by the co-operation of the provincial and federal parliaments. This co-operation can be secured by our presenting a united front to Ottawa and by our mandating, not as British Columbians, that Liberals, but as Conservatives, that justice shall be done. Therefore we say that the verdict of the electors of this province next month should be for J. H. Turner and fair play to British Columbia.

THE CONVENTION.

A convention will be held to-morrow for the nomination of candidates to represent Victoria city in the next legislature. Doubtless it will be largely attended and be harmonious. The friends of the government feel much gratified over the outlook in Victoria, and there is scarcely room for doubt as to their success. Nevertheless it is desirable that capable and trustworthy men should be chosen as standard-bearers. That the Hon. Mr. Turner will be one of the number goes without saying. Mr. Helmecken will very likely receive nomination. He has been an industrious member, is popular and has made a good representative. Seeing that he is willing to accept nomination if offered to him, we suppose it may be taken for granted that he will be one of the candidates named. Mr. Rithet has felt compelled by his large business interests to withdraw from public life. He was a very valuable member, and it is a matter for regret that so capable a business man and a gentleman with such a complete knowledge of affairs has not found it convenient to place his services at the disposal of the people for another term. It is understood also that Mr. Braden does not desire nomination. He made a very good record in the house, was in all respects a satisfactory representative. He was watchful of the interests of his constituency and firm and independent in the advocacy of such principles as seemed most to commend themselves to him. The names of a number of gentlemen are mentioned in connection with the nomination, any one of whom would fill the position of representative satisfactorily and could readily be elected. It is somewhat singular that in Victoria at the present time there are very few aspirants for political honors, either on the side of the government or that of the opposition. The reason of this doubtless is to be sought in the fact that Victoria people appreciate what a call the legislature makes upon a man's time and how greatly it interferes with his business. We are sure, however, that there will be no difficulty in securing a strong ticket to-morrow night. The disposition on the part of the friends of the government is not to press any candidate unduly upon the convention, so that the gentlemen upon whom the choice falls will undoubtedly be the selection of the whole of the party.

THE OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN.

The weeks pass by and the parrot-like cry of the opposition remains the same. There never was in all the provinces of Canada a party seeking for an expression of confidence on the part of the voters, which made so miserable a showing as the best opposition in this province. With the elections only a few weeks off, they have yet to formulate a single affirmative proposition. They are contenting themselves with repeating flat, stale and unprofitable insinuations which have formed their sole stock-in-trade for four years. When Mr. Joseph Martin, late of Winnipeg, entered the arena first as a possible government supporter, next as an independent, next as a straight oppositionist, and next as a straight oppositionist, many people expected that something new would be introduced into our politics. They were right in one respect, wrong in another. The new thing introduced was a display of political gymnastics on the part of Mr. Martin, which are quite without parallel. In the short space of a week or two he boxed the whole political compass. When you tried to put your finger on him where he was, he wasn't there. You went to sleep at night convinced that Mr. Martin was an independent supporter of the government. You awoke the next morning to find him something else. You thought you had pinned him at last, but found he had evaded you like a drop of quicksilver. Finally, he fell into the arms of Mr. F. L. Carter-Cotton, who welcomed him like a long lost brother, although a few days before he regarded him as the incarnation of political infamy. This sort of thing was new in British Columbia, but it was all the introduced into the campaign. He has not novelty which Mr. Martin has yet suggested a new political thought, a new principle, or a new line of policy. As for the other gentlemen who formulate the opposition campaign, the people have long

ago ceased to expect anything from them excepting a reiteration of exploded charges and a retelling of worn out scandals, which even they themselves have so little faith in that they have not dared to invite discussion of them on the floors of the house. Yet they expect the people of British Columbia to respond favorably to their appeal for an expression of confidence in their ability to carry on the affairs of this province.

It is proper to analyze at some length the composition of the opposition party which is seeking endorsement from the electors, and in the references which follow to the several gentlemen now before the public, we wish to be understood as speaking simply of them in their public capacity and in no sense whatever as referring to their private relations. Mr. Martin has already been spoken of. We find next on the list Mr. Cotton, a representative of this province. His standpoint is the nucleus and rallying point of British Columbia party. Whether we are Liberals or whether we are Conservatives, there is one thing that we all ought to be—namely, British Columbians. We have in this province a heritage of priceless value. It can be developed only by the co-operation of the provincial and federal parliaments. This co-operation can be secured by our presenting a united front to Ottawa and by our mandating, not as British Columbians, that Liberals, but as Conservatives, that justice shall be done. Therefore we say that the verdict of the electors of this province next month should be for J. H. Turner and fair play to British Columbia.

THE LOWER FRASER.

A great deal of interest centres in the election campaign on the lower Fraser, and it will be a surprise if when the votes are counted the political complexion of the its delegation to the legislature will be materially altered. In the last house we had Chilliwack represented by Mr. Vedder, who succeeded Mr. Kitchen who regretted death occurred during the session of 1897. In Dewdney we had Mr. Sword; in New Westminster, Mr. Kennedy; in Richmond, Mr. Kidd; in the Delta, Mr. Forster. All these gentlemen were members of the opposition. It may be interesting to give a statement of the votes which they severally received when elected. In Chilliwack in 1894 Mr. Kitchen was opposed by Mr.

Cawley. There were 801 votes in the riding, of which Mr. Kitchen received 325 and Mr. Cawley 300. When the by-election took place to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Kitchen's death, Mr. Vedder was elected by a small majority. Chilliwack may therefore be regarded as a very close constituency. In Dewdney Mr. Sword and Dr. Lefebvre were the candidates. There are 795 votes in this constituency, of which Mr. Sword received 327 and his opponent 224. In New Westminster, Mr. Kennedy was opposed by Mr. Curtis. There are 1,409 votes here, of which Mr. Kennedy received 594 and Mr. Curtis 574. This constituency would seem therefore to have been a close one. In Richmond the candidates were Mr. Kidd and Mr. Douglas. There are 951 votes and Mr. Kidd received 368 to his opponent's 290. In the Delta, Messrs. Forster and Punch contested for legislative honors. Out of 1,130 votes the former received 545; the latter 318. It would seem from these figures as though there was more than a good fighting chance for the government in some of the ridings and at least that in the others. The campaign opens very satisfactorily. The people of Chilliwack, without respect to party, seem to be desirous of having Mr. Turner represent them and a petition to that effect has been sent to that gentleman. If he accepts, there is very little doubt about his triumphant return. In Dewdney Mr. Sword is opposed by Mr. McBride, a talented young lawyer from New Westminster, whose chances for success are thought to be very good. He modestly says himself that it is quite a piece of work to undertake to defeat an old pioneer like Mr. Sword, but the outlook now is that he will succeed in doing so. There will be a keen fight in New Westminster where Mr. Kennedy has retired and Mr. J. C. Brown is to be the opposition candidate in his place. He is opposed by Mr. Henderson, who is very popular, a good campaigner and an able man. We feel confident that New Westminster representation will be found supporting Mr. Turner in the next house. In Richmond Mr. Kidd is opposed by Mr. McQueen, of Vancouver, a capable speaker and a man of excellent address, whose chances of success are said to be first-class. Mr. Forster's constituents in the Delta were not very pleased with his legislative record and thought at one time of selecting someone else in his place. He is, however, re-nominated and he will be opposed in the government interest by W. H. Benson, a strong and popular candidate.

In view of the closeness of nearly all the constituencies on the lower Fraser, and the large number of votes which were not polled at the last election, in view also of the character of the candidates which the government is putting into the field and also of the far-reaching and liberal policy toward the farming interests which the government has purchased, we look forward very hopefully to the outcome of the election in this interesting and important part of the province. The lower Fraser has been in the cold shades of opposition long enough and the best advice forthcoming from these ridings are that the people are fast coming to that opinion.

According to the London Times the opinion of the best parliamentarians is that it is a mistake to adjourn parliament on account of the death of a member. The cases in which there has been an adjournment are very few in number.

If the Record is correct, there are at present only eleven candidates in the Rossland riding. There are several more people on the voters' list.

The News-Advertiser referred on Sunday to "the people who knew not Joseph." Heaps of people don't know him. Mr. Cotton will find that he is among the number. If Joseph and he succeed, Joseph will let him down with a dull thud.

SKIN ON FIRE.

Torment of Torments—Is there scrofulous tendency? Is there irritating exzema? Is there a miserable itching, stinging skin eruption? Dr. Agnew's Ointment is a sovereign balm for all such. It soothes and soothes and patient treatment produces a baby-like softness of the skin. It destroys the disease germ effectively. From three to six nights, 25 cents. Use Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills. Large vial, 20 cents. Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

JOLLY GOOD LARK

Defeating water works by-law. Now they CAN'T expect us to drink water.

The Chicago corner in wheat is broken to meet it we make a cut in flour for this week.

Hungarian Hudson's Bay . . . \$1.80
Hungarian Alberta . . . 1.65
Snow Flake . . . 1.50
Car Load of Fruit Bars, Overdue

DIXIE H. ROSS & CO.

COLUMBIA FLOURING MILLS CO.
Enderby and Vernon.
Brands

HUNGARIAN, PREMIER, SUPERFINE AND *** SPECIAL

R. P. RITHET & CO., Victoria Agents.

FORT NEWS

Sugar Free Other Col. Pres. Dignified by candid Spanish E. pulsion—Franch. (From O. Ottawa, Mr. Field in moving the resolution, and the direction of sides admitting fish West Ind tariff, he said a view to eq the sugar trad cific coasts, to raw sugar fro ish Empire in Under this an probable that FBI and Man Canada. Mr unanimously a The Commo to the senate chise bill. T somewhat acr Guyana's reca politically agr Disension of railway matter session. The act to enable the dies on public progress w cause to make to the Crow's school fund. The opposit against the Manitoba out school fund. jected to break The resolution The Premier Saturday. In referenc treat that the the two Spani Dominion gove occurs. In the senate came up. The Bowll ash statu the franchise plebicite bill i depend upon house on the fr mons refuse to become law the senate to taken on the p the bill stood The senate h Salaries bill i tive feature. It is said th is determined a mistake to adjourn parlia ment on account of the death of a member. The cases in which there has been an adjournment are very few in number. If the Record is correct, there are at present only eleven candidates in the Rossland riding. There are several more people on the voters' list. The News-Advertiser referred on Sunday to "the people who knew not Joseph." Heaps of people don't know him. Mr. Cotton will find that he is among the number. If Joseph and he succeed, Joseph will let him down with a dull thud. CUBA Natives Bein While W New York, fruiterer Alle last night w Stevanilla an says that fr trip the cou deplorable. Cuba have the Spaniard very bad w proportion of harbors and The Cuban been practic Stop that Co lead to Con Job's Cure u Cyrus H. Bow TO TAB United State on the San Fran Post says i will not go i medately, b Island of Ge which are co which are ab and 3,500 fro of Guguan small plac harbors and etc. About fications wer fish to pres cases of an the United and use the cific coaling others are i Charleston, dered to wa fleet of tra to take th asserted th the Peking rison the f quiet is rest der the co the Charles go to Man adcock will proceed to main as a islands for