

The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, March 29

THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION.

The Dominion government has passed an order-in-council declaring that the Manitoba legislature should recall its enactments of 1890 and restore the separate school system as it then existed in the province. It is further declared that failing remedial action on the part of the legislature the parliament of the Dominion will be in duty bound to take such action, though the exact nature of the remedy it will be asked to supply is not fore-shadowed. The Ottawa government has been wise, enough to discard all ambiguity and to leave no room for uncertainty as to its intentions. "If Manitoba does not supply a remedy we shall," say the ministers in effect. This line of conduct is not only more honest but safer than that which some of the government's friends and supporters advised it to take, for further juggling with this question would have been easily seen through and would have availed nothing. What are to be the consequences of the action decided upon? In all probability the legislature will ignore the mandate, and then the government and parliament of the Dominion must step in. That action will satisfy the majority in Quebec and the minority in Manitoba, but it will displease a great many others, including even Controller Wallace, who in a public address before the Orange grand lodge at St. Catharines declared against Dominion interference with Manitoba in this case. How far the resentment of those who think with Mr. Wallace will affect the fortunes of the government is now uncertain, but there are not wanting good judges to predict that the government will be wrecked. It is in a crisis such as the present that the party sorely misses the skilful guiding hand of Sir John Macdonald, who would have been able to hold his Ontario followers in check while pursuing a course distasteful to them. What with this vexed question with the failure of the National Policy and with the general discredit at which its administration, there is a sure prospect of defeat before the present Dominion government.

WHY A CHANGE?

Rev. S. Cleaver stated at the public meeting held in the city hall on November 6th that he had been told by an unmarried postal clerk that after he had paid his bill in a very moderate style of boarding house he had seven dollars left to clothe himself and maintain a respectable position in society. "But," said Rev. Mr. Cleaver, "how about the married men? Take a married man with a family of say four children and \$29.10 a month to keep them and himself upon. Allow \$5 a month for house rent—and those of the people who were present who had seen a \$5 a month house in Victoria could tell easily what could be got for that sum. That is the lowest possible price. Allow \$3 a month for fuel. At the price per ton for coal in Victoria it could readily be imagined how much heating could be got out of three dollars per month. Lay aside \$19 a year for each member of the family for clothing of all sorts (a healthy boy would wear out \$10 a year in boots alone). Allowing for all that, the man has just nine cents a day for each member of the family to live upon; three cents a meal. And they call them government servants; he thought government slaves the proper name for them. What would that pay for? That does not mean that you could have meat; that would be out of the question. No; it means just a quarter of a pound of bread and a cup of milk a meal for each member of the family three times a day, and then they are running in debt all the time. And that is what we call government servants. The reverend gentleman thought that this was a disgrace to a Christian country."

Rev. Joseph Hall, at the same meeting, moved, seconded by Ald. Munn, and it was unanimously resolved:

"That this large and representative meeting of all classes of the citizens of Victoria, at a meeting convened by the mayor, irrespective of political leanings, emphatically and indignantly protest against the unjust treatment meted out to the meagrely paid employees of the postoffice department in this city, and demand that they be re-instated and that the salary with the provisional allowance, be promptly paid."

IN DIFFICULTIES.

Controller Clark Wallace is said to be consulting his friends as to whether he should retire from the Dominion government because of the action taken in regard to the Manitoba school question. His retirement would seem to be a logical outcome of the position he took at St. Catharines, when he told the Orange grand lodge of Ontario West that

he was opposed to any interference with the Manitoba legislature and government by the federal authority. La Minerve, the chief French-Canadian government organ, told him this very plainly in the following words:

"Mr. Wallace has disclosed without authorization the policy of the government, of which he is a member, with regard to the Manitoba school question, and by so doing he is guilty of an act which makes a demand for his expulsion imperative. \* \* \* Mr. Wallace had no right to take part in the deliberations of which the object could not have been anything but the criticism of the ministry of which he was a member, but even if he did so, the most elementary principles of decency and loyalty would surely call upon him to either defend his colleagues, or else to place his resignation in the hands of the prime minister before participating in the discussion."

Mr. Wallace has placed the government and himself in a rather awkward position. If he remains in office he will discredit himself with his own particular following, and his presence will be a constant offence to the people who think with La Minerve. On the other hand, if he retires he will take one strong prop from under the government. Nothing much short of a miracle can bring the government ship through this Manitoba storm in safety.

BURRARD DISTRICT.

The Vancouver World of Thursday says: "A cablegram was received this morning by Mr. J. H. Kerr from Rev. Geo. R. Maxwell, who is still in Glasgow, Scotland, in response to a dispatch and letter sent to him some weeks ago, signifying his acceptance of the opposition candidature for the House of Commons, in the Burrard electoral district, at the approaching general election should it be tendered him by the convention." This is a most important announcement to the Liberals of Burrard district, and in fact to the people of the whole province. The testimony of both friend and foe is that Mr. Maxwell will make an exceptionally strong candidate; in fact prominent Conservatives have admitted that it would be almost impossible to defeat him. Liberals have every reason to feel satisfied with the way in which the campaign is progressing in this province.

A SAGE OF MACCLESFIELD.

To the superficial reader, possibly to many of those of a keener critical sense, the characters in Dickens appear to be rather caricatures than portraits. No person indeed can read any single one of the works of that great writer without feeling that a vein of exaggeration runs through his treatment of most of his characters. Nevertheless, as we grow older and know the world better we become inclined to the opinion that the exaggeration is more in their grouping than in the characters themselves. This merry world of ours has its Pickwicks and its Wellers, its Tapleys and its Swivellers, its Gargers, its Pecksniffs and Steerforths, and even its Quilps, its Fagins and its Sikeses. We might, to illustrate our meaning, instance the sketch in which the Eatonville Gazette and its editor figure so largely. What a screaming farce it is, to be sure, and at the first blush how absurd to imagine that in an enlightened country a public could be found who would be influenced by the lucubrations of the Gazette editor or even treat him seriously. We would indeed as soon believe in the reality and substantiality of our current esteemed contemporary, the Arizona Kicker. Yet within this day or two we have had reason to question whether we have not been all wrong, and whether the editor of the Eatonville Gazette had not been drawn from life. For it really seems as if there are people ready to swallow anything if the party telling it only does so with a straight face and in an emphatic way.

A successor to the Eatonville Gazette has indeed been recently found in Macclesfield, an unimportant town in England. We hardly know to whom is to be awarded the credit of discovering and introducing to the Canadian public this humorous journal and endeavoring to impress upon a confiding public that its statements are to be taken seriously. For in that free trade country, from one end to the other of which no reputable politician or responsible journal can be found who would not at once unhesitatingly affirm that protection in England is a dead issue and that for Great Britain the freest trade is the best, this obscure paper which no one ever heard of before is a howling protectionist. Our protectionist friends here wish us to close our ears to the evidence of every English statesman of the last fifty years, to the united opinion of Liberal and Conservative journals alike, to shut our eyes to the facts of history as patent, as well known, as plainly proved as historical facts can ever be, and set up on a pedestal to be the oracle which only is to be believed, the unknown editor of a poor little paper published in a town which but few people ever even heard of and scarcely a dozen people in Canada can

locate. Really this is worse than the three tailors of Tooley street.

Now it seems to us really a pity to treat this Macclesfield economist seriously. If there were anything in the fellow's talk about free trade ruining the farmer in England we surely would have heard long ago of the matter from that parliament which more than any representative body in the world is composed of land owners. And when he wants English manufacturers protected against foreign competitors by a tax one wonders whether in addition to his being a most consummate ass he is not also a madman. The protectionist journals who try to palm off his silly and empty babble on intelligent Canadians as public sentiment in England set a very poor value on the intelligence of newspaper readers.

FARMERS AND THE TARIFF.

The News-Advertiser seeks to avoid the charge of distorting a sentence from the Times by asking some questions and offering a series of rambling statements relating to the tariff. As that seems to be its own peculiar way of pleading guilty to the charge we suppose it must be let off on suspended sentence. For our contemporary's benefit we repeat our assertion that there is nothing in the Liberal platform to warrant the statements made by friends of the government for the purpose of prejudicing farmers against the Liberal party. Any person who wishes can satisfy himself on that point by reading the resolutions passed by the Ottawa convention. But as the News-Advertiser is so anxious to keep the British Columbia farmer "protected" it will kindly point out how much good high duties do the farmers of the neighboring states? If ineffective there, how long are they likely to be effective here? And when the "protective" action with which they are credited ceases, where will the farmers find relief from the burdens which a high tariff must impose on them? What does the protectionist News-Advertiser think of the spending of Canadian public money to bring in Australian products to compete with those of the men about whose protection it professes to be anxious? Where are the farmers to find "protection" against the products of the Northwest, since the latter cannot be kept out by a tariff wall? The News-Advertiser is doubtless well aware that in many instances Northwest products are given an advantage in the way of cheaper freight rates to the coast than those of British Columbia inland districts. How much "protection" is there in that? It is evident from the News-Advertiser's tone that it realizes how rapidly the British Columbia farmers are finding out the farcical character of the "protection" with which they are to be blessed in future under Tory rule. For its comfort we may say that it can no more keep back the rising tide of public opinion than Mrs. Partington could keep back the Atlantic ocean with her mop.

A paragraph recently went the rounds of the Conservative press to the effect that American woollen cloths were being landed in Bradford, England, and introduced into European markets by British houses, whose own manufactures were being superseded. Grave comments were made upon this announcement by the protectionist papers, in whose sight it appeared as a severe condemnation of free trade. It is rather curious that the protectionist journals of the States should now come forward to demolish the statement which has afforded so much pleasure to their brethren in Canada. They say boldly that the report, which came from United States Consul Meeker at Bradford, is a "fake" intended to show that the Wilson tariff was already had beneficial results. Therefore a rather comical situation is developed. Democratic and tariff reform papers in the States seized on the story as an evidence that high protection is bad and a revenue tariff good, Canadian protectionist papers paraded it as an evidence that protection is good and free trade bad, and now the high protection papers across the line denounce it as a "fake" invented by the tariff reform advocates.

Sir William C. Van Horne has ordered his faithful ministers to call parliament together for the dispatch of business before the general election is held, and the session is to open on April 18. There seems to be no good reason why a decision should not have been arrived at long ago, relieving the country from the uncertainty and uneasiness which has caused so much trouble in trade circles. The people have a right to complain of Sir William C. Van Horne's delay in making up his mind.

"In place of asking noble lords opposite to state a country where agriculture is better than it is in Great Britain. I would rather ask them to state a single spot in the whole civilized world where agriculture is in a flourishing state at the present time. I would even go fur-

ther, and ask them to name a country where, melancholy as the depression in agriculture is in this country, agriculture flourishes more than it does here."—Lord Rosebery.

Conservative papers have been parading A. F. McIntyre, Q.C., of Ottawa, as a convert from the Liberal to the Conservative side of politics. Mr. McIntyre, it seems, was a good Liberal, until he failed to receive from the Ontario government a county crown attorneyship or some similar office. Conversions through pique are generally looked upon with a good deal of suspicion—and rightly so.

Minister Patterson, it seems, is to retire and the militia portfolio is to go to Mr. Dickey, who in turn is to be succeeded as secretary of state by Dr. Montague. Why is our Col. Prior ignored in this shuffle? Did that resolution of the Conservative association fail to reach Ottawa?

"A free government cannot long endure where the tendency of the laws is to concentrate the wealth of the country in the hands of a few, and to render the masses poorer and dependent."—Daniel Webster.

NEWS OF THE INTERIOR.

Okanagan Fruit Growers Endeavoring to Get Fair Rates from the C. P. R.

Prominent Citizens of Kamloops Canvassing in Mr. Bostock's Interest.

Vernon News.

At a meeting of settlers on the west side of Okanagan lake held on Thursday, March 7th, a committee was appointed to draft a petition to the government, applying for a grant in aid of building a wharf on the lake, opposite Kelowna, and a road through the settlement. Messrs. J. McLennan, A. McLennan and Marshall were appointed a committee to circulate and have the petition signed by all the settlers. A number of fruit growers met on Friday evening to discuss freight rates. It was moved by Mr. Ellison, seconded by Mr. J. W. Fuller, and carried, that a committee consisting of the following gentlemen be appointed: Messrs. D. Graham, M. P. P., I. Haun, E. Kelly, A. Postill and the chairman. This committee will endeavor to obtain reliable information as to the amount of produce consumed on the coast and in Kootenay during the year, and sources from which it is imported, and how much is exported to the transportation committee of the provincial horticultural society, who will bring the matter to the attention of the C. P. R. company.

Fall wheat in the neighborhood of Enderby is looking remarkably well and promises to yield a big crop this season. Speaking of the advantages which this district offers for the culture of small fruit, Mr. I. E. Haun informed us the other day that last year he had picked and marketed from 1000 strawberry plants, which were planted two years before, 800 pounds of fruit. The space occupied by the plants was about one-fourteenth of an acre and the price realized was ten cents per pound. This means an income of \$1130 from an acre of good ground in strawberries. Allowing for damaged fruit, low prices, etc. there still remains a large margin of profit in the small fruit business, which will certainly become one of the principal industries of the country before many years.

Mr. W. H. Whittaker, of Kamloops, was in this city last week on a political mission. He is canvassing the country in the interests of Mr. Bostock, the Liberal candidate, and is hustling in a manner that shows he means business. It appears that the Spallumcheen municipality is likely to have trouble somewhat similar to our own. Councillor Jackson (or Smiley) was elected under a name which is not legally his own, and the advice of the attorney-general has been asked for in the matter. A number of the cattlemen have been busy for the past week or so branding calves. There has been a smaller percentage of loss among cattle this season than has been the case for a number of years.

The new wagon road between Pentice and Kettle river will be put in thorough repair this spring. The worst piece of the road is the rock cut at Vasseaux lake, where the roadbed is made of large sized pieces of rock and considerable filling in will be necessary to make it pos-

sible to haul heavy loads over it. A gang of men will shortly be put to work at this point and the road will be leveled off and covered with gravel the entire length of the cut.

Mr. Thomas G. Earl returned to his home at Lytton on Saturday. It would arouse faith in the most skeptical to hear Mr. Earl talk of the capabilities of this district as a fruit-growing country, and long experience in the business has given him an opportunity to know of what he speaks. The district is to be congratulated upon being represented on the Provincial Board of Horticulture by so faithful and energetic a member as Mr. Earl.

MIDWAY.

The Last Chance mine has passed away. By this we do not mean that it is dead, but rather that it has passed away from the prospector into the hands of capitalists, Captain Burbage, accompanied by a Mr. Reed, who came from Spokane the beginning of last week, being the purchasers. The claim was owned by Messrs. Cook and McCormick, and in making the deal the purchasers bought out McCormick's half interest, for which they paid cash, and bonded Cook's interest, paying the sum of \$500 down on the bond.

Mr. T. E. Crowell, the contractor on the new government buildings, arrived down from Vernon on Monday last, and is now busily engaged upon the work of construction. The building when completed, although small, will be quite an ornament to the town, as the plans and specifications call for the best of material and workmanship.

On last week's trip out the mail carrier took with him a very numerous signed petition from the people along the mail route, praying the government to extend to the lower country a tri-weekly mail. What effect it will have remains to be seen.

In the Cariboo mine, Camp McKinney, a shaft is being sunk on the lead, which will prove the property at a depth of 100 feet below the present workings. This mine has been a paying proposition from the grass roots down, and is at the present time returning handsome dividends to its shareholders. About one hundred feet in depth will represent many thousands of tons of ore, and if it retains its richness, as at present, and there is no reason why it should not do so, then the prospect of future dividends should create quite a pleasant feeling in those fortunate enough to hold shares in the same. There is some talk of the stamping capacity of the mill being increased, and no doubt this will be carried out some time this summer.

Messrs. Conkle & Donald are busily engaged erecting quite an imposing log house on their pre-emption on Kettle river. When the pre-emption is under fence and cultivation, and the water brought to it out of Rock creek, there will be few finer ranch properties in the district.



As Well as Ever After Taking Hood's Sarsaparilla

Cured of a Serious Disease. "I was suffering from what is known as Bright's disease for five years, and for days at a time I have been unable to straighten myself up. I was in bed for three weeks; during that time I had leeches applied and derived no benefit. Seeing Hood's Sarsaparilla advertised in the papers I decided to try a bottle. I found

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla CURES

relief before I had finished taking half of a bottle. I got so much help from taking the first bottle that I decided to try another, and since taking the second bottle I feel as well as ever I did in my life." Geo. Merrett, Toronto, Ont. Hood's Pills are prompt and efficient, yet easy of action. Sold by all druggists. 25c.

GETTING NEARER

Japs Make an Attack on Sore Islands and One of the

Sir Henry Ponsonby, the Queen, Dyt Bristol Elect

London, March 22.—The German chamber of Deputies has been summoned to meet on May 4th to discuss the project. The Maunheim change is organizing a society for the interests of the grain growers the agrarian government. A dispatch from Berlin says a storm on Lake Kurania, twenty-eight drowned.

Six weeks ago summoned for Francis M. Colwell, by Granville Wright, the now in prison for forger with the Liberator by funds; Messrs. Dibley and the auditor of the accounts of conspiracy and say the magistrate who monses fully committed trial and fixed their bail. In the House of Lords Ripon's bill to repeal the on the Australian colonies the imposition of customs passed to the committee.

A parliamentary by-election in East Bristol yesterday left vacant by the death Weston, Liberal. W. H. arvis candidate, was returned 3,740 votes against 3,000 opponent, Mr. Gore. At election Sir Joseph V. opposed. A Fall Mail Gazette of Japanese are making an Pescadore Islands and the largest of the group. T. seated between Formosa and mainland. Sir Henry Ponsonby, Queen, is dying.

CHARGES AGAINST

Furnished New York Pa

ter for Article

Washington, March 22 that Thurston, Hawaiian cused, in addition to giving having instigated newspaper New York papers attack traction. Thus brings it all fours with the celebr case, which caused so during the administrative Grant. Catacazy was a ster here, and it had been by the testimony of the concerned that he furnished for articles published York World attacking the of the administration, and terly the attitude of the toward Russia, then in vester dispute with Great I lster specifically denied the publication, although edly brought home to fore it was revised the fore it was printed. Th grievances against the out of the allegations of improper conduct toward claim, then pending, altho ters were not made pr complaint, and the secretary rection of President Gra minister to Russia to inf government that the con tacity, both officially and been for some time past high usefulness to his gover der intercourse either social purposes disgre these circumstances the countries would be prom lations placed on a sure Russian legation here was

SPAIN ACTING

Contrast to Gresham's for an Apol

Washington, March 22 naval commander at Ha investigating the firing up States steamship Allian ally said that Spain will to Gresham's note until mander now investigating shall have reported to sign affairs. It is state authority that Spain is disp ly and that a detailed made to Gresham's dispo ment the government to speak intelligently. S ever, will be made until hat it is proper that she

IN THE HOUSE OF

Number of Questions An ing Foreign Re

London, March 22.—F Grey in the commons to government had been in Armenian ecclesiastics no Turkey would be releas that they swear to beha Grey said in reply to whether the holders of U curities must send a sta income to the American fore April 15th, said the come tax as it stood had published. For details e be sent to the British York. Grey said in regard to matter that the governm communication with Nic