

THE VICTORIA TIMES TWICE-A-WEEK. Issued Every Tuesday and Friday. PRICE, \$2 per annum, in advance.

The Best Advertising Medium IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. PRICES ON APPLICATION. W.M. TEMPLEMAN, Manager.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Bishop Perrin is doubtless acting from good motives when he urges that religious instruction should be given in the public schools. But it is likely that when he examines the question a little further he will see in fact simply impossible that the suggestion of religious instruction in our public schools should be adopted unless some plan is devised whereby the schools can be divided up, giving over certain of them to each religious denomination. While they remain as they are, state schools of which all denominations are expected to make free and equal use, they must remain purely secular.

SOME MORE REVELATIONS.

While Mr. Tarte was a member of the Conservative party he was considered a very good fellow indeed by his fellow-Conservatives, by the leaders of the party and the party organs. Now that he has found it impossible to live with his old political associates and condone their iniquities he is painted as a very black sheep indeed. In his speech at Galt he gave some very interesting reminiscences of his connection with the government party and with the revelations which resulted in the disgrace of so many of its leading members. Of course those who have followed the course of political events know that his responsibility for those revelations is the cause of the venom now being poured on his devoted head by the government organs.

A DISMAYED GOVERNMENT.

The Bowell government and its friends may well be frightened by the success of Mr. Laurier's Ontario tour, as our Ottawa correspondent reports. No observer can be in doubt as to the warmth and heartiness of the welcome tendered the Liberal leader at every point he visits. Every day of his tour gives him new supporters and lessens the already small amount of prejudice arising from his Quebec origin. Sir Oliver Mowat, the veteran and invincible premier of Ontario, described the situation clearly at the Ingersoll meeting when he said of Mr. Laurier "that even the Conservatives, who are opposed to the Liberal, give him the warmest praise which he receives from others. His presence gives the Liberals confidence. Wherever he is he is liked. The more he is known the greater is the public confidence in him and the more confidence will the Reformers feel in giving him their support."

In 1884 I became a shareholder in the Temiscouata railway company with three or four other friends. I was not a member of the house, I was a private citizen and a newspaper man. I acquired the control of the company in the ordinary way of business. The company got subsidies from Ottawa and Quebec. One day we sold our interests to Mr. John Macdonald and Mr. Bowell, backed up by Mr. Riordan, of the Mail and Empire. We sold our interests for the sum of \$100,000. The Toronto World says I got \$30,000 out of it. Suppose I got the whole \$100,000, there was no harm in it. I was selling my own charter; but since I am obliged to speak, just as I am

caused for ordinary transactions of ordinary life, I am bound to say what I know about it. Gentlemen, I was a Conservative at the time; there was a Conservative ten law in the Conservative party, and I am very much afraid the same unwritten law is still in force in that party, by which friends of the party who were making money in large operations of that kind were bound to give a large amount of it to men in high places. Out of the \$100,000 I speak after having thought over it—I never said a word about it, but there is a time when patience ceases to be a virtue—out of the \$100,000, \$50,000 went in political subsidies. My friend, Mr. Edgar, brought the question before the House of Commons, and he asked for an inquiry. Sir Adolphe Caron, who knows something about the Temiscouata Railway Company, and his colleagues refused to grant the request made, and they changed the request on an amendment by which the inquiry was to be held before a court of justice in Quebec. I am bound to say right here that some of the lawyers appointed by the Ottawa government were warned beforehand that if they put certain questions certain ministers would be put in trouble. Well, those questions were not put to us. But to-night, standing before this large audience, being listened to by the press of both political parties, I challenge the Ottawa government at the coming session to ask for an inquiry. I know the names of the ministers who got the money. I did not give those names before. I am prepared to give them if an inquiry is granted in the House of Commons. I am very sorry to be obliged to take that stand to-night, but the Conservative press seems to have made up their minds not to discuss political questions in a political way, but to stifle the public men who stand up for the public good.

MR. WHITE'S RESIGNATION.

The reasons given by Robt. S. White for his resignation as member for Cardwell are practically as furnished by the Times. Mr. White, being a public-spirited citizen, felt impelled to pronounce condemnation on the government's course and release himself from an equivocal position. More than once the business men of Montreal have protested against the collectorship of that port being kept vacant simply to avoid the possible loss of Cardwell to the government, and to any person concerned more for the public good than for party advantage the injustice and iniquity of the proceeding must have been abundantly manifest. If Mr. White was entitled to the collectorship above all others, the plain duty of the government was to appoint him irrespective of what might happen in Cardwell. If the post was not to be considered his particular property some one else should have been appointed to it long ago. The scandal of the situation was accentuated by the appointment of Mr. Curran to the vacant judgeship; the filling of one position and the neglect of the other was a proceeding that could not be defended by any honest man. Mr. White has further explained that a pledge in regard to the Manitoba school question stood in his way, but his chief motive for resigning seems to have lain in a desire to clear up the collectorship question. The following comments upon his action from the Toronto World, a Conservative paper, are full of significance:

THE VENEZUELA COMPLICATION.

Dr. Spaight, who for 28 years has been the United States vice-consul in British Guiana, has made the following statement in regard to the Venezuela boundary question, and it must be rather unpleasant reading for the jingoes among our neighbors: "All the substantial evidence of ownership is with the English. Schomburgk's map, which is the very highest authority, shows that clearly. According to this the limits of British Guiana extend a good many hundred miles north of what England now claims—in fact, will reach almost to the Orinoco. Up to a few years ago, when gold was discovered, this was no man's land, and the Venezuelan government cared nothing about the strip. When in 1878, prospectors took out a good bit of gold and the news got abroad this 'no man's land' would prove a second California, suddenly the Venezuelans awakened to the importance of the region and forthwith asserted it was theirs. Brazil has just as good a claim to it, Venezuelans are like the small boy that tries to hirt the larger one thinking the disparity in size will save him from a thrashing. If they did half as much to us in the way of insult and annoyance as they have to England we would have trodden them without mercy long ere this." Dr. Spaight must be accepted as a competent authority, both as to the validity of the British claim and as to the action the United States would be likely to take if Venezuela were to try to capture any of its territory. In regard to the latter point there is no need for guesswork, seeing that some of our neighbors have nearly gone off their heads over the "British claim" to a portion of Alaska—a claim which has no existence outside of their own imaginations. The Venezuela case would be paralleled with the Alaska affair if Canada were to lay claim to Baranoff and Prince of Wales Islands and then ask to have their claims submitted to arbitration. What a howl the jingoes across the line would set up in that event. In addition to the actions which Dr. Spaight has spoken of, Venezuela was cunning enough to grant a large slice of the British Guiana territory to a syndicate of United States citizens, chief of whom is Donald Grant, the well known railway contractor of Faribault, Minnesota. It may be mentioned, by the way, that Mr. Grant is a native of Canada. Of course the Venezuelans' dodge is easily seen through; the concession to the Minnesota syndicate was simply a sprat thrown to a whale.

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fit them for the contest. A number of the government's parliamentary supporters have already sought refuge in public office, and a number of others are keenly anxious to secure a similar shelter. Mr. White's explanation of his action very well illustrates the inability of the government to transact the country's business in an honorable and business-like way, lest some injury to its own interests may be provoked. It is "afraid of its own shadow," to use a familiar illustration. No attempt to pick holes in Mr. Laurier's coat will avail to hide the tattered condition of the government's garments, though under the circumstances such attempts are natural enough. Liberals, understanding the situation, can afford to look on the adoption of these little devices with tolerance. Nothing more is needed to show the government's fear of defeat than the delay in bringing on the by-elections, some of which should have been held weeks ago.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

A New Westminister alderman some days ago gave notice that he would introduce a by-law to provide for the sale of the corporation water works and electric light works to private persons. The by-law would, of course, have to receive the sanction of the ratepayers. Certain outside newspapers undertook to show from this occurrence that municipal ownership of water, light and similar services was a failure, said newspaper in the past having advocated private ownership—apparently not altogether from concern for the public good. The Columbian objects to this inference, and offers the explanation that the Westminster Light system is a profitable investment instead of a burden for the municipality,

READY FOR THE TRIAL.

The Case Against the Seized Sealers To Be Heard Next Week. The United States revenue cutter Corwin dropped her anchor in James Bay at 11 a.m. The Corwin was the cutter which seized the sealing schooner Shelby on the 14th of May last, and Captain Munger and officers are here to testify at the trial of the seized schooner Shelby, Marvin and Beatrice, which will be held in the vice-admiralty court, probably on Monday next.

The schooner E. R. Marvin is charged with "violation of article 6 of the Paris award," which prohibits the use of firearms or explosives in fur seal fishing. She was seized on September 2nd by the Rush. The Beatrice, seized also by the Rush, is charged with a violation of article 5 of the Paris award, which requires correct and accurate entry of each fur seal operation in the official logbook.

"THE EARTH TREMBLED."

Chicago, Oct. 31.—A distinct earthquake shock was felt in this city at 5:11 this morning. The employees of the Postal Telegraph and Western Union Telegraph Co. and Telephone Co., who were on duty all report feeling shocks. Upon the 11th floor of the Western Union building the shock was quite noticeable, so much so that some men were thrown down the desks with a good deal of force. St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 31.—At 5:12 a.m. several earthquake shocks were distinctly felt here. The vibrations were from east to west, and each shock continued several seconds. The operators in the Western Union Telegraph operating room became alarmed, and running from the building, the shocks were not accompanied by any rumbling noise. Clocks stopped and windows were damaged, but no serious injury was reported.

THE CUBAN EXPEDITIONS.

A Band of 200 Men Waiting to Sail For Cuba. Key West, Fla., Oct. 3.—Great excitement has been caused by the report that a band of Cubans are encamped on Oncho, and are ready to sail for the United States. There are said to be over 200 men here, and they are claimed to be the Spanish consul here complained to Collector Brown, and the latter ordered the revenue cutters Winona and Morrill to the Keys to prevent the expedition from leaving.

ROYAL Baking Powder.

Highest of all in leavening strength.—U. S. Government Report.

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THERE IS NO FIGHT TO-NIGHT

Bob Fitzsimmons Arrested, and Sheriff Arrests Another for Interference. You May Play Golf in Toronto on Sundays—Bad Bicycle Accident.

THE KING.

Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 29.—The result of today's operations is that the agreement has been reached between committees for the Hot Springs Athletic Club and Attorney General Klansworthy, by which Corbett is to be brought to Little Rock to-morrow to answer to the warrant issued from Pulaski county, and that the hearing of the case postponed pending a hearing of the case opposing forces seems to be quietly resting on its own tonight, such incident of the victory.

Montreal, Oct. 31.—The much-expected manifesto which Robert S. White said he would issue to his constituents, of Cardwell in explanation of his resignation of his seat in parliament has been published. Following is that portion of it which deals with his resignation: "Having resigned the seat in the House of commons with which you honored me in 1888, and again in 1891, it becomes my duty to acquaint you with the reasons that have moved me to take this step, and thus sever the tie, always pleasant relations existing between us for now several years. You may remember that on the occasion of the election of 1891 I gave you my pledge to withdraw my confidence from the government in the event of the then recently enacted school legislation of Manitoba being made the subject of disallowance by the Dominion government. My opinion at that time, as now, was that the legislation of the provinces affecting education should not be interfered with by the exercise of the veto power, but that its constitutionality, if challenged in any quarter, ought to be left to the decision of the courts. This view was held by the late Sir John Thompson, and I may say, was shared by the whole of the opposition. It is not my intention to recount the various phases this vexed Manitoba school question has undergone since 1891. At every step the courts, and the courts alone, have been allowed to determine the validity of appeals for redress made by the Roman Catholic minority of the province, until finally, as a result of the judgment of the judicial committee of the privy council, the governor-general-in-council was called upon to act. You are familiar with the steps which have since been taken. 'Do Manitoba has been committed the duty of providing redress for the minority, and failing action on the part of the authorities of that province, the whole matter will become vested in the parliament of Canada, under the terms of the constitution. It may be that the Manitoba government will take such measures as will remove this vexed and difficult question from the federal domain, or again if legislation is introduced in parliament it will be of such a scope and character as to allay the fear and disarm the opposition of those who advocated equal rights in the matter of education, including in that term a common measure of taxation upon all classes, certification of teachers, uniform standard of excellence in and official inspection of all state-aided schools, whether they be designated public or separate. Despite, however, the altered circumstances of the question since 1891, when I gave you the pledge to which I have alluded, I have been unwilling to await the events of the approaching session of parliament with my hands less free, as I conceive, than those of your representative should be, to deal with the subject in whatever form it may present itself. As you are my name has been coupled with the office of collector of customs at the port of Montreal, vacant since the month of January, 1893, and still remains so. Not long since representations were made to the government by the board of trade of this city setting forth the desirability, in the interest of the business of the port, of appointing a collector at an early day. Inasmuch as an impression has prevailed somewhat widely that the delay in filling the vacancy was due to a reluctance on their part of the government to submit the matter to the judgment of the electors of Cardwell by selecting myself for the vacancy, I decided without solicitation on the part of the cabinet, and without intimations of my purpose to any of its members, to dissent from the impression, so far as I could by resigning the representation of the county of my own accord. As a consequence, an opportunity will shortly be afforded you of proceeding upon the public issues of the day, while the government may proceed in parliament may have caused in having a collector for the port of Montreal, as desired by the merchants of that city."

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