

TOPICS OF THE DAY

Telegraphic news up to the time of going to press, indicate that Cleveland has been elected President of the United States. He received New York, by a large majority, and Indiana, Illinois, New Jersey, Virginia, and West Virginia have also gone Democratic.

On Thursday last, Hon. Mr. Daly, Minister of the Interior, was elected by acclamation for the Selkirk district of Manitoba, his only competitor, The Griggs did not dare to put a man in the field to oppose him.

At a meeting of Liberal-Conservative, held in St. John, N. B., on Monday evening last, Mr. George Robertson, merchant and President of the Board of Trade, was chosen the standard-bearer of the party in the election for the House of Commons to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Sleighter, in consequence of his appointment to the office of Judge of Probate.

Should Mr. Mackenzie's escape from the penitentiary lead to the discovery of the girl's whereabouts, the girl's friends would not be surprised to hear that she had been changed to the learned judge who tried the case. It may be very amusing to watch a guilty man in order to give the girl a chance to see her.

Two elections for the Provincial Legislature were held in Quebec on Thursday last, and both resulted in the return of supporters of the DeBoucherville Government. One of the elections was held in Three Rivers, where Mr. Normand was returned with a majority of about forty, notwithstanding that he had two opponents, one a Liberal and the other a Conservative.

The Financial Review of Henry Clews & Co., New York, for the week ending Saturday last, contains the following passage: "The drain of gold to Russia is at present a mystery. The Czar's Government is understood to have to return in England 10 millions sterling in Paris 5 millions, and in Berlin 4 millions, in all 19 millions sterling, which it can draw upon at pleasure. Russia is now drawing upon these deposits, and the only check upon her continuing her drafts is the danger that, in so doing, she may exhaust the issuing of a loan for £20,000,000, which she desires to negotiate in Paris. Austria-Hungary is likely to conduct her accumulating of gold with a like prudence; for she wants to contract a loan of 20 millions sterling to enable her to resume gold payments, and might easily default her money by making gold scarce through antecedent purchase of that metal."

Ontario's advice inform us that, during last week, Commissioner Robertson was preparing the shipments of products from the Dominion experimental dairy stations for the English markets. They were from stations at Perth, Ontario; Kingsdale, N. B.; and New Perth, P. E. I.; and comprise fancy cheddar cheese and finest creamery butter. Altogether the quantity of cheese amounts to about 150,000 pounds, and about 15,000 pounds of butter. These goods will be sold in sample lots mainly in Liverpool, Manchester and London, and will be used to advertise the excellent quality of dairy products which now go in such enormous quantities from Canada. Early next month Commissioner Robertson will visit Great Britain for the purpose of addressing the boards of trade of the leading cities, to call attention to the excellence of the food products which Canada supplies, and to the vast undeveloped resources of the Dominion for producing food for millions in the industrial centres of the mother country.

A Quebec jury have found Mercier and Pascaud not guilty of conspiracy in the Langlais stationery case, and the Griggs are rejoicing. They are heartily welcome to all the joy they can extract from the acquittal of these two worthies, when all the circumstances are taken into account, and we feel confident public opinion will scarcely undergo much change as to their moral guilt or innocence. Langlais desired to receive a contract to supply the Mercier Government with stationery for a period of ten years. His prospects for obtaining the contract were not very good but he was informed by Mr. Pascaud that another man wanted the contract, and was willing to pay \$25,000 to obtain it. Thereupon Mr. Langlais informed Mercier that he would pay as much as anyone else. Then Pascaud, through the contract for Langlais, and by way of an advance payment, the contractor was given a letter for \$25,000. This letter was signed and sealed, and before leaving the bank he placed the \$25,000 of the proceeds to the credit of Mercier. The stationery supplied

THE WESTMINSTER

New Westminster is about fourteen miles from Vancouver city, almost directly south. The two cities are connected by an electric railway, and the distance is traversed in one hour. This railway furnishes a good example of the progressiveness of the people of the western cities. Most of the land between Vancouver and New Westminster is covered with the heaviest of timber, and the roadway has been cleared out of this dense forest, so that in making the journey you are afforded a view of the trees and huge stumps, by the latest discovered methods of locomotion.

The decision arrived at by the Imperial authorities to schedule Canadian cattle after the 21st inst., if approved, in will, no doubt, be a matter of serious moment to that branch of Canadian trade. As this season's shipments are about over, it is not likely it will, to any great extent, affect the trade for the present year. Hitherto cattle coming into England from the United States and other countries had to be slaughtered immediately after landing, in order to prevent the possible spread of pleuro-pneumonia, of which the English cattlemen seem to have a great dread.

On the other hand, on account of the strict quarantine laws enforced between Canada and the United States, and other precautionary measures adopted by Canadian authorities, cattle from the Dominion were allowed to be landed in England alive, and to be kept for some time without being slaughtered. This, of course, was a great advantage, as it afforded an opportunity of placing the cattle on the market at the most opportune time, and also allowed them time to recover from the effects of the voyage. More than once an attempt was made to do away with this privilege, but through the influence of Sir Charles Tupper, Canada's High Commissioner, the difficulty was obviated. But lately an alleged case of pleuro-pneumonia was discovered among Canadian cattle and on this account, after considerable discussion, it has been determined to place our cattle on the same footing as those of the United States. On account of the privilege, thus to be removed, the Canadian cattle trade rapidly advanced. In 1891 the trade was worth eight or nine million dollars to Canada, and the outlook was full of promise, especially to the Northwest, which was supplying many of the cattle shipped.

Yesterday was the day of the Presidential election in the United States, and just as we go to press the news reaches us that Cleveland, the Democratic candidate, is probably elected. In this connection it may not be inopportune to correct some fallacies and misapprehensions relative to the time and manner of electing the President of the neighboring Republic. Mr. Winson, who poses as an authority on matters pertaining to the United States, proved himself to be completely at sea on this subject by telling his audience in Charlottetown that the election was to take place on Friday last, the 4th inst. Others have made the announcement, with a semblance of authority, that the election always takes place on the second Tuesday following November. This announcement is not strictly correct. It is true the election, this year, was held on the second Tuesday of November, but it does not necessarily take place on that day every Presidential year. The day set apart for the Presidential election is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. As the month of November is over, the case in question on Tuesday this year, the election necessarily took place on the second Tuesday, the 8th of the month; but had November come in on Monday, the election would have been held on the following day, the 9th of the month. There can be no difficulty about understanding this. Now a word as to the manner of election. The electors do not vote directly for the Presidential candidate, but for Presidential electors, who constitute what is called the electoral college, and these electors vote for the President and Vice-President of the United States. Each State is entitled to as many Presidential electors as it has members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. These electors meet, on a given day, at their respective State capitals, and deposit their ballots for President and Vice-President of the nation. These ballots are then taken by the Secretary of State, of each State, to Washington, where they remain till February next, when they are opened and counted by the President of the United States Senate, in presence of both branches of Congress, in joint session assembled, who officially declare the President and Vice-President of the Republic for the next four years. The electors of each State, when they meet at the respective State capitals, vote as the State has gone, that is to say, they do not vote, some Democratic, and some Republican, although they may have been thus elected by different districts; but all vote as the majority that has carried the State. For instance, if the State has gone Republican, the Presidential electors for that State all vote for the Republican candidate for President and Vice-President. On account of this manner of election, it sometimes happens that the defeated candidate receives a plurality of the popular vote; and the successful one only a minority of the vote cast by the people. This is one of the weak points in the constitution of the United States.

Westminster has many fine stores, residences and hotels. At the Queen's Hotel guests will always find good accommodation and courteous attention. This city is the headquarters of the salmon canning industry on the Fraser River, which is represented by a dozen or more extensive establishments. This industry is said to represent an invested capital of about \$500,000. The agricultural interests of the surrounding district are now coming into prominence, and are a source of additional stability to the city. Westminster has its Chinatown, where the colonial live in crowded tenements and their vocations. It has a system of electric street railway, and a direct communication with Vancouver by a branch line to New Westminster Junction. Steamers ply between here and Victoria, and daily trains run to and from Seattle.

There are in the city of Westminster a number of Islanders, some of them very prosperous. Among them none have succeeded better, or more are held in higher esteem than McDonald Bros., merchants. They are Roderick and Joseph McDonald, formerly of Prospect Hill, near East Point. They were both school teachers, and taught for several years in this island, and also for a brief space after moving to the west. They conduct a large grocery business, and are very well established and widely known in the mercantile community; and wherever known are respected. They have succeeded, and they deserve success; for they are, in every sense of the word, model citizens. Apart from their business they have considerable investments in real estate, and own a number of homes in Westminster. Other Islanders who have prospered are the Munn Brothers, from Little Sande; J. J. Munn put up the largest pack of salmon on the Fraser last season. A brother, L. G. Munn, is foreman of the factory. A Mr. Quilly, of South Shore, one of the officials of the Penitentiary, He, too, is well off. Mr. Michael Hayes, formerly from the vicinity of Govehead, Road or thereabout, is also a prosperous resident of this place. Mr. R. J. McDonald, from the vicinity of East Point, is another of the successful Islanders. That they may all have an increased measure of success is the wish of the writer.

It is interesting to note that the constitution of the United States provides for the election of the President and Vice-President by the electors of each State. This system, which is known as the electoral college, has been the subject of much discussion and criticism in recent years. Some have argued that it is undemocratic, as it gives a disproportionate weight to the votes of the less populous States. Others have argued that it is necessary to prevent the election of a President who is not supported by a majority of the people. The system has, however, remained unchanged since its adoption in 1787.

CORRESPONDENCE

REPLY TO THE EDITOR. I have read with interest the article in your issue of the 28th ult. regarding the proposed electric railway from Vancouver to New Westminster. It is a project which has long been advocated, and it is to be hoped that the Government will be able to secure the necessary funds to carry it out.

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