

GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION.

It is the announced intention of the government to fill the vacancy in North Victoria immediately. That is a most commendable resolution. It will remove a reproach which was urged with considerable force against the Dunsmuir administration. It is evidently the purpose of Prior to set the House in order and to give all the people through their representatives an opportunity of expressing their opinions of the government. We hope in the interests of the province the Ministers will also decide upon an early session of the Legislature in order to settle conclusively the status of the present administration and eliminate from the public mind the political uncertainty which for a considerable time has had a most depressing effect upon business in British Columbia.

Notwithstanding the defection of Mr. Murphy and the almost certain loss of West Yale by the government, it is extremely probable the opposition will find the Premier more firmly rooted in power than some of its leaders are ready to admit. Those leaders have not been wise in some of their utterances. They appear to labor under the extraordinary delusion that there is a ready, royal road to power. Hence their inflammatory appeals to sectional prejudices. By far the larger portion of the province cares nothing about the petty jealousies and squabbles of local politicians. We say advisedly that the greater part of the Island cares for none of these things. They know that an unhealthy ambition prompted them. But when the people are directly challenged as they have been by a few demagogues, there is bound to be a response. The strength the government possesses on the Island may be ascribed to unwise, injudicious, if not actually mischievous, utterances of opposition leaders and newspapers. Mr. Charles Wilson, K. C., supplied the text for a deluge of demagogic discourses when he said "the mainland will stand for no more island premier." Mr. Wilson certainly had no authority to speak for the people of the mainland. We doubt if he even articulated the sentiments of his own particular section. But the people generally do not on the instant discriminate too finely in such cases. The present fever will subside, and when the right man appears he will become Premier whether he hails from the most inaccessible parts of the Island, the fastnesses of the Kootenays, the wilds of Atlin, or the diggings of old Cariboo.

SOME EFFECTS OF GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

"Triumphant democracy" has received a salutary, and apparently too sudden, check in Victoria, Australia. That is, if reliance is to be placed upon the reports of correspondents. They are oftentimes prejudiced.

The people of the various provinces of Australia are very far advanced in their opinions. They believe in government ownership of public utilities, and they have not hesitated to authorize their representatives to give practical effect to their opinions. Recent developments in the socialist South Seas settlements are liable to raise grave doubts as to whether the universal adoption of the principle of government ownership would bring about a political and industrial millennium.

The federation of the colonies transferred, or should have transferred, a large part of the machinery of government to the central authority. That should have necessitated retrenchment and reform of the civil service in the different states. But we know from experience in British Columbia that it is an easier and pleasanter task to load up the civil service with useless officials and saddle the taxpayers with constantly increasing liabilities than to wield with firm hands the axe of reform. That is a job for the strong hands of resolute men. The man for the occasion was forthcoming in Victoria at the right moment. He is not yet visible in British Columbia, but our case is scarcely as desperate yet as that of Victoria, and we may continue to look forward hopefully.

A correspondent of the Toronto Globe, writing from Sydney, says Victoria was fortunate in finding such a man as Mr. Irvine (the new Premier) for the task of the hour. For months he had sat obscurely in listless opposition to that lustrious demagogue, Sir Alexander Peacock. Even in June the Peacock ministry tripped in a tangle of its own folly, this mild-mannered Mr. Irvine found himself called upon to form a government to meet the greatest crisis yet known in Victoria history. His opponents saw fit to make sport of his studious style, his nervous voice, his spectacled face, his dispassionate manner. The papers plied him for the heavy burden thrown upon his weak shoulders. But Mr. Irvine cared not for sport and asked not for pity. Then, addressing his constituents at Mill, he outlined a policy of retrenchment, economy and reform, beginning in Parliament itself and extending to every department of public affairs. When Parliament met the new Premier proved as good as his word. Without delay he introduced a comprehensive measure for sweeping reform, economic, administrative and constitutional. Within the limits of a single bill he proposed to reduce by nearly one-half both houses of the state legislature, to limit the number of ministers to seven, to establish woman suffrage in all state elections, to make the legisla-

tive council a democratic institution by abolishing all its property qualifications, to adopt the federal anti-deadlock machinery for making the two houses work in harmony, to institute a regime of economy in all departments of government, and to bring all public salaries over \$125 under a scheme of proportionate reduction, beginning with the salaries of the ministers and the members themselves. When flaming politicians hesitated to adopt such an out-and-out measure, the house soon learned that it was led by a resolute man as well as one who was not entirely ignorant of the wiles of an astute politician. "Mr. Irvine gave the members to clearly understand that they must accept the government's bill as it stood or take the responsibility of making the ministers ask for a dissolution." Dissolution, as British Columbia has learned by dear-bought experience, "is the one thing that your paid legislators fear," and in this case all the enemies of reform had a special reason for preventing an appeal to the country.

The new Premier of Victoria, with a deficit of between three and four million dollars reported by the treasurer, was anxious that his scheme of reform should be brought into effect immediately. The paid legislators, nearly half of whom were to lose their seats under the new scheme of distribution, were anxious to retain their jobs and live upon the public as long as possible. They resolved, therefore, to give a general support to the government and deprive it of any excuse for an appeal to the country. And here it was that the mild-mannered man in spectacles displayed his talents as a tactician. He laid a trap for the opposition, which unexpectedly found itself in a majority on a motion to raise the salary limit which should be exempt from reduction. The House was dissolved immediately. The opposition to the government went to pieces, and in the new legislature the reforming Premier has a majority of thirty-seven over all possible combinations. As the correspondent says, "The beautiful alliance between the labor socialists and the civil servants was taught that it does not yet control the political fortunes of Victoria." Already other reforms in addition to the reduction of the membership of the House have been begun. The Minister of Railways has taken the lead by abolishing all free passes on the government roads. The Governor-General, the judges, the members of Parliament, and all the host of other privileged worthies, must pay their fares or be put off at the next station.

Government ownership brings problems in its train. Some reformers have advocated the disfranchisement of civil servants. Mr. Irvine apparently does not think it would be wise to adopt such a radical measure of relief to guard against combinations and conspiracies. He has introduced a bill to segregate the state employees, as it were, and give them separate representation. And he is so determined that his measure of relief shall become law that he has declared his purpose to resign if it is rejected by the House. It is imperative, says the Premier, that the state's natural resources shall be relieved of the constant pressure of increases of the civil servants' salaries.

THE BOUNDARY AGAIN.

President Roosevelt apparently overlooked the Alaska boundary question when he was considering his annual message to Congress. Surely he might have worked in a few words upon that subject to some purpose when he had so many to waste upon nothing in particular. But we are apt to forget that the matter is of no particular interest to Americans. They have got all their claim, and there is no evidence of a disposition to disturb their conscience. Occasionally trifling incidents crop up which indicate that the great American nation has not entirely smothered its conscience. It will not give up the territory upon which it has squatted, but it makes spasmodic efforts to justify its occupation thereof. Witness the attempts to prove that monuments were erected by Russia to mark the boundary line between her territory and that of Great Britain. Such claims have been set up notwithstanding repeated assurances from official sources that no such monuments had been built. The monumental contention having fallen to the ground for the time being, to be brought forward again when what duty as a conscience becomes important, a new and infallible witness is produced to give unimpeachable evidence of the strength of the American claim. This witness is a living and moving one, and we suppose his evidence must be accepted as the last word upon the subject. He is the son of the minister who conducted the negotiations with Russia away back in the early sixties for the acquisition of the territory. If Mr. Seward does not know all about the case, who can know anything? We do not know anything about his age, but if he was born when his father was acting for the United States he could scarcely have been old enough to take any part in the negotiations. As the documents are all in possession of the state, we presume Mr. Seward speaks from personal knowledge of the case.

and experience of the negotiations with the Russians. He says the claims of Canada are absurd. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer agrees with him and wonders at the patience with which American statesmen have treated the claims of Canadians. But it advocates arbitration—whenever we come down to earth and are prepared to admit the title of the United States to all the territory over which the stars and stripes are present flies. In other words, we must agree with Americans that our contentions have been absurd. It is evidently the purpose of our neighbors to ignore the question entirely. What are we going to do about it? We must have independent means of access to our own territory. How long will it be before we get it?

THE VERY LATEST.

In accordance with anticipations, the Premier has temporarily relieved himself of embarrassment by appointing Mr. McInnes Provincial Secretary and Minister of Education. There will be no difficulty in inducing some supporter of the government to take the post of President of the Council. It may therefore be taken for granted that the formation of a government will be accomplished, and that it will meet the House whatever may be the result of the bye-elections.

It is expected that the election in North Nanaimo rendered necessary by the acceptance of a post of emolument by the member will be brought on immediately. There will be warm times there for a couple of weeks. We observe that some of our contemporaries have been sneering at the new Minister because of his youth and alleged lack of experience. We advise the members of the opposition who design to meet him on the platform not to presume to come prepared for battle with this youth. He is a fighter of proved courage and ability. We think he made a mistake in joining the government, but there is no doubt that he will strengthen it not that if it lives through the coming session a great deal of the credit for the prolongation of its life will be due to the Hon. W. W. B. McInnes.

If the Minister be defeated, Colonel Prior might as well give up the task he has so long intruded for the honor of being entrusted with. Such a result would supply the clearest and most convincing evidence that the antagonism to the government is not sectional but general. But it is scarcely conceivable that it will be possible for the opposition to bring out a man strong enough to defeat Mr. McInnes.

THE GRAND TRUNK AND POLITICIANS.

The feelings with which the decision of the Grand Trunk railway to build to the coast has been received in the East seem to be of a somewhat mixed character. Conservatives are not over enthusiastic. The proposal is the most concrete testimony that could be given of the present prosperous condition and the healthy future prospects of the country. It was predicted when the Laurier government came into power that the country would go to the demolition-bow-wows with a resounding crash. It is not admitted yet that the catastrophe will not come. It has merely been postponed. The Americans are diligently preparing to make this country a "slaughter-market." They are merely biding their time, and by-and-by will descend upon us to our hurt unless the government accord "adequate protection" to all our industries by amending the National Policy that was bequeathed to the people by the Conservative government.

But the evil day is being continually postponed. A new Northwest has been discovered which extends to both sides of the Rocky Mountains. The lands on one side of the great divide yield the most prolific crops of the finest grain the world has ever seen; the mountains on the other are boundlessly stored with mineral wealth of every kind. All that is wanting is means of transportation and communication to permit population to flow in and add vastly to the already tremendous volume of trade per head of the population of the Dominion as compared with the United States or any other nation of the world. Naturally the construction of another great transcontinental road through the virgin portion of Ontario, more or less inaccessible parts of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, and tapping possibly the richest portion of British Columbia, will have a very stimulating effect upon the general business of Canada. That is precisely what the leaders of the Conservative party do not want to see. They know such a consummation would have a very serious effect upon their political fortunes. They would not mind seeing the people suffer from a depression for a short time if that would incline their hearts towards the once grand old party again. For that reason they are inclined to view rather suspiciously the proposition of the Grand Trunk people. They hint that there is something more in the matter than appears on the surface. From the experience of their own party with similar undertakings, no doubt, they infer that there are politicians mixed up in a rather discreditable way with the proposed enterprise. The dealings of the road with the people in the past have been somewhat costly, because the railway business fifty years ago was in its infancy and the construction of lines through a new, rough and comparatively sparsely populated

country was a stupendous undertaking. But the record of the road is clean and honorable. The people will trust the government to make the best bargain possible with the company for the construction of the line. We of the West know that it is absolutely essential that the Grand Trunk and other railways shall be encouraged to penetrate these regions; that there can be comparatively little development until they come. British Columbia has been clamoring for the government to come to her assistance in precisely the manner now proposed. We shall be very much surprised if any considerable number of people in the West follow the example of the Conservatives of the East and announce their determination to oppose the policy of the government for no higher reason than that policy will promote development and increase prosperity, that it is always a difficult matter to upset a government when a country is prosperous, and that it is in the interests of the Conservative party to bring about the conditions likely to be most favorable to their attainment of power.

Another rather curious development of the situation is the position of Mr. Tarte. The ex-minister was at one time the champion of heavy expenditures for development purposes. He was always strong on canals and the necessity for the deepening of the St. Lawrence. Did he not suggest the expenditure of a goodly number of millions for the construction of a partly artificial waterway which his enemies at that time alleged would be principally for the benefit of the C. P. R.? The attitude of the Globe on that matter is said to have been at the bottom of the quarrel between the minister and the newspaper. Mr. Tarte appears to think the Grand Trunk should not apply for any subsidies whatever; that the conditions are such as to warrant the company in proceeding with the great undertaking without assistance from any source. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy cordially agrees with him. We hope they are perfectly disinterested and correct in their contentions. We hope Canada has reached a stage which will warrant railway companies in coming into the country merely on the prospects for doing business that await them. But at the same time it appears to us that this new transcontinental proposition, which will traverse a large portion of virgin territory in Ontario, the North-west and British Columbia that is very sparsely populated, will have quite as good a claim for governmental assistance as considerable sections of lines which have been dealt with very generously by different governments. That is a matter for practical men to decide.

Experience has proved that railways on the prairies will pay dividends from the date of the commencement of their operations. The government will take that fact into consideration in dealing with the application of the new company. The Grand Trunk will not get twenty million acres of land and twenty millions of dollars, with a completed road worth many millions more, as an inducement to it to extend its lines to the Pacific.

NORTH VICTORIA.

The announcement that Mr. T. W. Paterson has consented to contest the constituency of North Victoria as an independent candidate will be received with intense satisfaction throughout the province. Mr. Paterson is well known as a practical man of affairs rather than a politician, and it is the services of such men British Columbia is urgently in need of at the present critical period of her history. His connection with the constituency has been somewhat intimate since the Victoria & Sidney Railway was constructed. The people of North Victoria know the character of their candidates too well for the Times to undertake to add in the slightest degree to their knowledge. The government supporter may be a very worthy gentleman, with all the qualifications necessary in a representative of the people. We have nothing whatever to urge in opposition to him except that the province needs the services of all men of the high character, abilities and practical common sense of Mr. Paterson who can be induced to enter the Legislature. Mr. Robertson, we understand, has been judiciously nursing the constituency through in the many months it was denied representation in the House. Perhaps it was on his advice the election was postponed until the present month. Perhaps he gave the word that all things were ready. Perhaps he will now attempt to justify his position in the premises.

We hope the electors of North Victoria will consider the interests of the province as a whole as well as their own individual case by electing Mr. Paterson by a handsome majority.

There can be no doubt of the fact that public affairs are not in an entirely happy state in the new federation of Australia. The disturbance is in federal as well as in state affairs. It is said that if there were to be a vote on federation in Australia to-morrow, there would not be a majority in any of the six states. The greatest question of difference has been the tariff. The effort to bring about high protection in the Commonwealth failed, but the tariff actually adopted pleases neither the protectionists nor the free traders. Queensland is so disgusted with the results of federalism that it wishes to secede from the union. Time will no doubt remove the dissatisfaction, but

A BROOKLYN BELLE THREATENED WITH CONSUMPTION.

Pe-ru-na Promptly Saved Her Life.

Miss Alice O'Neill, 312 Adams street, Brooklyn, N. Y., writes:

"I cannot say too much in favor of Peruna. About a year ago I was completely worn out, had a serious cold and a hard cough which seemed to be in danger of affecting my lungs. If my system had been in a stronger condition it would have been much easier to throw off this cold, but it could not seem to get any relief until I took Peruna, and I must say that it did the work thoroughly. Within a week I could see a wonderful improvement, and I took Peruna four weeks and am in perfect health now."

ALICE O'NEIL.



WHAT PEOPLE SAY

About Pe-ru-na as a Remedy for All Diseases of Winter, Coughs, Colds and Catarrhs.

That Peruna cures catarrh, coughs, colds, is well known to both the medical profession and the people generally. It is undoubtedly the most popular remedy for this class of diseases in existence. Read the following letters:

"Pe-ru-na Cures a Cold at the Outset."
Miss E. M. Isaac, Armstrong, Pa., Vice-President of the Fortnightly Club, writes:
"No one who has tried the comforts Pe-ru-na brings would ever be without it. I used to dread the slightest cold, as its consequences were so lengthy and so unpleasant, and the catarrhal condition which invariably followed so hard to get rid of, but since I have known of the blessed relief secured through the use of Peruna, I am free from all unpleasantness and suffering."

"A few doses never fails to cure me of a cold and I keep well through its use."—Miss E. M. Isaac.

Hon. W. J. Purman, ex-member of Congress from Florida, writes from 1425 Q street, N. W., Washington, D. C., as follows:
"From representations to me and my own experience I feel justified in recommending your Peruna to any and all persons suffering with catarrh, nervousness or stomach troubles. I regard it as a great tonic and remedy for such afflictions. I, and others to whom I recommended it, are using it now with beneficial results."—W. J. Purman.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case, and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

There may be some difficulty in inducing the Commonwealth as a whole to bide its time. The States Cabinet.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Foreign affairs were discussed briefly at a meeting of the cabinet to-day. Secretary Hay has had encouraging reports from Havana relative to the drafting of a satisfactory reciprocity treaty.

Venezuelan conditions also were touched upon, especially with reference to the plans of New York financiers to relieve Venezuela's embarrassments by floating a loan.

The state department will not bind itself by any promises to the promoters of this plan.

Germany's Claims.

Berlin, Dec. 2.—The published statement that Germany's claims against Venezuela amount to \$15,000,000, the correspondent of the Associated Press is officially informed is incorrect. While the German government is not yet ready to publish the details of its demands, persons who have seen the papers say the total is about \$2,000,000.

President Castro represents to Germany that Venezuela has little credit abroad, that the country is just emerging from a civil war during which planting and industry were partially ruined, and that, therefore, no matter how much Venezuela may desire to satisfy immediately the claims against her it is obviously impossible.

There is no disposition here to proceed with harsh measures towards Venezuela, if milder ones will suffice to exact satisfaction. But the German government is fully committed to the intention to obtain ample satisfaction. The claimants are constantly urging the government to press the collection of the amounts due them, not only because of the sums involved, but, it is represented in view of the fact that the long delay has rendered the position of Germans in Venezuela more and more vexatious.

LOVE LETTERS

May Prevent Prince Mirko Ever Reigning in Serbia.

Vienna, Dec. 1.—Some stolen love letters may cost Prince Mirko, second son of the reigning Prince of Montenegro, his cherished ambition to mount the Serbian throne, for which, in the event of King Alexander having no heir, he is a strong candidate.

Prior to Prince Mirko's marriage, last July, with Natalia Constantinovitch, daughter of the grand-uncle of King Alexander, he had a love affair with a Serbian actress, and wrote her many letters, containing criticisms on the policy of several European states. The queen and German Emperor were especially hard hit, while the Serbian people were slightly and scornfully referred to. After his marriage, Prince Mirko sent a trusted adjutant to buy

the letters from the actress. She readily sold them, but the adjutant, who is a native of Serbia, sold them to the Serbian government for a considerable sum, after having had copies made. In the event of the Montenegrin dynasty making any advance move to acquire the Serbian throne, it is anticipated that the publication of the letters will alienate Prince Mirko's Serbian friends, and ruin his prospects of succeeding King Alexander.

RAILWAY BUILDING.

New Line to Be Established Between New York, San Francisco, and Sacramento.

San Francisco, Dec. 3.—The San Francisco Terminal Ferry Co., which recently secured an entrance into Oakland and the waterfront, is now preparing to build from Stockton to Sacramento, and through the Beckwith Pass eastward, making over the terminus of a transcontinental railroad. The call says that it is not the Santa Fe system, that is behind this line, but that it is, generally believed that the Goulds are interested, and that the line will form a connection with some of Gould's roads in the Rocky Mountain region.

WHERE GOD IS.

Alfred J. Waterhouse.

We used to sit together, my Uncle Job and I.

And watch the sunset glory where it flared in the sky.

Wide fields of crimson, purple edged; great citadels of flame.

The shifting play of shade and ray in some fantastic game;

The shadow host that leaped and ran to kiss the fading world.

And whispered "peace," and "peace," and "peace," ere day's banners furled.

And, as we watched the lambent flames that quivered in the air,

My uncle doffed his hat and said: "My boy, our God is there."

Sometimes we sat beside a brook beneath the shady trees.

And heard the songs of all the birds, the whisper of the breeze.

Afar the landscape stretched away through Summer lands of cheer;

Forgotten wrong in nature's song that souls enraptured hear;

Above, a sea of deepest blue, with isles of fleecy cloud.

And birds to voyage o'er the main that never mortal plowed;

And long we'd sit, and long we'd dream and know the daydawn cheer;

Then uncle would in reverence say: "My boy, our God is here."

Long years ago my uncle died, the sunlight on his hair.

But, wherever he hides to-day, I know his God is there.

For by the clouds he should not reach the heaven through spaces dim;

Wherever he went would be content; he'd take his heaven with him;

And, watching all the shifting scenes of life's fantastic play,

I've learned one truth, and learned it well, and e'er I humbly say:

The God of all gods above, the God is ever in the loving heart that longs to hold Him there.

One of the highest shot towers in the world is to be found in Vilich, in Carinthia, where there is a fall of 240 feet.

EXACTLY WHERE IT STOOD

THE LIBRARY SITE STILL UNDER

Ald. Vincent's Motion Dropped—Contract for Not Awarded

The courageous attempt cent to rescue the now negie library question from nab it before it could elude -903, met with defeat at the sion of the council. Ald. Ellice bridge and Victoria way subjects have been public mind pretty thoror the alderman kept his the library matter, and la notice of a motion which commit the council to ac sort. It certainly did, the motion.

Months ago, shortly a notification that Carnegie this city in his comprehensive munificence, the council solution that the taxpayers the say in the selection of the library matter, and la notice of a motion which commit the council to ac sort. It certainly did, the motion.

When the motion came Hayward remarked that in order he thought it's be a grave mistake, as breach of faith with the council was morally bound matter of a site to them.

Ald. Barnard: "Then they? I had a motion council providing that submitted to the rates was shelved for three months as though some of the the question deferred until Ald. Vincent: "It looks hadn't enough ability to matter. That is a fine finest in Canada—and it mistake if we don't adopt Ald. McCandless contended rescinding of the resolution breach of faith with the council never have been council didn't intend to would oppose, however, the library on the site at causeway. He believed fourth or even five-sixths payers objected to it being there.

Ald. Worthington favors ratifying to select the site. Ald. Vincent: "Well, I thing done. That's why this motion. Somebody move."

The motion was then the part providing for the former resolution of the lost on the following day. Ald. Vincent, Cameron, Naves-Ald. Kinsman, W. McCandless, Grahame, W. the Mayor.

The father of the rejected himself with the "Oh well, we're not through this connection a petition received from Stephen Jones as follows:

Gentlemen—We, the undersigned, of your city, have the request that in the event of the question of a site for Carnegie library, you will entertain the purchase by the city of the site at the Banchard street already for the sum of \$7,400. The event of the purchase lot-over and above \$4,500, express the opinion that the "Oh well, we're not through this connection a petition received from Stephen Jones as follows:

STEPHEN J. ARTHUR, J. RICHARD H.

This was laid on the consideration of the motion. It was dealt with, but last night, pointed out that the council \$2,900 by delaying the ques was first offered for \$7,400 city would only have to pay

The contract for Point was not awarded last night will probably be done during In this connection the fol munication was read from al, local manager of the H. bia Electric Railway Com

Gentlemen—Acting under our general manager, engineers have examined plans supplied by the Victoria Depot, and covering the riveted bridge at Point Hill. Our engineers advise as the plan as submitted appears to be correct, still, in an of this nature and in this will agree with us—they right to approve of any str sketch plan, subject to such various amendments and all ten in pen and ink of our sketch and sketch plan. We, therefore, must ask it with a detailed plan of the every part of it, with a applicable to the design. We sufficient time, say to us to have the same proper and reported upon.

ALBERT T. G. LOR

The Mayor explained that had shown him a telegram Morris, the engineer of the chinery Depot, who was in which he said that he Electric Railway Comers the plan, and that he was to examine them for also in Vancouver, but le Morris on the afternoon bo

A further communication