

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13.

THE CONTEST IN THE CITY.

The result of the election in this city must have been a surprise to the Opposition. They could have had no idea that they were so weak. They believed that the citizens were so indignant at the manner with which they had been treated with respect to their local wants, that they would vote against the Government candidates regardless of all considerations. They evidently expected that the election would be run on merely local issues, and they calculated upon taking advantage of the discontent which they knew to exist. But they were mistaken. They did not understand the citizens of Victoria. They did not expect that the great majority of electors, when an important national question was to be decided, would rise superior to merely local considerations and vote for the party whose principles and whose general policy they approved. The result has shown that Victorians are ready to leave all local questions in abeyance until the larger and more important issue had been decided. This is not because they believe that the Dominion Government is justified in disregarding the requests of their representatives, and in neglecting to supply the wants of the city and district, but because they are large-minded enough to forget their own peculiar grievances when matters relating to the commerce of the country and their allegiance to Great Britain are to be settled. In taking this course they did what was right and patriotic. There are not, we are satisfied, many constituencies situated as Victoria is, and treated as it has been, that would have acted in the same way. The Government which places its supporters at such a disadvantage as that against which Messrs. Prior and Earle had to contend when the dissolution was proclaimed, is not consulting its own interest. If Victoria had been at all liberally dealt with, if its citizens believed that the Government had done the best it could for them, Messrs. Prior and Earle would, we are satisfied, have been elected by acclamation. But the feeling of indignation at being slighted and neglected, which was known to exist among Liberal-Conservatives, encouraged the Liberals to get up an opposition which, under ordinary circumstances, would have been very difficult to cope with.

We trust that this mistake will not be made again. The demands of Victoria have been very moderate. She has asked for nothing that she did not badly need, and ought to have had. When the excitement of the election is over and the Ministers have time and opportunity to take a backward glance, in order to correct any mistakes that they will see how necessary it is to do justice to Victoria.

The contest here has been somewhat exciting, and, as far as the Opposition is concerned, just a little too noisy. The result of the election should teach them that noise is not always an indication of strength, and that those who are engaged in a political campaign lose nothing by being courteous and tolerant. Beyond a little unnecessary demonstrativeness at one or two meetings, the contest has been orderly and fair, and nothing has been either said or done by any of the contestants that will hinder them shaking hands heartily and being as good friends as ever.

AFTER THE BATTLE.

The people of British Columbia will be gratified to find that the Government has been sustained. The contest yesterday was the most important ever fought in this Dominion. The people of Canada were called upon to decide whether they were willing to remain the subjects of Queen Victoria or whether they were ready to become citizens of the United States. This, we are more than ever convinced, was the true issue. There are many in the Dominion who did not see it in that light. They honestly believed that all they were contending for was more intimate trade relations with the United States. They consequently voted for the Liberal candidates with a clear conscience. But now that the election is over, and they will have time to think coolly over all that has happened, we believe that very many of them will be grateful to the Liberal-Conservative Party for having saved them from what they believe to be a great danger. Before they are many months older they will be glad that on the fifth of March, 1891, they were beaten at the poll.

We are very far, indeed, from believing that all, or nearly all, those who voted in opposition to the Government deliberately prefer American citizenship to allegiance to Great Britain. On the contrary, we are quite sure that if the Liberal leaders had put the issue that was really before the country plainly and without any disguise they would, to-day, be the most badly beaten party that ever went to the people. The annexation pill had to be very thickly gilded when it was presented, to the people to prevent its being rejected with scorn and indignation. Where one man would vote for annexation, if it were called by its real name, a hundred voted for it when it was placed before them under the guise of unrestricted reciprocity. It must not, therefore, be inferred from the vote polled yesterday that a large proportion of the people of Canada are disloyal, or are weary of their connection with Great Britain. All that can be said of the large majority of those who voted for the Opposition candidates is that they were warned, but that they did not believe that the danger they were exhorted to shun exists.

Their eyes will, however, be opened before very long. The campaign showed that there is a small but an energetic minority in this country who are working for annexation, and that they are not scrupulous as to the means they resort to, to accomplish their purpose. Against these men the loyal subjects of the Queen in this Dominion must be on their guard. It is folly to expect that they will cease to agitate and to intrigue. It is just possible that they may consider it the better policy to throw off the mask they have been wearing so long and openly and boldly advocate the severance of Canada from the British Empire. When they do this and come out in their true colors, they will not be so dangerous as they have been, and it will be long, when their object is known and avowed, before they will be in a position to make annexation an issue at the polls.

It is too soon to be able to judge how the Government has come out of the contest. All that is now known is, that it will have a good working majority, a majority which will be likely to increase as time progresses. Good men and true have fallen in the fight, how many is not yet known with certainty. This is the fortune of war.

AN OBJECT LESSON.

The reader of the English reviews has the advantage of seeing the great questions of the day discussed by the men who knew most about them. An intimate knowledge of the subject treated on is by modern editors considered of more importance than mere literary finish. They therefore, when they can, obtain their articles from the actors in great movements rather than from mere spectators or men who get their information at second hand. In the February number of the Nineteenth Century, for instance, there is an article on "The Crushing Defeat of Trade Unions in Australia," by H. H. Champion. Mr. Champion is an advocate of the rights of labor, and he went from England to Australia for the special purpose of aiding the strikers. This article on the Australian strike is not the work of an enemy of labor. He is in sympathy with the working-men, and is an ardent and reliable advocate of his cause. He looked at the great strike from the working-man's point of view, and what he says about it is intended to advance the cause of labor.

Mr. Champion does not flatter the workmen. He does not tell him that he is wise and good, and that he never makes mistakes. On the contrary he criticizes the strikers severely and blames them for being shortsighted and unreasonable. He is the friend of the strikers, and he takes a friend's privilege of speaking freely. He congratulates himself on having been present at Labor Australia as well as its Moscow, and he does not hesitate to lay the blame of the defeat of the Australian Unionists at the door of the strikers themselves. This, the following passage, from the article very clearly shows.

"Then suppose the leaders of the trades unions deliberately enter on a conflict with their employers; have their orders unquestioningly and loyally obeyed by the whole of the federated organizations on the continent; are permitted to levy, without publishing acknowledgments, pecuniary tribute on the richest working-class population in the world, in addition to obtaining £15,000 from Great Britain, and are able to put enough pressure on half a dozen politicians to make them change sides and wreck a ministry. Conceive that after three months' fighting these leaders are unmistakably and avowedly beaten on every point at issue. Then you will have a fair idea of the remarkable defeat which has just befallen Australia. An army of lions led by asses, and of which the effects, good and bad, will inevitably be impressed upon the labor movement wherever the workman looks upon trade unionism as the means of his deliverance from the land of bondage."

The reviewer then goes on to show how the men, by unreasonable demands and exactions, threw these advantages away and brought upon themselves and their class suffering and loss. Want of moderation was the vice which brought about the defeat of the unionists. They felt that they had power and they were determined to use it for all it was worth, and without looking ahead to see what must be the results. In taking this reckless course they were encouraged by "enthusiasts generally quite sincere, and invariably cursed with 'the flow of words and constipation of the intellect,' which mark the man of warm heart and ill-balanced judgment." These men, he adds, "are hardly less a curse to the labor movement than the designing demagogue, for they give him his power."

The workmen soon found that they had to deal with hard-headed men, who had plenty of fight in them. "The pastoralists," he says, "are not at all like the *vos finis* of British industry. As a rule they are men who have fought a good fight with Nature, and those who have not gone under are pretty certain to have a full share of the pluck and determination which have made the name of Britain truly great and of which the possessors are apt to resent bullying in an awkward manner."

The system of exaction and boycotting devised by the unions compelled the employers to unite. They were forced to do so to save themselves from ruin. Mr. Champion blames the unions for this driving these determined men into a corner. The income of this pastoralists' union was \$400,000 a year, and it had a defense fund of \$2,000,000. When their preparations were made the pastoralists, against whose wool a boycott had been proclaimed, refused to come to terms with the unions. If the unions wanted war they should have war. The strikers were in high spirits expecting an easy victory. There was an apparently strong federation of unions which expected to carry everything with a rush.

But they did not know the men they had to deal with. Shortly after his arrival in Melbourne Mr. Champion attended by invitation a meeting of the Employers' Union. He was surprised at the extraordinary moderation of the speeches as well as the "alarming enthusiasm" of the audience. He says: "There was no sign of bluster, vaunting, or anger. The demeanor of the speaker was that of one who had his back against a wall." Before he left the Hall he was well satisfied that his friends, the strikers, had caught a Tartar. And so they had. The unions went on from blunder to blunder until they forced the public which was at first well affected towards them, to sympathize and take sides with the employers. One of the most serious mistakes they made was to order the strikers at the gas works to strike and by that means kept the city in darkness for some time. The employers found means to keep business going and in the end to repair the damage made by the Unions and the strikers whom they had misguided found themselves, in a short time, without work, having suffered much and lost an immense sum in wages. They had inflicted it is true, as great a loss on the capitalists, but this to them was but cold comfort.

The lesson which the Australian strike teaches according to Mr. Champion is: "That the most gigantic federation of labor, unless it is handled with greater strategic ability than is at present available in Australia, will break like an egg against an ironclad, when faced by the resolute opposition of employers who are also federated."

ANGRY AND ABUSIVE.

Our evening contemporary is in a very bad humor. But this is not surprising. It has been snowed under, and while it feels the chill it cannot be expected to be very jolly.

But defeat, though hard to bear, should not put the Times in a cynical frame of mind and cause it to abuse in very bitter terms the men whom only two or three days ago it flattered.

Its annoyance and chagrin have caused it to express itself like one of the foolish people. Among other senseless things it says: "None better than the Conservatives know that Messrs. Prior and Earle owe their majority to men who are not in touch with them on the leading questions of the day." What on earth would cause ten hundred and odd voters to cast their ballots for Messrs. Prior and Earle if they were not in touch with them on the leading questions of the day? It would be difficult to find in the whole Dominion a constituency in which the electors generally voted more in accordance with their convictions than in this of Victoria, and we may add, that there is not a constituency in Canada the members of which are better able to judge for themselves as to how they should vote. The electors of Victoria, can, without the slightest insincerity, be addressed as "free and independent." There were no improper influences used at the election, and the proportion of voters in the city on whom improper influences could have any effect is very small indeed.

Messrs. Earle and Prior can boast that they are the free choice of a free constituency, a constituency which was in touch with them—and closely, too, on the questions at issue. It was because the electors believed in the policy of the Government that they voted for the Government candidates. Although they are both popular dates, they are convinced that merely personal considerations had less weight with the electors of Victoria at this election than at any other. The electors voted for the policy and not for the men.

The reader of the Times article, if he did not know better, would be led to think that the men qualified to vote in this city who were not registered were all Liberals. Nothing could be further from the truth than this. If they, as the Times asserts, number one thousand, we venture to say that at least seven hundred of them, if they had votes, would have cast them for the Government candidates. To pretend that the unrestricted reciprocity vote was disproportionately weakened in this city for want of registration is pure nonsense.

The way that the Times "goes for" the "average voter" is very amusing. Considering that its editor has for the past two weeks been addressing the "average voter" in the most complimentary terms, it is funny to see him now declaring that he is the reverse of "pervious as touching his skill." The best evidence that could be adduced as to the discernment and the intelligence of the "average voter" is that he was too wide awake to be deceived by the fallacious figures of the heavy Liberal candidate, and the fluent nonsense of the light one. They insult the men who refused to follow these blind leaders, by speaking of them as a "herd" of cattle, who are only fit to be driven by the whip of the "vaquero," and a "queer animal," is in striking contrast to the way in which they were addressed in the Victoria theatre, and elsewhere during the campaign. The voters who, after the election, are alluded contemptuously to as a "herd" and a "mob," were, while the election was in progress, addressed as "Gentlemen."

ANOTHER MOROSENESS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children Teething." Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" and no other kind.

ON THE WRONG TRACK.

It is greatly to be regretted that the condition of Wellington continues to be such, that a serious disturbance between union men and non-union men may any day be expected. Provocations, though each of no great importance in itself, continually repeated are certain sooner or later to lead to an outbreak. The attack made by the women and children on those who attended the funeral of the Wellington miner if it were alone and nothing at the back of it, might be regarded as a disgraceful outrage, not likely to be followed by any serious results, but taken in connection with the irritating provocations that are still kept up, and the reproachful and abusive language addressed to the non-union men, it is calculated to provoke a breach of the peace. It is the last straw that breaks the camel's back, and it may be a slight insult added to the many that have already been offered, may prove too much for the self-restraint of the men who have already borne so much.

It might be thought that if there is an occasion in which the non-union men might consider themselves safe from insult it would be at a funeral. Respect for the presence of death deters even unprincipled and violent persons from giving way to passion, and from acting in an unseemly manner. But the Wellington strikers and their friends and backers do not think it necessary to put much restraint upon themselves at any time. They appear to be ready to show their hatred of those who do not belong to their organization, and who refuse to submit to its authority, at all times and in all places. This is most unfortunate, for the demonstrations of hate and contempt if not put a stop to will be sure to lead to trouble. The members of the union may say that they are not responsible for the acts of the women and boys, and for the language used by those who form the processions. But this is the case? Could not the union at any moment, by saying the word, have put a stop to the whole unpleasantness? The men and women who take such trouble to show how much they dislike miners who earn an honest living by working in and about the Wellington mines, are completely under the control of the union. The union is responsible for the presence of the unemployed persons in Wellington, and for the public demonstrations which they have made and are making, and it will be responsible for any evil consequence which they may occasion.

Like our respected correspondent, we cannot understand why the processions, which are contrary to law, are still kept up, and why the system of persecution and annoyance is still persisted in. Nothing good has come of it all, and nothing good can come of it, either to the union miners or to the community. If all men who cannot agree with each other in a matter of pure business worried and annoyed those with whom they disagreed, as the strikers do the Wellington mine owners, the world would be transformed into a regular pandemonium, and a complete stop would be put to business of all kinds. Freedom to accept or reject propositions is an essential condition of the transaction of business of any kind, and where one party is allowed to attempt to coerce another into agreeing to its terms, a long backward step into savagery is taken. Is there no one belonging to the Wellington Union who has not sense enough to see that it is on the wrong track, and that the sooner it retraces its steps the better for all connected with it, and for the cause of labor generally.

MISCHIEVOUS LEGISLATION.

Mr. Kellie's motion to ask the Parliament of the Dominion to impose an export duty on ores, and Mr. MacIn's amendment to prevent the Crow's Nest and Kootenay Railway Act going into operation until such a duty is imposed, are, both of them, propositions not calculated to advance the interests of British Columbia. Mr. Kellie ought to know that the enterprising men in Kootenay who invest their money in mining have intelligence enough to carry on their business in a way best calculated to advance their own and the country's interest, which are in this case identical, without the interference of the gentlemen who form the Legislatures of the Dominion and the province. The meddling with the mining business which he proposes, is certain to do mischief. When it is best for the miners not to export ore they will not export it, and to place barriers in the way of its exportation before the country is well opened up, and business has had a start, is to place a serious obstacle in the way of the progress and development of that part of the province. Let the railways once penetrate the country and enable miners to get in machinery and supplies cheaply, and measures will soon be taken to smelt these ores where they are taken out of the ground. Business men are not fond of paying freight for dress when it can be by any possibility be avoided.

Mr. Martin's amendment is on the face of it obstructive. Since the Legislature cannot be prevailed upon to refuse charters to those who have applied for them the next thing for the obstructives to do is to make the charters useless when obtained. We are quite satisfied that if the Railway Act can not be put in force until an export duty on ores is imposed, it will remain forever a dead letter. The Dominion Legislature has been urged to impose a duty on nickel ore, but no one in authority has, by the slightest sign, shown that this request will be granted. The interest of the country is to have the nickel deposits utilized as soon as possible. When that is done, the whole business will be able to take care of itself without legislative tinkering of any kind; and this reasonable application to silver and lead and copper ores with quite as much force as it does to

nickel. Give the Kootenay country the railways it needs, and there will be no trouble about the ores. But Mr. Martin's amendment will, if inserted in the bill, very effectively prevent the roads being built.

THE HOME RULE SITUATION.

The cause of Home Rule has lost its interest for thousands of those who were but a very little while ago well-disposed towards it, and ready to aid in helping it along. People generally have lost confidence in the Home Rule leaders. They see that the men do not think enough of the cause to which it was supposed they had devoted their lives to make a few sacrifices for its sake. Many who have observed Parnell's course closely see that he is determined to act on the principle of "rule or ruin." He has evidently made up his mind that he and no one else is to be the head of the Home Rule party. His ambition must be gratified no matter how much Ireland or the party of which he has been the leader suffers. The man who is able to withstand him has not yet appeared. The other agitators seem fit for nothing but to carry out Parnell's plans, and to obey his orders. They, even the best of them, have fallen in popular estimation. Parnell is making a vigorous fight against great odds, and it would seem not altogether unsuccessfully. But in spite of that, it is becoming apparent that as a Home Rule agitator his usefulness is gone.

It is evident that the Irish alone cannot achieve Home Rule. In order to succeed on the lines marked out by Parnell himself, it is necessary that the people of Ireland should have the active co-operation of the English, the Scotch and the Welsh. But he is no longer respected by the inhabitants of Great Britain, or rather by that part of its inhabitants who sympathize with the object and the aspirations of the Home Rule. The immorality of his private life has alienated them. This of itself would have been sufficient cause for them to look on him with the gravest disapproval, but when he adds to his offence against morals and decency, the political crime of sneering at and deriding Mr. Gladstone, to whom the Irish Home Rulers owe so much, the cup of his iniquity is full to overflowing. It just happens that the class who are most shocked at his relations with Mrs. O'Shea is the very class that looks upon Mr. Gladstone with the greatest reverence, and those composing it, too, form the great bulk of the British sympathizers with Home Rule.

This being the case, no one is surprised to find that Parnell is now barely tolerated in England, where, but a short time ago, he was received with enthusiasm. Parnell seems to have been able to make headway in Ireland in spite of the open opposition of the Roman Catholic clergy. But he will find when he gets face to face with the English electors he need expect no help from them. As there is no one to take Parnell's place, it is not surprising that the Home Rulers find that they do not stand so high in the popular opinion of Great Britain as they did five years ago. He is not able to retrieve the ground he has lost and there does not appear to be any Irishman in sight who can. The Irish Home Rulers are divided among themselves; there is a serious difference between them and the Gladstonians; and the Tory Party does not appear inclined to touch the Irish Home Rule Question. The prospect for Home Rule just now is very gloomy.

CONFIRMATION.

Now that the election is over the readers of THE COLONIST can consider the statements made during the campaign more coolly and dispassionately than they did while the contest was raging. It will be gratifying to find that their confidence was not abused by those who supported the Government. They will be pleased to see that advantage was not taken by the upholders of British connection, of the excitement of the hour, to produce a false impression with respect to the designs and the principles of the Opposition.

In order to show that THE COLONIST, for one, did not mistake the position taken by the advocates of unrestricted reciprocity, we will reproduce a few passages from an article that appeared in the New York Independent on "The Conflict in Canada," written by Mr. Erasmus Wiman and circulated throughout the Dominion, in pamphlet form, for the purpose of influencing Canadian electors. We need not remind our readers that Mr. Wiman is the father of the policy of unrestricted reciprocity. He it was who, when the Liberals were very badly off for a policy inaugurated the agitation for closer trade relations with the United States.

The Liberals adopted his policy and have followed his lead in this matter of reciprocity ever since. So when Mr. Wiman addressed the readers of the New York Independent on the subject he speaks as one having authority, and not as the scribbles.

It will be remembered that we contended that unrestricted reciprocity involved, 1. The adoption of the American tariff. 2. Discrimination against Great Britain. 3. Direct taxation, and 4. Political union with the United States. Our purpose now is to show from this article, written by the father of unrestricted reciprocity, and circulated by the Liberals during the late campaign, that our conclusions were fair and legitimate—admitted indeed by the leading advocate and the deviser of the policy of the Liberal party.

That Unrestricted Reciprocity involves an assimilation of the tariffs of the two countries is fully proved by the following passage from Mr. Wiman's article. He says on page 6 of the pamphlet: "Unrestricted Reciprocity between the United States and Canada would be practically the same kind of reciprocity that now exists between the States of the Union and

between the Provinces of the Dominion. There would be no taxation, no restriction, no let or hindrance to the freest and fullest exchange of everything each country produced, whether natural or manufactured. True, it is proposed to keep up the custom houses along the border, in order that smuggling from outside should not be permitted, and especially that Canada should not be the back-door by which foreign goods could be brought into the United States free of duty. But the tariff of Canada must necessarily be as high as that of this country (U. S.) against the outside world, for by the free admission of American goods (even now with a heavy duty half her imports), her revenues from customs would be so reduced that, as against foreign goods, the rates must continue fully as high as those in the United States. Indeed, the condition of equality of tariffs must always prevail, else there would be no safety for the revenues of either country."

This is so clear that it is impossible for any one to misunderstand it. If the Americans had been silent on the question—which they have not—the passage we have quoted is sufficient to prove that under unrestricted reciprocity the two countries must have only one tariff. This, as the reader sees, necessarily implies discrimination against Great Britain. But Mr. Wiman does not leave discrimination against the Mother Country to be inferred. He forestalls the objection by asserting, without warrant, that the National Policy established by the Tories discriminates against Great Britain, and goes on to say:

"The Liberals now propose to push, to its extreme limit, the liberty which is achieved by the Tories, and will agree, while still exacting a duty on British goods, to admit American manufactures into Canada free of duty. It is this discrimination against the Mother Country that no man who is a Tory party, that they term those who advocate it as traitors and renegades, and the Loyalty cry is being worked for all it is worth as against the Liberals."

It will be seen that in the above passage Mr. Wiman undertakes to speak for the Liberal party of Canada. He has no doubt good reason to do so. No man in Canada knows better what the designs of that party are, for no man had a greater share in framing its policy.

With respect to political union, Mr. Wiman is a little more guarded. But there is no mistaking the intent and meaning of the following sentences, when it is remembered that Mr. Wiman is writing for an American newspaper and addressing American readers. After describing the Liberal policy of Unrestricted Reciprocity, Mr. Wiman proceeds to show the advantage to Americans resulting from its establishment. This is the picture that he paints:

"What one event in all events possible to accrue to the United States could be so beneficial as this? It is difficult to enumerate any series of circumstances at all likely to happen, and so easily brought about, as would result from the obliteration of the barrier between English-speaking people who hold this continent in common. An enormous area would thereby be opened to development, which is now mostly silent, and dormant and dead. This development in wheat-producing force, for instance, has possibilities far greater than those of the United States. These areas can be filled by European immigration, brought through the United States, who in turn would be customers, consuming everything the United States and Canada have to sell. The wheat areas of the Northwest, beyond the Mississippi, and are one thousand miles square, and are capable of sustaining a population equal to that of the United States itself. Here is the great future granary of the world, and here, for a century to come, with its population without fertilization, will the future food supply of the continent be found. Would it not be well that the vast provision of Providence for the food of mankind, the United States should have access to that as it grows, with a market afforded by the outlets of transportation, by enterprise and occupancy, the same relative advantages should flow to the manufacturing community of this country, as did come from the development of Wisconsin, of Minnesota, and of the northern and western group of states."

What does all this mean, if it does not take for granted the absorption of this goodly land by the United States? Mr. Wiman speaks of this great area as if it were already part of the territory of the United States. He speaks to his American readers as if they were its owners, having power to do with it as it seems to them good.

As he knew that Annexation was a tender subject on this side of the line, Mr. Wiman deals with it in a gingerly manner. But, cautious as he is, he is not able to conceal what he regards political union as the ultimate result of his scheme. He says: "Of course, some will say that Annexation would be a better plan to achieve these high results; and perhaps it would be, but Annexation is just now as impossible in Canada as partial reciprocity is in the United States."

Exactly, "just now," so that it is expedient to take only "one bite of the cherry" at present. The time for taking the other bite will come by and by.

WRONG AGAIN.

The Times is wrong when it says that "THE COLONIST, with tardy frankness, admits that the provinces, and Victoria in particular, had a just grievance against the Government." As our readers very well know, THE COLONIST has again and again protested against the way in which this city and important provincial interests were treated by the Government. So frequent and so emphatic were our complaints, that many were inclined to believe that THE COLONIST was the Opposition newspaper of the city, particularly when the Opposition organ, when there was anything really serious to complain of, was silent or nearly so. It was so intent on abusing the members of the local government, and so engrossed in dilating on the evils of "daily marking," that it had neither time nor attention to spare for the discussion of really important matters. If our contemporary will take the trouble to go through the file of THE COLONIST for the last three years or so it will find that we were everything but silent on local grievances. But when a question of national importance was made the issue we did not allow local grievances to stand in the way of advocating the cause which we knew to be the right one.

MR. BLAKE.

The course that Mr. Blake pursued appears to us to be a very singular one, indeed. He saw the party to which he belonged going to the country on a policy which he considered unwise and unpatriotic. His conscience was too tender to allow him to advocate that policy, but it was not tender enough to impel him to oppose what his judgment told him was unwise to the circumstances of the country and injurious to its interests. Mr. Blake had to choose between his party and his country, and he did nothing. Mr. Blake's patriotism is not of that robust kind which compels a man to do that which he knows is best for his country, no matter which lies he severs or what party he hurts. If any other public man had pursued the course which Mr. Blake has seen fit to take, that gentleman would have embraced the first opportunity that presented itself, and held him up to the scorn of the people of Canada. He would have spoken of him in terms of the most biting sarcasm and the most withering contempt. The man who would not write under the lash of his scornful eloquence, would have to be protected by a triple armor of effrontery and shamelessness. How are the faithful fallen! Is it not sad that Canada has to deplore the weakness and the want of faithfulness of one of the most gifted of her sons?

THE NOISE OF BATTLE.

We in British Columbia are just now in a good position to judge of the fairness of political warfare, and of the accuracy of political forecasts. The telegraph has flashed to us the results of the contest. It has told us how the battle ended, who have survived and who have fallen. But the mail, creeping at what appears to be a snail's pace, brings us news of the progress of the contest. The papers tell us what blows were struck and by whom they were delivered. We can almost hear the cries of the contestants, their yells of defiance, their taunts and their boasts. We see, too, their confident predictions. But exciting as all this was to those who were engaged in the fight, and to those who were looking on, it is flat and stale to us, for we know how it all ended. Some of us can get from the utterances of the contestants a little amusement when we compare their boasts with their achievements, and their predictions with what has come to pass.

While we glance over the state news contained in newspapers nearly a week old, we are impressed with the rapidity, the fulness and the accuracy with which intelligence is conveyed in these days. There is scarcely anything of importance in the newspapers that we have not heard, and heard so fully that the details that come by mail have lost the greater part of their interest. The news of the elections, for instance, travelled quicker than the sun. Announcements that were made at six o'clock in the evening in Ottawa and Montreal, reached Victoria before four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day. When the newspapers of the East containing the results of the elections reach us, they will be glanced at languidly, because the news they contain is very far from being new.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

THE TIMES, for a party purpose, thinks the Dominion Government wrong in joining England in a large subsidy to a first class line of steamships to run between London and Quebec in summer, and Halifax in winter, and a line to run between Vancouver and Australia. Why they object it we take a bitter partisan to say. The London line would place Victoria within eleven days of London, and the Australian line, together with the China and Japan line, would make British Columbia the highway of the nation doing more good to this province than any part of England or her colonies. Political partisanship must blind a writer completely when he cannot see the plain interests of his country in such an arrangement.

ELECTION ECHOES.

The COLONIST bird crows loud and strong. At the Templeman-Marchant slaughter; The "Know-it-all-Times" was, as usual, wrong. Which goes to prove that they ought, Instead of writing with vicious intent, Editorials teeming with spite. And publishing telegrams, slatworn culls, From Pugs Sound papers, on sight. They ought, I say, to prove their boast That they are the workmen's friend, By giving him work and paying him well. But in talk all their promises end. The bird of the "Times" is sulking now, With his head tucked under his wing; And dead alike to the workman, And the songs that the Voters sing. They thought with the Mayor's assistance, perhaps, They could bury Sir John out of sight; But the solid men of the town prevailed,—"The Parasites" rose in their might, And the consequence is, the country's safe, And no danger of coming to grief! And we shout again, as so oft before, "Long life to our Grand Old Chief!"—TOBY.

The World Enriched.

The facilities of the present day for the production of everything that will conduce to the material welfare and comfort of mankind are almost unlimited and when Syrup of Figs was first produced the world was enriched with the only remedy laxative known, as it is the only remedy which is truly pleasing and refreshing to the taste and prompt and effectual to cleanse the system gently in the Spring time or, in fact, at any time and the better it is known the more popular it becomes.

A Natural Filter.

THE liver acts as a filter to remove impurities from the blood. To keep it in perfect working order use B. B. B., the great liver regulator. It uses two bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters for liver complaint, and can clearly say I am a well woman today. Mrs. C. F. WILLY, Upper Otanob, N.B.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Sixth
THIRTY-SECOND
THURSDAY

The Speaker took the chair after prayer by Rev. Mr. J. R. KELLIE presented a petition for the favorable consideration of the Nicola, Kamloops and Bulkley River Railway Co.

Mr. MARTIN presented the standing order committee, that Messrs. Sword and Rogers be the committee.—Carried.

Col. BAKER presented the committee on railway the following bill. To incorporate the Caledonian Railway Co. over and under Island R. R. Co. with amendments.

The report was adopted. Mr. ENGLISH introduced a bill of the British Columbia University. Hon. Mr. ROBSON introduced Government would in future in attention to public business on days, and could not allow private to take up the time on those occasions. On motion of Hon. Mr. House went into committee on Court bill. Mr. Stoddard in the committee, having adopted section with an amendment.

Mr. HALL spoke of this bill, stating that it was not the legislature to meet on Monday and spoke of the special of the present election, which at large were looking with such interest. He thought, therefore, House should adjourn, and moved that the committee rise progress.

Mr. SEMLIN objected, as did Mr. Beaven, as they could see why the House should not proceed public business which the Government were so anxious to do. On a show of hands the motion reported, on which

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