The Colonist.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1898.

THE ONLY ISSUE.

There is one issue and only one now before the people of British Columbia, and it is whether or not responsible government shall be maintained intact. There will be differences of opinion as to the make-up of the new cabinet; there will arise some questions as to policy; but these and every other consideration must be relegated to the rear until it has been decided if we have any part of responsible government left. The action of the Lieutenant-Governor raises this question in the squarest possible way, and the burden of showing that this action is in harmony with the institutions of the country rests upon Hon. Mr. Semlin and his colleagues. It is idle to pretend that it does not, for all precedents show that an incoming ministry must take the responsibility of the acts which led up to the dismissal of its predecessor. We mean, of course, the acts of the crown or its representative. But it is not necessary to argue this point, for one of the members of Mr. Semlin's cabinet, Hon. Mr. Martin, is already on record in a published interview as affirming that the Lieutenant-Governor was justified in dismissing the Turner ministry. His only objection was to the calling in of Mr. Beaven, which he thought not warranted. He has now to take the responsibility of that also. The precedent set by Sir Robert Peel in 1834 settles this beyond controversy. That is the precedent which lies at the foundation of responsible government, as it is enjoyed in Great Britain and the self-governing colonies. Moreover, the then opposition press contended day after day, between the announcement of the result in Cariboo and the date of the Lieutenant-Governor's letter demanding the resignation of his advisers, that just such a course should be taken, and the Colonist and other supporters in the press of the then administration, took, as they will take now, the contrary view, holding that the Lieutenant - Governor had no right to act at all until he had been advised of the feeling of the new legislature in the only constitutional way, namely, by a vote of the house; unless, indeed, the Premier should feel called upon to submit himself to his wishes in view of the election returns. Thus there has been for the last thirty days a square issue between the two parties; the Lieutenant-Governor has seen fit to accept the view tending to the enlargement of the prerogative and restrictive of the rights of the people, and Mr. Semlin has undertaken to sustain His Honor's position. Thus a square issue is joined upon which a battle must be fought out.

We make the following points:

A lieutenant-governor has no right to form official conclusions as to the result of an election from newspaper reports.

He has no constitutional means, other than their advice, or through an address of the house, of determining whether his ministers can carry on the affairs of the country.

While he may have the right, in the abstract, of dismissing a ministry, he can only do so for reasons which can be stated and justified, and the fact that he personally may not feel full confidence in his advisers is not of itself a good reason.

He has no right to go behind the action of the legislature and dismiss his ministers for anything which the legislature has sanctioned; nor has he any right to anticipate what the legislature may do.

The personal predilections or sympathies of the lieutenant-governor may not be taken into consideration at all.

The lieutenant- governor is bound to accept the advice of his ministers in carrying out the mandates of the legislature, and he is not entitled to be consulted as to details of administration.

We are well aware that ideas contrary to the above are accepted by many people in this province. After the elections some asked: What will the Lieutenant-Governor do? We maintained then, as we maintain now, that the lieutenant-governor has no right to do anything as the result of an election. We have maintained and shall continue to maintain that a lieutenant-governor is not a factor in politics, and that when the people have expressed their will he has no right to interfere with his will, either to advance or defeat what the people have done. We have reached a perilous condition of things if, in every political contest, the action of the Lieutenant-Governor must be taken into account. In such a case responsible government would be a delusion and a snare, and it would be better to adopt the American system at once, and clothe the governor during his term of office with powers independent of legislative control. Then the people would be a little careful as to whom they selected for the position, and would probably insist in having a right to choose him. We need hardly say that the people of British Columbia are not yet prepared to surrender responsible government.

It is important to point out how great a danger lies in the course which the Lieutenant-Governor has taken and the late opposition press has supported. Let it be remembered that lieutenant-governors owe their appointments to the federal government, and only in the most indirect way to the voters of the province for which they are appointed. Thus a federal ministry may be kept in office by the votes of one province alone, and yet may appoint lieutenant-governors in all the other provinces. The right of appointment carries with it the right to dismissal, and hence it follows the lieutenant-governors may be dismissed, not only without the people of the provinces directly concerned having anything to do with it, but directly contrary to their wishes, the government majority in another province sustaining the dismissal. An unscrupulous federal ministry might therefore at any time call upon a lieutenant-governor to dismiss his ministry and in the event of his refusal remove him and appoint a successor who would do so, and it could do this because it had a majority from some other province large enough to support it in so doing. Thus one province might rule all the provinces, a condition of things that would be intolerable.

In view of the above considerations, and many others that will be set forth hereafter, we feel that the people of British Columbia are face to face with the most important issue that has arisen since confederation. We hope the people will rally to the support of their free institutions. Personal considerations have nothing to do with the matter. We appeal for support in the position we have taken, not as a friend of the Turner administration to its other friends, but as an advocate of responsible government to all persons, who appreciate the necessity of preserving unimpaired the rights, which our forefathers in Britain gained through a century of struggle against sovereigns who claimed the prerogative to rule as well as to reign.

THE PROPOSED WATER BY-LAW.

To-morrow night the City Council is to consider the proposed new water by-law. In the interests of consumers and the city generally, it is to be hoped that the by-law will be passed. The proposed changes will slightly reduce the cost of water to consumers. This is a move in the right direction. A city ought not to seek to make money out of its water works, except where the consumption is for other than domestic purposes. When water is used in connection with a business, it is right that a fair charge should be made for it, even if by so doing the revenue is made to show a surplus over the cost of the supply. It is perfectly proper that when a man wishes to get water from the city to enable him to carry on a business at a profit, he should pay for it, even if his next door neighbor, who uses water only for his household purposes, is allowed to have it for nothing. But this is only an abstract proposition. We are a long way in Victoria from free water for domestic purposes, and we only mention the matter for the purpose of showing what we regard as judicious policy in this matter. The tendency of the new by-law is towards a reduction of the cost of water chiefly to those who consume it for domestic purposes only, and this is right. There is also a slight reduction in the charge for water used by persons having a meter, and this applies to most of the premises on which irrigation is carried on, as well as to stables, manufacturing establishments and so on. The reduction is not much in those cases, but the change is in the direction of cheaper water.

But the chief change, and it is one of very great importance, is the proposal to make all water rates payable at the City Hall every month, under a penalty in the form of a shutting off of the water and a fee for turning it on again. This will render the touring of the city by collectors needless, will reduce the losses to a minimum, and will insure prompt payment. It is a change with everything to recommend it and not a single objectionable feature. Moreover, it is in keeping with the practice followed elsewhere. If the by-law passes, there will no longer be any necessity for sending out bills to consumers. Every one will know that on the first day of the month his water rates for the previous month are payable, and if he does not see fit to go up to the water office and pay them, he has only himself to blame if some morning he wakes up to find the supply turned off. In Seattle, where people are on the move constantly, the practice is to exact payment in advance. If a man calls at the water office there after the tenth of the month to pay his rates for the current month, he will be lucky if he finds that his delay has not cost him a dollar. In such a case the collector will turn to his memorandum book and see whether or not that particular consumer's name is on the list of those given out as delinquent and to be cut off that day. If it is he pays his extra dollar; if it is not he is just that much in. We do not know that this is quite fair, because in Seattle there is no discount for prompt payment, and hence one delinquent ought to stand on precisely the same footing as another. We mention it to show how the system is followed in that city and not to recommend this feature of it. Taking the whole proposed by-law, it is a great improvement upon the present plan, and the citizens generally will approve of its adoption.

THE VACANT JUDGESHIP.

How much longer do the authorities at Ottawa propose to play with the interests of litigants in British Columbia? More than four months have passed since the late Chief Justice Davie died, and the position which he filled remains vacant. Meanwhile the interests of the province are suffering. To make matters worse, Mr. Justice Drake has been given leave of absence and has gone to England. This leaves us with three judges of the Supreme Court, and neither of them a Chief Justice. When we say that such a condition of things is scandalous, we use moderate language. There does not seem to be any sort of an excuse for it. If there are no barristers in the government party, who are thought to be fit for a position on the bench, why cannot Sir Wilfrid Laurier forget that there are such things as party lines long enough to choose some one who has not been in political accord with him? Offices generally may with propriety be given as rewards for political services, if the appointee is fit for the position. No one expects anything else. If a lieutenant-governorship, or a senatorship, or anything else is vacant, except a judgeship, no one expects the government of the day to go outside of its political supporters to find some one to fill it. With the bench it is, or ought to be, different. It was different in Canada during the regime of Sir John Macdonald. In more than one instance he made judicial appointments and promotions without regard to the political sympathies of the persons appointed or promoted. It is inconceivable that, if the Old Chieftain were now at the head of affairs, the existing scandalous state of things in this province would be allowed to continue. The Colonist is not in a position, of course, to get at the inner history of the scandal; but there are enough facts in possession of the public to warrant the strongest language in condemnation of the course which has been pursued. It is well known that the intention was to select a Nova Scotia political worker, whose legal experience was of a limited kind, for the Chief Justiceship, and that only the unanimous protest that went up from this province prevented the consummation of the proposed outrage. It is known that the place was offered to one prominent British Columbia barrister, but that the offer was coupled with conditions as to residence, which he would not accept, and which we do not believe the government had any right to exact. The names of several gentlemen have been mentioned in connection with the office, but few, if any, of them are of barristers, whose record in the province is such as would commend their appointment to popular approval—we say this without desiring to cast the slightest reflection upon the persons referred to. How much longer is this state of things to continue?

Northwest British Columbia can now shake hands with Southeast British Columbia on the mining question. Is there anything like it in the world? In the two extremes of the province are rich gold mines and they are nearly a thousand miles apart. Better still, between the two rich districts there are placers and quartz reefs innumerable; there is pasture land and farming land and there are great forests. What a province we have!

The Times is good enough to remark that the tone of the Colonist in regard to the political situation is due to a fear that "an interest in a townsite corporation may not turn out as profitably under the new regime as if the old order of things had continued." The editor of the Colonist admits to having an interest in several townsite propositions; but he begs to assure the Times that he bought them with his own money and as a speculation purely and not for the purpose of qualifying himself for a senatorial position.

That adjourned convention, which is to be held on the 26th, and at which the leadership of the Semlin-Martin party was to be determined, is likely to prove interesting. It is said that Mr. Martin has sixteen supporters prepared to back him for the leadership, and that Mr. Semlin does not regard the situation with quite as much complacency as a salary of $5,000 a year is calculated, under normal conditions, to inspire. "There's heaps of trouble on the old man's mind" just now.

The Times represents Mr. Semlin as complaining of the Colonist having intimated that he intended to disregard Vancouver Island in making up his cabinet. Mr. Semlin could hardly have said anything of the kind, for the Colonist stated in so many words that Mr. Semlin's intention was to find a place for some one from Nanaimo to administer. It did say, when speaking of what had been done so far, that the Island had been disregarded, but went immediately on to mention the fact just referred to.

The great gold discoveries near Atlin lake scarcely caused a ripple in this city. It seems an odd thing to say, but it is true that the people have become surfeited with gold stories, and if word should come that whole quarries of the yellow metal had been discovered up North, people would hardly give it a second thought.

It would be interesting to have the views of Premier Semlin and Finance Minister Cotton on the credit of the province, for the sake of comparing it with what the late leader of the opposition and his first lieutenant used to vex the air of the legislature by proclaiming.

The people of Victoria will be glad to know that the enterprising proprietors of the chemical works were well protected by insurance and will continue operations.

The courage and good judgment shown by the firemen yesterday is worthy of the highest praise.

We wonder if any one in Spain has a definite notion why that country went to war.

The fight at Manila was something like the battle of New Orleans in that it occurred after the war was over.

No action has been taken in regard to James Bay bridge. Why the delay?

Did you think yesterday that war had been begun?

Be Not Deceived! A Cough, Hoarseness or Croup are not to be trifled with. A dose in time of Shiloh's Cure will save you much trouble. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR IN POLITICS.

Possibly the lieutenant-governor in politics may be tolerated in British Columbia; but we are very confident that the Queen in politics would not be tolerated an instant in Great Britain. We are not now speaking of a lieutenant-governor endeavoring to manipulate a political situation so as to advance the interests of any particular individual, but of his injecting himself as a political factor into the affairs of the country. Whatever the evidence may be of the former, there is no doubt that we have had the latter during the recent crisis, and having had the latter, we may at any time have the former, if we have not already had it. We are advocating no new doctrine when we claim that the lieutenant-governor cannot properly, that is constitutionally, become a factor in a political situation. He must stand unprejudiced between political parties. He has, indeed, no right to recognize the existence of parties. And, as has been said of Her Majesty, he has no politics, that is in his official capacity. The Colonist has in mind a case where a lieutenant-governor had been leader of a government of which his first adviser had been the leading opponent. Speaking of the former, the latter said: "We have become the closest friends. He seems to have forgotten that his former political friends are seeking to get me out. He accepts my advice unhesitatingly on all matters, although unofficially he gives me the benefit of his wide experience. In not a single instance has he ever attempted to force his views upon the government." Here we have a constitutional lieutenant-governor. As a man, interested in the welfare of the province, giving his advisers the benefit of his ripe experience, although they had been formerly his opponents, but as a representative of the crown, submitting himself in all things wholly to their direction. Such a lieutenant-governor would never undertake to decide for himself upon the result of an election. Such a lieutenant-governor would never undertake to dismiss a ministry because he personally, or for some reasons of his own, wanted some one else in office. In such a man's hands responsible government would be absolutely safe.

There are some facts regarding Lieutenant-Governor McInnes' coup d' etat which must be made public before his action can be discussed as freely as is desirable. The Colonist has been awaiting with no little impatience the publication of those facts, and if an authoritative version of them is not forthcoming in time for to-morrow's paper, we do not propose to wait any longer, but will give what we understand is the true history of the transaction; for it is insufferable that the people should be kept waiting until knots of red tape are untied. We believe that the facts will show that the lieutenant-governor has directly interfered in politics, claiming that he has a right to do so, and we shall maintain that his new advisers have accepted the responsibility of his so doing, and must be prepared to defend it.

It is upon this line that the next battle in provincial politics must be fought out. No other issue must be allowed to obscure this one. Doubtless things may have been done by the late ministry which are open to criticism. The Colonist never claimed otherwise. It contented itself with insisting that Mr. Turner and his colleagues were doing their best to administer the affairs of the province intelligently, honestly and progressively. It contended, and now contends, that they gave the province a good administration, placing upon the statute book many useful laws, and inaugurating many lines of admirable policy. We are prepared again to face the people upon the record of the late administration. But this cannot be permitted to be the issue of the next campaign. It must be upon higher ground than that. It must be upon the question which the action of the lieutenant-governor has precipitated.

We have felt for some time that such a conflict was certain to come, and this feeling has been caused by the tone of the late opposition press, which has displayed an utter disregard of constitutional principles in its treatment of the relations of the lieutenant-governor to the politics of the province. It was manifest in Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney's time in personal attacks upon him. It has been exhibited in Lieutenant-Governor McInnes' time by calls upon him to exert the prerogative for the purpose of anticipating the action of the legislature. Ever since the latter was appointed to office, the papers hostile to the Turner administration have shown that they looked to him as an ally. Ever since then there has been an uneasy feeling in government circles as to what he might do. The time has come when the people must declare that the government of the day has a right to carry on affairs undisturbed by the fear that while they are maturing their plans the lieutenant-governor may be working out some scheme of his own, which he will spring upon them when it is ripe, and thereby defeat what, for all he knows, is the will of the people constitutionally expressed. Such a possibility as this no one thought existed in Canada. We all thought that we enjoyed a system of government in which the popular will was supreme, and it remains for the people of British Columbia to establish this supremacy, as far as one province is concerned.

THE NEW WESTMINSTER EXHIBITION.

We learn that the management feel very much gratified at the prospects of the New Westminster exhibition, and we suggest to the business men of Victoria that they ought to take every advantage of the opportunity, which it will afford, to bring themselves and the interests they represent prominently before the people. Depend upon it, money expended in preparing a good exhibit is never thrown away. This is shown by the fact that all large business concerns in all parts of the world make a specialty of exhibits on such occasions. It is surprising how few people really know what lines of business are carried on in the different centres.

We have a suggestion to intending exhibitors, which we hope they will not lose sight of, and it is that they shall see that accompanying their exhibits there is an abundance of advertising cards. At New Westminster last fall the absence of business cards was very marked. Several exhibits were shown very attractively, but ther was not a scrap of paper giving any information about where the goods were to be obtained; a visitor desiring the information had to look up the exhibitor and as there was no way of distinguishing him from other people, the quest was usually fruitless.

We suggest also to the management that in regard to agricultural products a special card should be prepared to accompany each exhibit, on which the exhibitor should be asked to enter the following particulars: Name of article, where grown, character of soil, yield to the acre or otherwise, with a blank space in which the exhibitor could write any special facts which he thought worthy of mention. Thus the length of time between seed time and harvest is often of great interest, so also is the character of the season. In short the card should contain those facts which an intelligent man would like to know about the exhibit. A few phenomenally large turnips or ruta-bagas, a tall bunch of flax, a quantity of fine looking oats, a bushel of beans and so on all look very well, but they are not of much avail as educators, and education is the object of an agricultural exhibition. We know the management will take these suggestions in good part, because they have already given evidence that they desire to make the exhibition the greatest possible success.

THE ATLIN GOLD FIELDS.

The evidence so far points to the Atlin gold fields as likely to prove very rich and extensive. The quality of the gold is high. A question has been raised as to whether the field is in British Columbia, but if we may judge from the latest maps there can be hardly any doubt about that. The matter is of very great importance, for it affects not only the right of the province to the revenue from licenses, but materially alters the terms upon which the claims are held. This matter must be settled at once. We shall not be so unreasonable as to find fault with the new government for not having already sent some one up to remove all doubts upon this point, but they will be inexcusable if they permit of any delay. If the field proves as valuable as everything now indicates, the expense of such a mission will be not worth mentioning in such a connection. It is clearly necessary that the 60th parallel should be accurately defined at a very early day, because at any time other discoveries may be made which will render its location a matter of great importance. The cost of determining this matter ought to be borne in part at least by the federal government.

THAT MILITIA FREIGHT.

We learn that the freight, which the militia department sent to Dawson via St. Michael, is still at the latter point with no immediate prospect of getting any further. Even if arrangements are made for getting it started up the river, there is not only no certainty of its reaching its destination, but almost a surety that it will not do so. Meanwhile the season is advancing. It is now August 17. Goods sent up to Skagway can be got down to Dawson by boat if there is no delay, but there is no time to be lost. There is not a day to be lost. We do not know what excuse the minister of the militia will have to offer for his gross neglect in this matter. He cannot say that he has not been warned in time. This is at least the third public notice given by the Colonist of the extreme improbability of the St. Michael shipment reaching its destination this year.

THE REPORTS ARE TRUE.

A very reliable Dawsonite, who has spent a year there, informs the Colonist that the reports in regard to mal-administration in Klondike are not exaggerated, except that Commissioner Fawcett ought, he says, not to be regarded in an unfavorable light. For the others he has little to say that is good and very much to say that is bad. Mere investigation and the removal of offending officials will not satisfy the people of Canada in this matter. If there have been cases of blackmail, if there have been instances of gross favoritism, if there have been any other acts of mal-administration, coming within the reach of the criminal law, the people of Canada will insist that the guilty parties shall be brought to justice.

The points that have been taken in Colonel Baker's behalf in regard to the election petition will have, if they are well taken, a very serious effect indeed, because they will put an end to all protest proceedings now pending and leave every member-elect safe in his seat with one exception, namely, Mr. Prentice, who, if he was not qualified to become a candidate, as is alleged, could doubtless be prevented in some other way from sitting. In the other cases the election of the successful candidates may be voidable; but in the case of Mr. Prentice it is absolutely void. The election of a man, not qualified to be a candidate, is simply not an election at all.

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HIS HONOR'S NEW ADVISERS.

(Rossland Miner.)

There is not much cause for surprise in the announcement that Hon. Robert Beaven has abandoned the task of forming a government. After his public statement on Thursday last it was almost a foregone conclusion that he could not obtain the necessary support.

While Hon. Mr. Beaven has failed to accomplish that which he started out to perform, he has, nevertheless, done something to clear the political atmosphere and reveal the true status of the several political factions. The interview with Mr. Beaven, published in Friday's issue, shows that perfect harmony does not prevail within the ranks of the opposition. He declares that of the 19 members who are outspoken opponents of the Turner administration, nine acknowledge Joseph Martin as their leader, eight are attached to C. A. Semlin, and two have not defined their alegiance to either Mr. Martin Mr. Semlin, but are credited with a preference for the latter. Mr. Beaven also assures us that Joseph Martin does not deny the report that he will resign his seat if Mr. Semlin is chosen as leader of the opposition. It, therefore, would seem that the two most prominent oppositionists cannot act together in harmony, if Mr. Semlin refuses to give way to the aspirations of the Vancouver politician. This morning's despatches show that Mr. Semlin has accepted the invitation of the Lieutenant-Governor to form a government. This indicates that Mr. Semlin is inclined to disregard Mr. Martin's threat to resign his seat.

At no time since the crisis arose have there been such good reasons to expect a coalition as at present. As Mr. Semlin has accepted the commision to head an administration he may be expected to conscientiously exert himself in the matter. The main question in this connection is: Will he confine himself to selecting ministers solely from the opposition ranks or seek to add to his opposition following by a coalition with the Turner party? If he follows the former course, but fails to patch up a truce with Joseph Martin, he has everything to lose and nothing to gain from the election that must immediately follow. On the other hand, if by a coalition he can swing to his support the 16 Turnerites he can safely count on a good working majority in the legislature and at once terminate the crisis.

It remains to be seen whether Mr. Semlin thinks more of his party than his country; whether he is more of a politician than a statesman; whether he would rather administer the affairs of British Columbia with the co-operation of J. H. Turner or Joseph Martin.

A CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION.

(Revelstoke Herald.)

A movement is on foot, and the idea is meeting with approval in every part of the province, to hold a convention at Vancouver for the purpose of reorganizing the Conservative party in British Columbia. The Herald is fully in accord with this proposal. In matters of this sort there is no necessity to waste time in discussing the pros and cons. The need of reorganization is obvious and and the best time to do the work is now. One of the leaders of the party, Hon. G. E. Foster, is in the province at present, and advantage should be taken of his visit to hold the convention while he is with us so as to have the benefit of his experience and advice. There are a great many matters which need discussing of the utmost importance both to the party and the country at large. Conservatives throughout Canada have profited by the lesson of 1896. There is a general disposition to set the Conservative house in order to get rid of some of our old men of the sea and see that the youth and vigor of the party has a share in its councils and the guidance of its policy. Nowhere probably in Canada can these matters be more broadly and intelligently discussed than they would be at a Conservative convention in British Columbia. This province has in the past few years attracted to it men of light and leading from every part of the Dominion. Here East meets West and the narrow, old-fashioned provincialisms of Quebec and Ontario sink into significance before the broader conceptions of the Conservative national policy, which out here is materializing before our very eyes. Few men possess the magnificent gift of political imagination which enabled Sir John Macdonald to foresee the immense possibilities bound up in the policy which he identified with Conservatism and for which he labored so steadfastly and so long. But a man must be blind who cannot see them working out in the great West of Canada to-day. And it is in the West where these results are so patent that their future development is the A B C of politics, that Canada may look in future for the men who will carry out Sir John Macdonald's ideas to the full completion. In the coming Conservative government the ideas of our great leader will once more be the keynote of the Conservative policy, and the West will see to it that she furnishes representatives who will be able to impress them upon the rank and file of the party in the East. After all the present fast waning Grit ascendancy is merely an episode in the history of Conservatism, perhaps even a strictly inevitable and not at all to be regretted episode at that.

FAME'S PATHWAY.

Mrs. Rudyard Kipling is spoken of generally as a nice, quiet little woman, just the one to make such an energetic, odd sort of a man as the novelist happy.

Editor Otto Dusseldorf, who slandered the supposedly unslanderable Barrison sisters, has had his sentence commuted to a very light one by Emperor William, on the principle, doubtless, that an editor ought not to be made to pay for free advertising.

John Ruskin is enjoying fairly good health, and goes out of doors nearly every day for a walk. He is still living at Coniston. Lately he has been very much annoyed at the enterprise of certain local builders, who are running up a number of houses in his immediate neighborhood.

The Sultan has decided to employ German physicians, instead of French, hereafter. When the German ambassador presented two German physicians to him recently, he invited them to dinner there and then, raised one to the civil rank of Dula second class, the other to the rank of Sanie-Mutemaz, and then calling in the imperial tailor, had them uniformed as befitted their new rank.

The Miss De Lesdenier who is reported to be organizing a regiment of "lady rough riders" in Oklahoma, is the great granddaughter of an officer under Napoleon. He called himself "The Last Call" (de lesdenier) because he was a very young man when Napoleon called him into service. An Oklahoma paper assures us that Miss De Lesdenier started her lady rough riders as a joke. She is noted as the most beautiful woman in the territory.

On a recent Sunday the Rev. Robert Collyer, of Boston, preached in London, and a London journal referred thus to the incident: "Fifty years ago the now great American divine did the self-same thing, but there must have been a striking difference between that first service of his half a century ago and the one he delivered last Sunday night. There Dr. Collyer was working at Ilkley as a blacksmith; to-day he is known and appreciated the world over as a preacher, thinker and writer. His life is an excellent example for any man to copy, and the success he has attained may be most truthfully attributed to the genius of hard work."

MR. SEMLIN TAKES CHARGE.

The New Ministers Yesterday Make the Acquaintance of Their Departments.

Hon. C. A. Semlin, premier and minister of lands and works; Hon. F. C. Cotton, minister of finance and agriculture, and Hon. Joseph Martin, attorney-general, yesterday took charge of their respective departments of the provincial government. The new ministers were met at the buildings by the retiring ministers, shown over the departments and introduced to the officials. They spent a busy day acquainting themselves with the working of the departments and attending to routine business. The induction of the ministers was a very formal affair, in fact there was not an interesting incident in change, everything proceeding as though nothing had happened to make the clerks feel uneasy.

There was nothing new to report last evening in regard to the completion of the cabinet, but it is expected that the names of the other ministers will be announced to-day.

RIVALRIES IN THE EASTERN WORLD.

Russia deliberately intends to shut Great Britain out of China, if she can. It is our interest, almost equal with that of Great Britain, that Russia shall not succeed; for Russian ascendancy there would exclude the United States, as well as Great Britain, from equal participation in the trade of the country. Great Britain represents "the open door" policy of commerce, while Russia is directly opposed to it; and France and Germany, moreover, are on the side of Russia rather than that of Great Britain, in this contest.

Some of the facts as to Russian effort for exclusion of Great Britain are stated by the New York Tribune. Recently it was announced that the Russo-Chinese bank had arranged to supply the money for construction of the first section of the great railroad which is to run through the heart of the great Yang-Tse valley, a section within the British "sphere of influence," and that the second section was to be financed similarly by a Belgian-French syndicate, in the interest of Russia. Then, when the Chinese government applied to the Hong Kong and Shanghai bank, a British concern, for a loan on the new railroad to New Chwang, in the Russian "sphere of influence," Russia instantly objected, and demanded a written assurance from the Chinese government that the loan would not be accepted. That is to say, Russia claims the right to enter the British sphere, but refuses to let British capital enter the Russian sphere. These movements greatly disturb the British mind; for it is seen that they are portentous of an effort on the part of Russia to shut Great Britain out of the development and trade of China.

Cable despatches from London say that Lord Charles Beresford is starting for China on a mission for the British Chamber of Commerce. It is the object of his mission to make an examination of the actual situation, in the hope of moving the British government to more vigorous action. A member of the Chamber of Commerce is reported by a special to the Chicago Record as saying: "Apart from even commercial considerations, and well-nigh supreme as we are as a great Asiatic power, we cannot view with indifference the probability that 700,000,000 Asiatics are about to be subjugated by an empire which is European only in name. It is not generally recognized by us that a valuable American trade is as much endangered by Russian aggression in China as our own."

From this point of view, also, there is powerful reason why we should hold the Philippine islands. They will give us a position of influence and strength in the trade of the Orient; and from this position we shall be able to care for our interests amid the changes that are plainly impending in the Eastern world. We must not retire from the Philippine islands.—Portland Oregonian.

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