

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1894.

A RADICAL CHANGE.

A great change was last year made in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Belgium. Manhood suffrage was then established. The constituency of the popular branch of the Legislature was increased tenfold. The electorate previous to the passage of the new law numbered only 200,000; manhood suffrage has caused it to be increased to 2,000,000. This was a sweeping change indeed. There is to be an election under the manhood suffrage law next month, and great changes are anticipated. Unfortunately religion is one of the principal elements of the politics of Belgium.

The politicians of Belgium are not divided into two great parties as they are in Great Britain and have been in Canada. They are separated into groups or factions of different degrees of numerical strength. The chief of these are the Clericals and the Liberals, but there are also Progressists and Radicals, the Socialists and a distinctive Labor party. In a Parliament composed of so many and such diverse elements it may happen that some one of them may by holding the balance of power attain an influence altogether disproportionate to its numbers. Then again, if the experience of France is to be taken as a criterion, a Government depending for its support on combinations of groups can never expect to be strong or to hold office for any length of time.

The Socialists and Radicals have held their Congress and drawn up their platform, which contains among its planks free universal education, separation of church and state, limitation of the laws of labor, a minimum rate of wages, universal suffrage and the referendum. The Liberals and Progressists have also united. They are bidding for the support of the Labor party, but their platform is far less radical than that of the Socialists and Radicals. The Clericals appear to be the Conservatives of Belgium. They are strongest in the rural districts, and it is predicted that they will be the victors in the coming contest.

The campaign in Belgium is regarded with interest by the people of all the neighboring countries. They are eager to see how manhood suffrage will work and to find which party is really the strongest in the country.

NO FREE TRADE IN IT.

It is not difficult to see that the talk about "free trade" that the Canadian Liberals are so fond of indulging in, in their mouths, really means nothing. They are not free traders, or anything like free traders. Their leader is right when he tells them they must not "think" of free trade.

The Liberals, according to their own admission, will have to depend mainly on customs duties for a revenue. They will have to raise twenty odd millions by means of such duties. Even if the import trade of Canada increases in a greater ratio than it has increased of late years, how are those twenty millions of duties to be raised under a free trade tariff? To call such a tariff a free trade tariff is a most egregious abuse of terms.

Every intelligent Canadian knows that there are charges on the revenue that are fixed. These cannot be diminished. Take them from the general revenue and the field for the operations of the public economist will be found to be a very narrow one indeed; and when the demands of the Liberals themselves are complied with it will have completely disappeared.

It is not to be expected that the Liberals, hungry as they are, will be satisfied with a niggardly Government. Thousands of them will think and say, "What is the good of having our friends in power if they will do nothing for their supporters?" They said this before and they will say it again, and Mr. Laurier and his friends will not have either the will or the power to deny the applications of their supporters for the expenditure of public money in their girths and districts. Instead of needing less money than is now at the disposal of the Government they will require more.

History has a trick of repeating itself. What was the history of the former Liberal administration? Did it keep its expenditure within its income? It did so for one year. It had a tariff for revenue which gave incidental protection to some industries, yet it was never after the first year able to make revenue and expenditure balance. Although it increased the taxes, deficit succeeded deficit, until the people were sick and tired of the era of deficits. Were the Liberals satisfied? They were not. Mr. Mackenzie was "besieged" by applicants whose demands he could not meet. The pressure that was brought to bear upon him by his own supporters was simply terrible, and very nearly crushed the life out of the good old man. How would Mr. Laurier act if he were in a similar situation? Would he stand to his guns as Mr. Mackenzie did? He greatly deceives his appearance if it is in him to resist his party as Mr. Mackenzie resisted.

Are we then not quite justified in saying that the Liberal party would not be satisfied with a less generous expenditure than that of the present Government? And where is the Liberal Government to get the money to satisfy what the Liberals will consider their reasonable requirements and at the same time inaugurate a policy of free trade? For it must not be forgotten that Mr. Laurier does not promise (or threaten) to substitute direct taxation for customs duties. He cannot afford to get a dollar less than is raised under the present tariff. He must have at least the present amount however the duties are imposed. The tariff must yield his government the twenty millions. Something, perhaps,

may be done by paring a duty here and adding to a duty there, but the amount that the people will have to pay must be the same or very nearly the same as it is now, or there will be a deficit, and the Liberals dislike an empty treasury quite as much as the Conservatives do. Is it not easy to see that when Mr. Laurier says that he must for an indefinite time to come depend upon customs duties for a revenue, it is simply folly for him to talk, or to use his own word, to "think" about free trade.

If Mr. Laurier had honestly and plainly said that the national policy has proved a failure, and that he proposed, if the people should give him the power, to institute a policy of free trade—to lower the duties on some imports and to take them entirely off others, and to make up the deficiency thus made in the revenue by the imposition of some form of direct taxation, he would get credit for his outspokenness and his frankness from even those who did not agree with him. In that case arguments in favor of free trade would be relevant and to the point. If he could convince the people that it would be better for them to deprive the industries of the country of the protection they are enjoying, and to consent to the imposition of direct taxes, he would, if he succeeded, get into power by fair means. But when he talks free trade, while in the same breath he tells his hearers that his Government must depend for support upon the revenue derived from customs duties, he is simply trying to delude them. A campaign conducted on such lines, no matter who conducts it, is a campaign of humbug.

A NEEDFUL ASSOCIATION.

The horrible lynchings of negroes in the Southern States have shocked humane persons in every civilized country. This is not to be wondered at, for anything more barbarous than some of those lynchings have been in it impossible to imagine. A colored lady has recently been in England giving the people there the particulars of the outrages inflicted on the negro race in that region by their white neighbors and fellow citizens—we cannot write false Christians. One of the results of her mission seems to have been the formation of an Anti-Lynch League, having for its active members some eminent men and women, among them the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Argyll, Sir John Lubbock, Justin McCarthy, Mrs. Humphry Ward, Lady Henry Somerset, and the Countess of Aberdeen. Several well-known American citizens have promised this League their hearty co-operation. Archbishop Ireland is prominent among them, and the names of Archbishop Janneaux, Carl Schurz, R. W. Gilder, Dr. John Hall, Bourke Cockran, and many others are mentioned.

Some Americans seem to regard it as an impertinence that British subjects should undertake a work of humanity in the United States when those against whose barbarity and injustice they protest are citizens of the Great Republic. These people do not themselves take a single step towards freeing the people of the United States from what they cannot but see is a deep reproach, but they are indignant when foreigners try to bring them to a sense of the barbarity of the outrages that their fellow citizens are committing, not merely against their own nation, but against civilization and humanity. The cruelties inflicted on colored men and women merely suspected of crime, would be regarded as abominable if they took place in Central Africa and were committed by uncivilized heathens. It is not creditable to the American people that anti-lynch societies have not long since been formed in every State of the Union, and that the authorities in the Southern and other States have not been compelled by the force of public opinion to put down lynching with a strong hand. It is a most perverse kind of national pride which takes offence at the attempt of men and women of another nation, by moral and philanthropic means, to do away with practices which no person of even common humanity can think of without shuddering.

It appears that the Governors of some of the Southern States have expressed themselves adverse to the efforts of the members of the anti-lynch society to effect the greatly needed reform. Governor Tillman, of South Carolina, the man who is regarded as a temperance crank, is the only one of the Southern Governors who has promised the League his co-operation. We are not greatly surprised at the hostility displayed by the majority of the Southern Governors, for if they had done their duty as enforcers and upholders of the law faithfully and energetically, lynching would have attained the dimensions to which it has grown. This and other practices which are a disgrace to the United States, and which have brought popular government into disrepute everywhere, owe their origin and their growth to the slackness and the want of moral courage, and perhaps physical courage, of Governors and others in authority.

LIGHTING BY CONTRACT.

The corporation of Toronto lately called for tenders to supply the city with electric lights. As many as 1,300 lights were needed. The price for each light per year under the contract then expiring was \$108.58. This rate for the 1,300 lights would make the cost of lighting the city \$141,000. The lowest tender put in the other day was \$74.82 per light per annum. The difference between the new rate and the old is surprising. The cost of lighting the city under the new tender will be about \$97,000, making a saving of \$44,000 a year in the item of lighting alone.

The data which this Toronto contract furnishes will enable the citizens of Victoria to form an intelligent opinion of what ought to be the cost of lighting their city. If they have

to pay as much as \$75 a light of the same candle power as the Toronto lights they will be paying too much for the service. If they get the city lighted, after making a proper allowance for contractors' profits, for whom they may congratulate themselves on having made a good bargain. The city ought to be able to do its own lighting cheaper than it can be done by contract. Contractors figure upon getting a handsome profit. If the profit of the Toronto contractors is say ten per cent, this city ought to get its lights, other things being equal, for \$67.34 a light per annum.

ORGANIZE.

We are much pleased to see that steps are being taken to organize a Liberal-Conservative Association in this city. Such an Association can be very useful in many ways. In fact, very little can be done in the way of strengthening a party and furthering its interests without organization.

The subject immediately to be considered by the Liberal-Conservative party in this city and elsewhere throughout the Province is the registering of the names of voters. This is a matter that must be carefully attended to, and it should be the business of the Association when it gets to work, which we hope will be soon, to see that the name of every Liberal-Conservative voter in the city, and in fact the whole Island, is on the list. No one knows when the general election is to take place, so it is only prudent to be prepared for it let it come off when it may. Liberal-Conservatives should always bear in mind that it is the best organized party which is most likely to succeed.

GOLD.

TO THE EDITOR:—Notwithstanding your editorial of yesterday pointing out the increased annual output of gold, I fear "the people of the United States and elsewhere" will still be almost frantic and will every where be exclaiming that gold is becoming too scarce.

The experience of history teaches us that these large outputs of gold are spasmodic, and that although rich gold fields are now and then discovered they become exhausted. Until quite recently the annual supply of gold has been decreasing for many years, while the demand has been enormously increased. Competent judges aver—and there is every reason to believe correctly—that nearly the whole of the annual output of gold is absorbed in the United States, and does not add to any appreciable extent to our stock of coin.

We must remember that one of the principal reasons that gold and silver are selected as media of exchange, or money, is that they possess the important property of approximate indestructibility. Therefore for many hundreds of years past the annual product of gold and silver coin has been added to the main stocks of those metals, until they have assumed enormous proportions.

It was estimated that in the memorable monetary year 1873 the stock of gold coin in the world amounted to about \$700,000,000, and that the silver coin amounted to approximately the same amount, thus making the metallic money in the world \$1,400,000,000 in 1873. No person can pretend that at that period there was too much money in circulation; but on the contrary, the authorities assert that had there been many millions more it would have been greatly for the benefit of enterprise and commerce. But the increase of population and increased facilities for commerce on the one side, and the largely augmented demand for money in 1894 as compared with 1873, while on the other hand the demonetization of silver by most of the leading nations of the world has greatly reduced the supply. Therefore if there was not too much money in circulation in 1873 there must be an alarming shortage of money in 1894.

In 1873 we have seen that the amount of gold and silver coin was approximately \$1,400,000,000. We may assume that the demonetization of silver in certain countries has reduced that amount of money by, say, \$400,000,000, while the annual increments of gold have increased it by \$150,000,000. This would leave us a stock of coin in 1894 of \$1,150,000,000.

The very large increase in the output of gold for 1893, to which you allude in your editorial, amounting to \$230,000,000, will be much of no use to us, for the reason, and for the reason that we take 25 per cent. of it for gold, and we shall be making a liberal allowance. This would give an addition of \$58,000,000 to the world's stock of money—of \$1,150,000,000—leaving us a stock of coin in 1894 of \$1,208,000,000.

But our stock of money is so lamentably deficient that any increase to it is to be welcomed, and it is most fervently to be desired that the increased annual output of gold may continue.

Money is the principal distributor of wealth. A man A by his labor produces commodities which X and Y demand, and X and Y by their labor produce commodities which B demands, and so on, but the exchange of these commodities cannot take place without the medium of exchange, or money. It is the lubricator of the wheels of commerce. By the demonetization of silver we have created a deficiency in the amount of the lubricator and consequently commerce and enterprise move with difficulty.

WHEREAS "Blind Tom," who last week entertained a large audience at the Victoria, is or is not the original negro pianist so-called, has furnished food for argument ever since the announcement of his coming to this city. "Blind Tom" is dead," said the one party; "The story of his death was incorrect," replied the other. Having seen and listened to the resuscitated Tom, the people were no nearer a solution of the mystery than ever. "That's not Blind Tom," said the party of the first part, "he's too light in color, and he's too young." "Do you suppose there are two negro pianists with styles so similar," replied the party of the second part, "as to cause the confusion?" And now appears a third faction on the scene, who while admitting that the pianist may be Tom, are willing to wage good money that he is not blind and that he cannot be the only and original Blind Tom, who really was a slighted negro. When the curtain was descending after the performance at the Victoria it struck half past seven, and the few in the audience who came to glaze the stage at that moment, saw Tom also looking at the curtain very anxiously. On the stage going to Nansimo the following morning, he gave a very clever imitation of a man reading the daily paper, and in a few days led those who observed his actions to believe that his blindness might be very much more than a mere affectation. The conclusion to be drawn from the evidence now before the public is that the pianist of Thursday evening is not "Blind Tom," though all will admit he is a clever entertainer and able musician.

THE WORLD OF SPORT.

How Victoria Defeated Nansimo on the Diamond—Exhibition Tag-of-War Arrangements.

Latimer Wins the Continuous Pool Match—Rugby Football Club to Reorganize.

When the Amities reached Nansimo Saturday they were told that they would have to put in their finest work to "do" the Coal City Ball-tossers. The result of the game showed that the people's confidence was not misplaced as regards the strength and general skill of the new aspirants for honors on the diamond. The ground is, unfortunately, walled in by sky-scraping pines, the latter being next to impossible to gauge a ball until it has almost reached the field. However, this disadvantage was as much a handicap to the home team as the visitors, the former only having used the grounds a few times. The Amities were sent to bat first, and were disposed of easily. The Nansimos, on the other hand, in their half of the opening inning got four tallies across the plate—the Amities inducing in some ragged work; overthrows, passed balls and other errors favoring their opponents' score. The home team found running out a difficulty in their second inning, the Amities being able to shake off their rattles. Both teams were kaledonized in the third inning. In the fourth inning, the Victorians began to hit the ball with vengeance, doubles and triples affording the Nansimos an opportunity of showing their sprinting qualities. The inning closed for five runs and put the visitors on even terms. Latimer, unluckily, threw out his arm in this inning, necessitating some delay. Clark, the Nansimo pitcher, kindly went to the club house and produced a lubricant, with which he massaged the ball Victorians' strong right arm. Latimer quickly continued his good work, and managed during the remainder of the game to keep the Nansimos from bunching their hits. The home team maintained their lead until the ninth, when the Amities, amid despairing appeals from the spectators, tied the score. The crowd were very impartial, recognizing with equal enthusiasm good plays on both sides. Victoria audiences could do worse than follow the example of Nansimo in this respect. With the score a tie, the Nansimo team appealed to the umpire to call the game, but the Amities were eager for play, threatening to claim the game by nine to nothing, if the match were put off. It was really very dark, and the umpire could not have seen the play, but he called the game, and the Amities took up their position. This was not much of a margin, considering the darkness, and the Amities, thinking that they would be "out of it," Latimer caught a pop fly. One man out. The next went to first on called balls; a ball was knocked to third, but Governor did not see it in time. The bases runners were advanced to second and third respectively. It looked as if everything were up with Victoria. A ball was asked to right field, very few saw it. Schultz secured in after a moment, and the Amities were again victorious, but suspense was ended when Widdowson, who had been in the game, was called out. The Amities were again victorious, but suspense was ended when Widdowson, who had been in the game, was called out. The Amities were again victorious, but suspense was ended when Widdowson, who had been in the game, was called out.

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