

The Colonist.

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TERMS:

THE DAILY COLONIST. Published Every Day except Monday. Per year, postage free to any part of Canada...

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST. Per year, postage free to any part of the Dominion of the United States...

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THE MANITOBA ELECTION.

As was universally expected, the Government of Manitoba has been sustained by a sweeping majority. The election shows that the majority of the people approve of the action of the majority of the Legislature with respect to its treatment of the denominational minority.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

The mainly and feeling statement which Sir Mackenzie Bowell made in the Senate in explanation of the political situation and in justification of the course which he had pursued contains the following passage well worthy the careful study of every man and woman in Canada who has the welfare of the country at heart.

Let me say this, and I hope it will not be considered a reflection on some of my associates, but I mean precisely what I say. It is to a certain extent has been brought about because, having a great question before the country, the prominent men who were most interested in having it settled did not come forward with that assistance that I say under the circumstances particularly they should have done, no matter at what personal sacrifice it may have been.

The majority and the minority in Manitoba are in the position of litigants. The minority say that they have suffered injury at the hands of the majority. The majority have denied that the minority have suffered any injury. The complaining party appealed to the proper authority, which decided that the appeal was well founded, that injury has been inflicted. In due course the complaint of the minority must be submitted to the court of last resort—the Parliament of the Dominion.

It is evidently generally understood that the decision of the Manitoba school question lies with the Government of the Dominion. This is a serious mistake. The Government of the Dominion cannot decide it. It has no power to coerce Manitoba. The utmost it can do is to submit a measure to Parliament providing what it considers a remedy for the grievance of which the Manitoba minority complain. In doing this it takes its life in its hand. It is for Parliament to accept or reject the Government's measure. If it rejects that measure the Government dies. And it is undoubtedly within the power of Parliament to reject it. As a matter of fact, no one can tell at this moment whether Parliament will accept or reject the Government's remedial law. The Government having taken upon itself the responsibility of the measure, must abide by the decision of Parliament.

The final decision, then, of the Manitoba school question rests not with the Government but with Parliament. The authority of the Government in the mat-

ter ends when it submits its measure to the representatives of the people of the whole Dominion. What the Constitution really enables the denominational minority of any province to do is to appeal from the majority of that particular province to the majority of the whole Dominion. This on the face of it seems to be a wise provision of the Constitution, for the majority of a province are for many reasons far more likely to treat the minority unfairly than are the majority of the whole Dominion.

The question naturally arises, has not the majority of each province the right to treat the denominational minority unfairly if it sees fit to do so? Is not its authority within its own sphere absolute and unlimited? As regards education, the authority of the Province is not absolute and unlimited. By the bargain which the provinces have made they have expressly and in terms limited their authority on this subject of education. Provision is made in the bargain which each of them has made for the protection of the denominational minority. In the case of Manitoba the terms of the bargain are exceptionally strong as regards education. And it is in strict accordance with those terms that the case of the minority is about to be submitted to the Parliament of the Dominion. The Parliament of the Dominion is the tribunal which the Province of Manitoba itself has chosen to settle all disputes with respect to denominational education between its Protestant and Roman Catholic inhabitants. Is it to avoid a reference to that tribunal or to influence its decision that the general election has been held? It is evident to every man of common sense that the election, whatever may be its result, does not affect the merits of the dispute between the majority and the minority, nor does it change in the slightest degree the terms under which Manitoba entered the confederation or diminish the obligation of the people and the Government of Manitoba to carry out those terms to the letter and in good faith.

REORGANIZED.

The country is to be congratulated on the fact that the Cabinet has been reorganized, and that the Premier is able to meet Parliament with every place in his Government filled. It is not for us to say, with the very meagre information that has reached us, whether the dissensions that divided the Government and disheartened the Conservative party could have been avoided by tact and mutual forbearance; but it is satisfactory to know that the difficulty was almost wholly personal in its nature and that the disagreements did not extend to any question of principle or to any important matter of public policy. Mr. Foster, in the statement which he made in the House of Commons, speaking for the members who had resigned as well as himself, said:

"I may say, in the first place, that there is no disagreement among ourselves and the Premier on any question of public policy, trade or constitutional, with regard to which action has been already taken, or in respect to which an attitude has been assumed by the Government under the present Premier. I beg also to say that we retain our firm belief in the principles and policy of the Liberal-Conservative party with which we are in entire accord, and of which, in common with others, we have been and will remain the exponents in so far as our ability admits. We have lost none of our confidence in the sound and healthy condition of the Liberal-Conservative party of Canada or of our belief that it embodies a policy which the majority of the electorate consider essential to the continued welfare and progress of the country, or of our faith that under firm and prudent leadership it will come back triumphant from the polls. In that respect I am fully in accord in sentiment and feeling with my late colleagues.

The Premier in his speech of explanation and justification admitted that all that Mr. Foster said on this head was perfectly true. Although all friends of the Conservative party must regret that the members of the Government should so seriously disagree in minor matters they must feel gratified that in all that concerns the prosperity, progress and harmony of the people of the Dominion they are in unison. The crisis has come and is gone, and as far as is known there has been no defection from the ranks of the party in Parliament. Although Mr. Wallace does not agree with the Government on the school question, in all other matters he is as sound a Conservative as ever he was. It is more than likely that the late disturbance, as it was superficial, will leave behind it no ill effects. The party, under the leadership of so experienced and so able a statesman as Sir Charles Tupper, will soon recover any ground it may have lost and be able to go to the country with an assurance of victory.

It is to be observed that the Liberal party, even while the Government was weakened by internal dissensions, have not gained strength in the country. The by-elections lead to the conclusion that when Mr. Laurier is deprived of one of his political faces and his party will be weaker than ever they were. They have done literally nothing to win the confidence of the electorate. Dodging on the trade question and acting a double part on the school question are the tactics of a party which has really no policy and which feels itself to be weak in the country.

ISOLATION NECESSARY.

Bitter complaints are made of the regulation which requires patients who are suffering from diphtheria, scarlet fever and other contagious diseases to be isolated. Those who make these complaints have not, we are sure, thought of the responsibility that the head of a family incurs when he or she allows visitors and others to come in contact with a member of the family who is suffering from a serious contagious disease. Such a person would look with horror upon anyone who proposed that he would drop poison into the water or the milk or the food with which a neighbor's family was supplied. He would not for all that he ever saw knowingly run the risk of poisoning a human being—man, woman or child. He would be far from playing tricks with the poison and putting it in the way of those who might take it unwittingly, put it as far out of the reach of those who did not know what it was or how to use it, as he could. And in taking every precaution that it would not be handed by those who did not know of its deadly nature, he would be doing only what was right and reasonable and what everyone who was not a fool or intent upon some criminal design would naturally do.

the members of the Confederation firmly and closely bound together is for every loyal Canadian to insist upon it that every condition of the terms of union be strictly respected by all the Provinces, great and small. If the Constitution is found to be unworkable, let it be altered and amended in the proper constitutional way; until that is done let it be made a matter of conscience by all patriotic Canadians to maintain it in its integrity.

The Liberal or Opposition party in Dominion politics, it appears, have in Victoria an exceedingly cheap organ—for we presume that the Times measures its contemporaries by its own standard. Because this paper assisted in defeating the ambition of Mr. Templeman to become a back-bench member of the parliamentary opposition, at the expense of the cabinet representation of this province, his newspaper the Times has been of late even meaner than usual in its references to the Colonist, and has loaded its pop-gun battery with absurd allegations of Dominion government "pap."

One day the statement was that the Colonist "is found clinging eagerly to the government breasts from which it has received its chief support right along." Then "even the certainty of losing its Ottawa pap should not have called forth such screams of agony"; and in the next issue, the Colonist, it is said, may have "the consolation of feeling that though its pap has disappeared," etc.

A statement of the facts shows that the Times in this matter is simply pursuing the policy of mendacity and deceit which has been so plainly exposed since the recent campaign commenced. The Auditor-General's report shows every dollar paid to newspapers for services rendered to the Dominion government. The volume for 1893-94—the latest issued—on page lii gives the payments to the Colonist in that year as \$93.10 for advertising and \$167 for printing and lithographing. The printing bill is for the post office guide and other such work which being required in a hurry has to be done on the spot, and is charged for ordinary commercial rates, which as every job printer knows yield a very modest profit. The Times' insinuation therefore is that the Colonist is bribed with \$93.10 worth of advertising in a year! Comment is unnecessary; if that is the Times' price, the value of its services will probably be even less. The British Columbia Official Gazette in the same year received from the Dominion \$102.50 for advertising, and one might as well say that the Provincial Government were bribed by that payment for absolutely necessary service.

BOER OPPRESSION.

Our readers will be able to form some idea of the way in which the foreign residents in the Transvaal are treated by the Boer Government from the following instances of mis-government and vexatious tyranny recently published in the New York Tribune:

There is a code of mining laws drawn up for the protection of life and property, and fought for by the mining population. It is administered by a certain number of mining inspectors appointed by the government. The government requires that all these inspectors shall be citizens of the republic and shall, of course, speak Dutch. They must also be members of the Dutch church. Now mining is an industry which ten years ago was wholly unknown in the Transvaal. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Boers should know nothing about it. In fact, the only experts in the country are foreigners, most of them being Scotch or American. But these are not allowed to fill the places of mining inspectors. The evil results of the system may be imagined. Of the five offices of mining inspectors in the country, only two are filled at all, and they are filled by utterly incompetent men. The mining laws are therefore practically ignored, except as they are voluntarily observed or are enforced by vigilance committees appointed by the miners without government authority.

CANADIAN ENTERPRISE.

NIAGARA FALLS, Jan. 17.—Reports are revived that the Massey-Harris Co., manufacturers of agricultural implements are soon to locate an American branch factory at Niagara Falls. It is stated that the company has about completed arrangements for the purchase of some fifteen or twenty acres of land on this side of the Lockport railroad, and near the Rieg farm. It is understood a conference will be held at the head offices of the company at Toronto to-morrow, at which final details will be arranged. Some three hundred men it is said will be employed here.

CANADIAN BANK CLEARINGS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—The bank clearings for the Dominion of Canada as telegraphed to Bradstreet's for the week were: Montreal, \$10,958,406, decrease 9.2 per cent.; Toronto, \$6,874,777, increase 9.0 per cent.; Halifax, \$1,500,306, increase 139 per cent.; Winnipeg, \$1,158,995, increase 15 per cent.; Hamilton, \$881,362, increase 9.6 per cent. Total, \$21,053,846; decrease, 0.4 per cent.

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We believe it could if the same care were taken. Many authorities say that the latter disease is quite as dangerous and loathsome as smallpox, yet the presence of diphtheria seems to cause no alarm, and, if all reports are true, the most gross carelessness is shown on the part of many persons in neglecting to take precautions to prevent the spread of this virulent malady. People who are living in houses where this disease may prevail, go to their business or work as usual, and even attend church, Sunday school and other public places. A case came under our own observation last fall of a young girl then convalescing from an attack of scarlet fever, who went for a ride around the belt line every afternoon, accompanied by a relative, thus bringing the contagion in contact with children of tender years. Such criminal carelessness as this is the cause of the spread of these maladies. Such persons who cause the spread of disease through their carelessness or selfishness, are really responsible for the sickness and deaths which they bring upon others. Persons who go from houses where diphtheria or scarlet fever prevails to attend church or public meetings should be subjected to prosecution.

A CHEAP ADVOCATE.

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English-speaking children, for whose tuition through any but a Dutch medium no provision is made by the government. Dutch is the only recognized medium of education, and in the public schools English is not taught, or, if taught at all, only to a slight extent, as a foreign language. The English population some time ago proposed to establish English schools at private expense. This was denounced by the government as little less than open rebellion, and it was actually proposed to suppress such schools by force. Finally, on condition that Dutch should be taught in these voluntary English schools as well as English, the Boers graciously consented to let them exist. They receive, however, no financial assistance whatever from the Government, nor are the settlers who support them and whose children are educated in them in the least exempted from taxation for the support of Dutch schools.

But this is not the worst of Boer tyranny. The aliens, who are not allowed the privileges of citizenship, are not only compelled to pay nearly the whole of the taxes of the state, but they are forced to fight for the republic not only without pay but at their own cost and charges. The Tribune, which is not at all favorable to the British, gives this additional example of what is required of aliens by their intolerant masters:

Still another noteworthy example of Boer oppression was furnished—and, indeed, still is furnished—by the system of "Commandering," or "Commando" is a military expedition sent out against the negroes. Its purpose may be to repel and to subdue a hostile tribe, or more probably to attack wantonly some peaceful tribe and rob it of its cattle and land, or even to capture a lot of its members for slaves—for slavery is by no means abolished in the Transvaal, and there is nothing the typical Boer loves better than to "wallop a nigger." These expeditions are, of course, organized and directed by Boers. But since the English and other foreign settlers are more active and better fighters, the Boers have got into the habit of impressing them into the ranks to bear the danger and do the real work against the Boers—get the gain. That is to say, "Uitlanders" are forced to render military service, at their own expense, without pay, for a government in which they have no lot or interest. They are simply drafted into the service of an alien power.

For example, a married man, with a family, is suddenly pounced upon by a government official and told to provide himself with a horse, saddle, bridle, rifle, twenty rounds of ammunition and eight days' provisions, all at his own expense, and to be ready in forty-eight hours to march to the front to fight without any recompense whatever, in a war in which he has no sympathy, for a government in which he has no representation. In addition to this, English shopkeepers are compelled to provide supplies of goods, and even to furnish money to the Boers who go on these expeditions without any remuneration.

Can any man of spirit wonder that the Uitlanders are impatient of Boer rule, and that they are looking eagerly for an opportunity to throw off the galling yoke of the coarse and exacting tyrants?

LAURIE'S LAMENT.

TORONTO, Jan. 17.—(Special)—The Mail editorially declares the position assumed by Mr. Laurier and other Liberals in the debate on the address to be anti-Canadian. It condemns his criticism of the Canadian referring to the defenses, in which, however, the Mail says, Mr. Laurier is pursuing his historic course. The Mail continues: "While this eloquent leader is a friend of the Canadian people, he would leave our share of the Empire poorly protected. Mr. Laurier doubts the expediency of the measure undertaken or in contemplation. As an opposition leader he has in the past expended his energy upon intrigue and mischief, which makes national dignity and dishonor. So apparently in the future he is to devote himself to offering opposition to measures designed to protect us at home and to strengthen ourselves in the Empire to which we belong."

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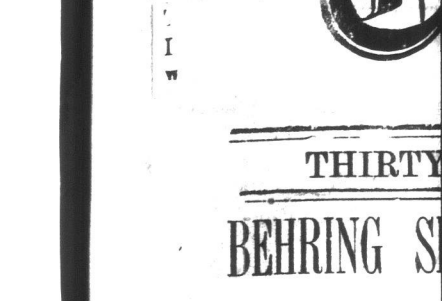
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