

The Colonist.

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the avoidance of friction in the joint-arrangements for the triple co-operation necessary for the success of the Pacific cable scheme.

It is an axiom that the mails follow the cable routes, and that the third and fourth steps in the progress are the passenger and freight traffic over the same lines. Upon what this means for the prosperity and progress of Victoria, it is not necessary to enlarge.

THE ENLARGEMENT OF MANITOBA.

The proposal to enlarge the Province of Manitoba by adding to it Eastern Assiniboia is not received with favor by the people of that territory, if the Moomin Spectator correctly voices their sentiments. This is a matter which does not very much concern the other provinces.

It does not matter much to the people of British Columbia, for example, whether the area of Manitoba is 75,000 or 100,000 square miles or its population 150,000 or 175,000. At the same time all Canadians want to see the people of all parts of the Dominion fairly dealt with, and if the residents of Assiniboia do not desire to be absorbed by Manitoba, their wishes are entitled to consideration unless it can be shown that the benefits to the Dominion as a whole outweigh them.

The Toronto Globe seems to favor the proposal, its chief reason being that the machinery of Manitoba is ample for a province of twice its size, and the Globe thinks this "touches the root of the whole matter." But this reason would be equally valid if it were proposed to amalgamate into one, and this would surely not be attempted if the people of any one of them were unwilling.

What would hold good of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island in this regard ought to hold good of Assiniboia. If the time were ripe for the establishment of provincial governments in the territories it might be that an extension of the boundaries of Manitoba would be desirable; but with such light as we have on the subject at present it seems as if the contemplated absorption of a part of Assiniboia by the prairie province would be a one-sided arrangement altogether.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

A CONVENTION of "citizens from all parts of the province" is called to meet at New Westminster on the 27th inst., to discuss "cheap money for farmers." This will be a case of love's labor lost. There are many things which conventions of citizens can discuss with profit and with some hope of being able to give effect to their conclusions, but the problem of providing cheap money for farmers, or any other class, is not one of them.

Many experiments have been tried in the way of furnishing the people with cheap money, but the experience of all countries has been that the cheaper the money is at the beginning the dearer it is in the end. The word "cheap" is only a relative one. Most of the farmers who borrowed money on mortgage, or otherwise, six years ago thought that they obtained it cheaply enough at the time. Many of them made a mistake. Prices dropped, but the interest remained at the old figure, and the money which seemed cheap enough when they got it may seem dear now. But the farmer is not alone in this predicament. Thousands of business men and property owners all along the western coast of this continent are embarrassed by having to pay interest, which they thought was quite reasonable when they obtained the loans but is out of proportion to earnings and prices now. It is, however, no part of the duty of the government of a country to correct the miscalculations which men make in their private affairs; but if it were and some means could be devised of providing cheap money for the present, what guarantee can any one give that it would not mean more borrowing and thus lead to a new period of embarrassment when pay day came? There can be no judicial substitute for thrift and good judgment.

It is not possible, no matter from what point of view the dismissal of Dr. Duncan is considered, to regard it as anything except an exhibition of political partisanship and an act of flagrant injustice. The dismissal is alleged to have been for cause, but with an utter disregard of the commonest principles of fair play, Dr. Duncan was never officially informed of the charges against him and consequently never had an opportunity of answering them. A very extraordinary feature of the case is mentioned by Dr. Duncan in the interview with him printed in to-day's Colonist. Information appears to have been given out from the Department at Ottawa, or from some other quasi-authoritative quarter, that he was dismissed because he had released a patient just recovering from smallpox. It is extraordinary that any officer of the Canadian Government should be dismissed for cause without being given an opportunity to be heard on his defence; but still more extraordinary that the nature of the alleged cause should be grossly mistaken, in a manner calculated to do the official irreparable injury. The dismissal is a transaction which reflects little credit upon the department which ordered it, and still less upon the politicians who engineered it. An open avowal that the act was the result of political exigencies

would have been far more decent and would have the merit of being true.

A STATEMENT comes from Rome to the effect that the month of February will see the Cuban rebellion brought to a close and the authority of Spain re-established. The civilized world will hail such a result with pleasure, not because the rule of Spain has been anything like an approach to what it ought to be, but because no other solution of the matter seems to be possible. An independent republic of Cuba would be a travesty upon government. The annexation of the island by the United States would mean grave foreign complications and possibly a serious war in which France and Germany might take part with the hope of acquiring new territory. The Cuban question cannot be solved by any stroke of policy. It is the result of human slavery. It is the heritage of two centuries of crime against humanity. It will never be a man's work that shall be also reap as its true nations as of individuals.

SECRETARY OLMES says that the new arbitration treaty practically makes Great Britain an ally of the United States for the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine. In view of the fact that the Monroe doctrine owes its origin to George Canning, one of the greatest statesmen that England ever produced, this claim does not seem so unreasonable as it might at first sight appear. Indeed, less than a year ago a very high British authority said that the Imperial government was as much concerned in enforcing the spirit of the Monroe doctrine as the United States could possibly be, a proposition which ceases to be remarkable when we reflect that the British Empire is territorially the greatest American power.

The Kootenaiian credits Mr. Speaker Higgins with having concealed about his person divers and sundry revolutionary intentions in regard to provincial politics. As the catastrophe which it is alleged he is going to precipitate is, according to our contemporary, not due until after the next election, it need not at present cause any great degree of anxiety.

AND so the Pope proposes to let Mr. Laurier and the Quebec hierarchy settle their political differences without his interference. It ought not to have been necessary for the premier of a British Colony to have sent to Rome to find this out.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR.—I am not only a constant reader of the Colonist, but am also largely interested in the school question of Canada, and it hurts my feelings to see her drifting into error and exposing herself to the contemptuous criticism of the outside world.

This Manitoba school question is one which calls forth an amount of hostile comment which tells against Canada as a colony and a people. It is difficult to approach the subject in anything like a serious spirit. The matter is so simple that it is (excuse the word) indignant to think that it can be any but one mode of dealing with it.

It is not a question of like or dislike or denominational aspect of an admitted school; it is a question of the simple one of Canada independently of political or religious feeling. It is the fulfillment of a pledge which has been given by Canada as a body, and as a definitely settled by the highest judicial authority.

"Bepudiation" is an ugly word, and unfortunately it is not the first time that Canada has been required to perform a solemn contract. British Columbians will remember that the Dominion having once acquired British Columbia as a constituent province did its best for a long time to shuffle out of the obligation to build the Canadian Pacific railway, until fortunately for her credit, wise counsels prevailed.

In the teeth of the judgment of the Privy Council it is too late in the day to deny that the Roman Catholic schools of Manitoba have the right to their proportionate share of the public money, and from the Dominion of Canada directly; and one would have thought that, this being so, no one possessed of a modicum of common sense would raise a hand, or a voice, in opposition to the simple cry for justice.

Individuals are to be found who endeavor by every pretext in their power to evade the payment of an admitted debt, or the performance of an admitted contract; but to say that such an individual is a gentleman or an honest man is impossible, and in like manner the colony or the province that will not comply with its bargain lays itself open to the derisive contempt of the world.

Canada is a colony of sufficient importance to challenge the attention of the British public, and they are desirous that their cousins in the colonies should bear such a character for common sense, honesty and honor as may win the approval of the world; and your readers may like it or not, but it is a fact that this Manitoba school question is a thorough discredit to Canada, and inclines only too many to think Canadians who are even discussing the school matter in a spirit of compromise, as if it were an open question, are (to put it emphatically) either deficient in intelligence, or willfully disregard what is just and right.

I have not touched on the political or denominational aspect of the school matter. Personally I am neither a Roman Catholic nor an Anglican, and I am practically interested in Canadian politics.

The outside world looks upon Canada as a colony of sufficient rank in the scale of nations to be answerable for what its government does—a government raised to power by the voice of a majority of its constituents; nor does it intend the master that the discomfiture of the Roman Catholic in Manitoba is probably not displeasing to the bulk of the Canadian people, but a wrong is not the less a wrong because it is backed by numbers; such a wrong will, in the end, be a right, and it is a right matter to alienate the affections of many thousands of indignant Roman

Catholics. Canada has promised and Canada must perform.

It may be conceded that in the average man some amount of error and misapprehension is pardonable, but when we find those who direct the councils of the Dominion, on the one hand, and of the province of Manitoba, on the other, presumably men of "light and leading," combining together to evade the performance of a contract, behind the backs of the party principally concerned, it is hard to conceive that political dishonesty can go much further.

From what I read in your valuable paper, your views are much the same as those here expressed; but what I would wish your readers more particularly to bear in mind is that the conduct of the Canadians as a people, and in particular the conduct of those ministers who now guide the destinies of Canada, is mean to a degree, and goes far to discredit her in the eyes of the world.

London, Eng., Dec. 22. SENEX.

MINING MACHINERY.

From a paragraph in an Eastern newspaper, it appears that a meeting of mining engineers and other well held shortly in Montreal in advocacy of the removal of the duty on imported mining machinery. What we have no doubt that the movers in this matter are actuated solely by what they consider the best interests of an industry destined to be one of the most important in Canada, we have no hesitation in saying that they are pursuing a policy not in accord with the real interests of Canadian industry and enterprise. In their excess of zeal for one branch of enterprise they would, if they should succeed in achieving their aim, strike a disastrous blow, perhaps, a fatal blow at another industry which is likely within the next few years, if given a reasonable chance, to become one of the most important of Canadian industries. To thousands of Canadian workmen and indirectly to the increased demand for coal, iron, and other materials—to so many more; make Canadian miners independent of foreign countries for the machinery they require and keep at home to the enrichment of our own people and the building up of our towns, large sums of money which, under an opposite policy, will go to other countries.

We are well aware that some years ago there was a consensus of opinion that the removal of the duty on imported mining machinery of a class not manufactured in Canada, was a policy likely to be of great value to the development of the mining industry, and we believed then that such a view was sound. At that time mining was practically a new industry in the Dominion—that is as the removal of the duty on imported mining machinery of a class not manufactured in Canada, was a policy likely to be of great value to the development of the mining industry, and we believed then that such a view was sound.

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they are sold at in Chicago. Now that a market is assured to them, Canadian enterprise, skill and energy may be relied on to supply the deficiency. But we must be careful lest unwise legislation permit the foreign manufacturer to make Canada a dumping place for his surplus stock, as has been the case in other lines. As the late Hon. Mr. Durnan said some years ago, in the course of a discussion in the legislature, as soon as a Canadian firm to manufacture its specialties on this side of the boundary. From the evidence in our possession there is no reason to believe that in a short time the Canadian articles will not be produced and sold as cheaply as those in the United States, while some of them are already offered at lower prices than

THIRTY-NINE INTERNAL WA Report of the United mission—The President Transmitti Limit of Reduction Rates Reached— Be More Ut WASHINGTON, Jan. 18. the deep waterway com before the senate and ho the following letter from "To the senate and hono those of the committee have Messrs. J. B. Angell, of E. Russell, of Massachu man Cooley, of Illinois, pointed commissioners of a law passed to make inquiry and conference with such sioners as might be app of Great Britain and Canada, concerning the construction of such cable vessels engaged in to pass to western Euro the Atlantic ocean, and venient local and p such canals; together w and information in a sified relating to the and use. The com proceeding to the work as with great zeal and sulting in the collection of information embodie and its accompanying of great importance a related to the project examination. The advan and the proposed terri of the products of our W territories from conveni ment to our seaboard p of the project. The sioners contains, in m demonstration of the fea such transportation an for the anticipation of more uninterrupted co the plan suggested bet west and foreign port crease of national p must follow long report of American prosperity. It is a r of the committee comprehensive as time their disposal permitted tely deal with the ques were called upon to omits some of the related to the fact. The have laborers in the a part of the small su tion for payment of the means expended. A congress the project a nomic provision for st cution of their work as develop the information exact and complete u this interesting and im (S'd.) GROVER CLEVELAND. The conclusion of the following: 1. That it is entirely strict such canals and channels as will be of scale of navigation between the great lake board, and to conduct the domestic and foreign it will be wise to provide channel of a navigable d than 28 feet. 2. That starting from Lakes Michigan and Sup eligible route is thro great lakes and their in sels and the proposed canal, Lake Ontario, and adian seaboard may be reached from Lake Champlain to the river, and the Am may be reached from way of the St. Lawrence Champlain to the way of the Oswego, Or valley and the Hudson R 3. That alternative rou Ontario to the Hudson complete surveys and a of economic consideration broadening and further of intermediate channels of same being in the logic development, and also req cines for consideration. The commission adds: to the main questions, the magnitude of the in that construction of works which might character or features should be concluded does not delay the in plans or the beginning of is likely to bear upon their consideration. In ternational character sta part at least of the wo riparian interests invol pedient to carry on the

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