

Twice-a-Week Times

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ALONE IN ITS "INTEGRITY."

"The Montreal Gazette thinks that the love of appropriations is the root of much weakness in Canadian politics. This is apropos of the claim made by some papers in British Columbia, which usually side with the Conservatives, that no opposition should have been offered to Mr. Templeman in Comox-Atlin."

The quotation is from the Colonist. It imputes impure motives practically to the entire Conservative press of the province, and to some of the leading newspapers of Canada, in their attitude towards the candidature of Mr. Templeman in Comox-Atlin. In the light of what has transpired and of the known motives which inspired the virulence, degenerating to the verge of criminality, of the opposition to the Minister of Inland Revenue in Victoria and the northern constituency, it is really delightful to observe our degenerate contemporary posing as the only truly righteous and incorruptible newspaper left in the Dominion of Canada. What a lonely life it leads; how trying to its pure soul must be this condition of holy isolation.

The Times naturally has little sympathy to extend its contemporary in this the day of its terrible desolation. On the contrary, we ask it to read and consider carefully the following editorial remarks of the Vancouver News-Advertiser and Province, two of the alleged sordid Conservative newspapers, upon the subject which must be a sore point with the Colonist. Especially do we ask it as a favor to dwell long upon and carefully note the last paragraph in the New-Advertiser editorial, which contains a plain reference to an incident that has created a great deal of comment throughout Canada. This is what the senior Conservative newspaper upon the mainland has to say:

"The voters of the Comox-Atlin constituency have acted wisely in electing Hon. William Templeman as their representative in the federal House of Commons without a contest. They have not only taken a wise course in the interest of their own district; they have rendered a service to the whole of the province in assuring British Columbia of representation in the Dominion Cabinet. There are times when party interests should be subordinated to those of the country, and the situation in Comox-Atlin was a case in point. Although there were some Conservatives who did not look at the matter in that light, wiser counsels prevailed and the proposal to contest the seat was abandoned.

"We have no doubt that Mr. Templeman will give proof of his appreciation of the course which those who politically are his opponents have followed, and will realize that in a more literal sense than the conventional one, he represents the whole of the electors in Comox-Atlin. He can, and we have every confidence that he will, give practical proof of his realization of that fact, by devoting his efforts to the advancement of that important provincial interest of which he has the direction and supervision by virtue of the particular portfolio that he holds in the Cabinet.

"An incident in the recent election in Victoria was in itself a reason why Conservatives should feel it incumbent on them not to give factious opposition to Mr. Templeman in Comox-Atlin, a party they have no desire that Lady Macbeth's words should have an application to them, 'That they would not play false and yet would falsely win.'"

"The announcement of Hon. Wm. Templeman's election by acclamation in Comox-Atlin, came as a surprise to the people of Vancouver, and especially so as Mr. Manson had declared his resolution when in this city only last week to be in the field, and remain in it till the last vote was polled. Before we had definite information as to the reason Mr. Manson's name was not put in nomination we were disposed to the opinion that some inability to reach Prince Rupert in time had made it impossible for him to carry out his promise. At this time of the year, it must be remembered, travelling in the constituency is attended with difficulties, and we thought it not unlikely that Mr. Manson had been unavoidably delayed. His withdrawal from the contest, however, was due to other causes. The Conservatives of Comox-Atlin certainly seem unfortunate in their efforts to secure a contest against the government candidate.

"On the whole little or no disappointment will be experienced in the province at large, even by Conservatives, at the return of Mr. Templeman. No principle was involved in the election, the disagreement of the people of British Columbia with the federal government on the questions of Asiatic immigration, better terms and control by the province of its local assets having been abundantly marked by the elections in the other constituencies. Mr. Templeman's attitude on these questions, during the general election campaign, could not have been other than it was, since he was a member of the Dominion Cabinet. And the people of British Columbia have had no reason to take issue with Mr. Templeman on any other ground. He has been a useful and loyal friend of this province as Minister of Crown, and his opportunities of being still more useful will be large in the future than they have been in the past.

"While some may regret his elec-

tion from a purely partisan standpoint, it is impossible even for the most bigoted to regret it from the standpoint of the good of the provincial community."

LAW REFORM.

Law reform is the burning question of the day in Ontario. The Attorney-General of the province, Hon. J. J. Foy, when interviewed recently in Toronto by a deputation, confessed that there were many evils to be remedied. The bar association is also impressed by the trend of public opinion, as it has made a concession by sending a deputation to suggest to the government certain amendments, naturally not amendments which are likely to prove satisfactory to mere laymen. The case for law reform from the point of view of the general public is probably fairly expressed in a resolution lately passed by the York County Council, as follows: "Under the present system large corporations carry cases from court to court upon various pretexts, while litigants of smaller means are compelled to either drop their cases or accept such compromise as the corporations may offer." The plea of the lawyers in answer to this indictment is that under the jury system the verdict is often unjust against large corporations because the average individual is apt to sympathize with the "under dog." There are the only remedies the rich have in actions for damages lies in appeals to judges and from court to court. The legal profession, logically from their point of view, ask that trial by jury in civil actions be abolished. They say it is not in harmony with modern conditions, as an absolutely unbiased jury cannot be chosen. It is a serious thing to suggest to the authorities of a province of the Dominion that one of the fundamental principles of our system of administration of justice has broken down. Probably an investigation might determine that it is not the jury feature, but a plant of more recent and altogether different growth, that is responsible for admitted abuses in the administration of justice. There is no question as to the fact that the public is inclined to heap all responsibility for this condition of affairs upon the heads of members of the legal profession. The prejudice naturally resulting from this attitude of mind is not mollified when the bar is found, year after year, using its powerful influence in opposition to the popular demand for reform. But a remedy will surely be applied, and that before the lapse of many years. If it does not come from within, it will be forced from without. As a leading member of the profession confessed, "the present procedure is indefensible."

AN EXAMPLE FOR YOUNG MEN.

Dr. Robson, the first Methodist missionary to British Columbia, has been in harness during almost, if not quite, the scriptural allotted span of life, yet he is as vigorous mentally and physically as the youngest of those who took part in the jubilee exercises held in the Metropolitan Church last evening. He made the great speech of the occasion. It was full of force and inspiration. It was the utterance of a sincere man, filled with zeal for the cause he has served so faithfully, and fired by conviction that a life of service ought to be the ideal of every true son of Canada and of the British Empire. There are obvious lessons in the history of the life of this man who has outlived all his contemporaries and is yet capable of active service, because his vital forces are as strong as ever, for the young men of the present day. Dr. Robson has lived what observers of the laws of the physical universe term the normal life. The very nature of his duties compelled him to spend much of his time in the open air. He has been "in training" all his days. Probably in early years, when the "pride of life" and other things mentioned in sacred literature were as strong within him as in the average young man, even if the Doctor had been inclined to indulge in the luxuries which are considered indispensable in these degenerate days, he had to deny himself, "to crucify the flesh," to use the phrase of churchmen, because plain fare and the labors of the missionary go hand in hand. The servants of the church in pioneer days were forced to deny themselves whether they relished the restrictions or not. So that frugal living and "high thinking" may have become a habit with the subject of this, our trust, absolutely non-sectarian discourse. The reward of Nature, seldom denied, has been length of days, with a never-flagging interest in everything that makes life worth while. Let the young men make a note of these things and model their conduct in harmony with Nature's laws, not forgetting the admonition, "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

COMOX-ATLIN.

We think the announcement of the election by acclamation of Hon. Wm. Templeman in the constituency of Comox-Atlin will be received with general satisfaction not only throughout British Columbia, but in Parliamentary circles at Ottawa, without regard to party affiliations. In Victoria, in particular, the dominant feeling amongst all classes was that in view of the circumstances under which the defeat of the Minister of Inland Revenue was

brought about no factious opposition should be displayed to his securing another seat. Nor was this feeling confined to the capital of the province. It was expressed in unmistakable and in admirable terms by such staunch Conservative newspapers as the Vancouver News-Advertiser and the Province. Possibly to some extent the sentiments of these two papers were due to a fellow-feeling, not by any means to their discredit, for a comrade of the Fourth Estate who had not received fair treatment—in a fight for his political life in the constituency he had served faithfully and to the best of his ability during part of the last Parliamentary term, Mr. Templeman has been placed under great obligations to these two newspapers, and indeed to practically the entire press of the province, with two or three conspicuous exceptions, not remarkable when the animating motives are considered, during a most trying time in his public career. This debt, as well as the obligations he is under to many loyal party friends, we believe the Minister will neither forget nor fail to acknowledge.

The intelligence of the return of Mr. Templeman for a British Columbia constituency will also be well received in the capital of Canada. His election completes the government of the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The administration is now as it was before the general election of October 28th. It is a government which has promptly seized every opportunity to initiate necessary public works for the development of the country. At present there are great projects under way, the completion of which mean great things for the settlement of places which are yet lying dormant and are therefore unproductive. The revenue has shown a decline during the past year. But that is merely a temporary ebb of the tide of national prosperity. Bank statements show that the wealth of the country is steadily increasing. The conditions indicated privately will soon manifest themselves in an overflowing public treasury. Before the term of the newly-elected Parliament has expired the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway will be completed. It will remain a permanent monument in the faith of the government in the resources of a new Canada in the north and west, and the resultant increase in population will justify still greater undertakings.

Probably the most satisfactory feature of the election of the Minister by acclamation, from the point of view of the public at large, is that the principle of British Columbia representation in the federal cabinet has been maintained. The element which had accomplished the defeat of the Minister of Inland Revenue in Victoria by means which have created a disagreeable sensation and a scandal throughout the length and breadth of Canada was determined that its evil game should not be frustrated by the return of the Minister for another constituency if such a result could be averted. This element was at the bottom of the abortive attempt to place Mr. Manson in the field. That gentleman is reputed to be personally very strong in sections of the riding where he is well known. Doubtless Mr. Manson would have made a good fight against Mr. Templeman. But after a survey of the field and mature consideration of the situation in general he accepted the counsels of wisdom and withdrew. He is to be congratulated upon his decision for his own sake and for the sake of the real interests of Comox-Atlin and of British Columbia.

A HINT TO OUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

The leader of the opposition at Ottawa has made a valuable suggestion, which has been heartily accepted by the leader of the government, in regard to the necessity of some definite steps being taken by the Parliament of Canada for the conservation on behalf of the people of all the natural resources of the country. Amongst the resources enumerated as of most vital importance from a public point of view are the great water powers now rapidly being acquired by private corporations, and therefore passing from control of the people. It is just a question whether the federal authorities are in a position to deal effectively with this important matter. The waters of the country, like the public lands, the timber and the coal, are, or ought to be, held in trust by the various provinces for the benefit of the public. We know by actual experience that the various governments of the province of British Columbia, instead of conserving our natural resources for the use of the present generation and other generations to follow after, have actually facilitated the distribution of such resources. The Times has repeatedly called attention to the prospective value of British Columbia's water powers. As in the cases of coal and timber, we have been more richly endowed with what is now known as "white coal" than any other portion of the Dominion of North America. Yet governments have refused to take action. Probably now that the matter has been brought to the attention of the federal government by the Conservative leader the necessity for conservation will appeal more strongly to a Conservative government of British Columbia.

The longest continuous run on a railway train in scope is that from Paris to Constantinople, 1,221 miles in 94 hours.

DEALING WITH WATER RIGHTS

BILL INTRODUCED IS A COMPREHENSIVE ONE

Board to Be Created to Decide All Questions That Arise.

A lengthy bill is the consolidation and amendment of the Water Clauses act which Hon. F. J. Fulton introduced in the legislature Wednesday. The old law on the subject of water rights and privileges has, been an unending subject of amendment, there being sure to be a bill to this end every session. It is now being carefully revised so as to obviate continual tinkering with it. The old act was divided into six parts and 154 sections; the new bill has no fewer than seventeen parts and 311 sections. It will be known shortly as the Water Act. The clauses deal in great detail with the powers and privileges of all who use water from lakes and streams and define rights clearly. Perhaps the outstanding feature of the bill is the creation of the office of Chief Water Commissioner for the province, with water commissioners for any one or more water districts, and of a Board of Investigation, which is to consist of the chief water commissioner and such other persons as the government may from time to time appoint.

This tribunal will hear and determine all claims of persons holding, or claiming to hold, records of water or other water rights; settle the question of priority of respective claimants; prescribe the terms, consistent with the act, upon which new licenses to take and use water shall be granted; and generally to determine all matters referred to it and discharge such duties with respect to existing rights and claimants as may be imposed upon it. While the board will be in some sense a judicial body no special form will be necessary in the conduct of its proceedings nor in the bringing of any claim before it. The decision of the board will be final and conclusive, no appeal to the court or any other tribunal or prohibition shall issue against it save for excess of want of jurisdiction.

Every license to take and use water shall be issued with due regard to the domestic requirements of riparian owners. The priority of use is in the following order—domestic, municipal, irrigation, steam for all purposes except power but mining, milling and, lastly, clearing streams for driving and, lastly, power. Licenses for the sale of water shall only be issued to municipalities and companies. There are very full provisions as to the carrying out of works by all licensees and, in the case of municipalities, as to the relation between them and consumers. The privileges granted to power companies are set out at length. Municipalities securing a license to develop and dispose of power get all the rights, powers and privileges and are subject to all the obligations of a power company. The procedure in matters of expropriation of land is set forth in full, and the special obligations of power companies and other licensees to the public, municipalities and other companies. Municipalities are given power to supply water for domestic purposes to non-residents and railway companies and factories upon special terms.

NEGOTIATIONS OF C. P. R. FOR WISCONSIN CENTRAL

Officials of American Road Considering Proposition of Soo Line.

New York, N. Y., Feb. 11.—A committee of the directors of the Wisconsin Central railway was appointed today by the board to discuss with directors and officials of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie road, a proposition by the Soo line to lease the Wisconsin Central. The committee consisted of Newman Erb, president of the Wisconsin Central; E. N. Price, Mark Cox and J. C. Bache. The offer of the Soo line is to lease the Wisconsin Central for a term of years for four per cent to the holders of preferred stock, the present holders to refrain from voting the stock. It is understood that the committee will call for a deposit of preferred stock under this agreement.

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GIRLS CREMATED IN EARLY MORNING FIRE

Mother Leaping From Window of Burning House Is Fatally Injured.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 11.—Two girls were burned to death and their mother fatally injured, and two other children of the same family were badly hurt in a fire which destroyed the farm dwelling of Albert Bennison, twelve miles south of Hercul, N. Y., near the village of Reville, at 4.30 this morning. The fire started from an overheated chimney. Mrs. Bennison with her night clothing in flames leaped from a second story window. Her sons, Thomas and Albert, also jumped. Cora Bennison 15, and her sister, Alice, 16, were burned to death in their beds. The father and other members of the family got out of the house unhurt, Mrs. Bennison is probably fatally hurt, and Thomas and Albert are seriously injured. The dwelling was destroyed.

NEW MEXICAN LINE LOOKING FOR BUSINESS

Steamers to Ply as Far South as Corinto.

H. F. Ostrander, of the firm of Jensen & Ostrander, of Seattle, arrived in town yesterday in connection with the establishment of their local agency, and was seen today and questioned as to his intention in regard to Victoria. He made a statement as follows: "We are establishing a four-weekly passenger and freight service between this city and Mexico, calling at San Francisco en route and continuing down to Central America as far as Corinto in Nicaragua. This is the end of the coffee country, and as far as it will pay the company to go at present. We are making a bid for the business from British Columbia, both to Mexico and Central American points. The two boats we are putting on are particularly suited for this business, as they were built for the tropical trade, being intended for the run between Amsterdam and Java. After San Francisco, Manzanilla will be our first port of call, and there we shall connect with the Mexican Central railway, and give through bills of lading to Mexico city, or any points on the railway. It is the intention, both of the railway company and of our firm, to make the route to this coast as low as it is at present to the same ports from St. Louis. By doing this we expect to secure a considerable portion of the business."

"You may tell the people of Victoria that we want their business; that we shall do our best to show that we are able to deal with them in a prompt and business like way. Our passenger accommodation is equal to any on the coast, and as we come from Missouri we are ready to show them what we can do."

VICTORIA HOCKEYITES TO MEET VANCOUVER

Local Players Have Selected Strong Team for Saturday's Match.

Considerable interest is centred in the hockey match to take place between Victoria and Vancouver on Saturday at Oak Bay. Both teams will be fully represented by the best talent available in each city, and, although the match is expected to prove close, Victoria is confident of winning and avenging the defeat which she sustained in the Terminal city. Local enthusiasts claim that the team selected to represent the capital is one of the best of recent years, and the idea of defeat at the hands of the Terminal city is not entertained. The match promises to feature a fine exhibition of the game of hockey, which is gradually gaining in favor on the Pacific Coast. Vancouver has not yet been defeated this season, but the Victoria stick-handlers are generally regarded as invincible on their own ground. The following team has been selected to represent Victoria:

- Lord, Full Backs, Russell and W. Mason, Half Backs, Bamford, Winsby and Mason, Forwards, T. Winsby, Montgomery, Hart (capt.), Schwengers and Lawson.

BOOM COMPANY IS REFUSED A CHARTER

Shuswap and Thompson Rivers Bill Thrown Out by Committee.

The bill for the incorporation of the Shuswap & Thompson Rivers Boom Company was thrown out by the private bills committee this afternoon after the whole session had been spent in hearing evidence. Three sessions of the committee have been held in the consideration of this measure, a very strong fight being put up in opposition to it.

The company has already got incorporation from the Dominion to carry on the business of a boom and river improvement company on the Thompson and other navigable streams, and what it was seeking here by provincial incorporation was the right to exclusive operation over an area of something like thirty thousand square miles and containing all the way between three hundred and five hundred streams. In that area there is estimated to be about six billion feet of timber, over half of which has not yet

B. C. HARDWARE CO., LTD. ON SALE AT 510 JOHNSON STREET. A complete line of Dominion Carriage Co.'s Buggies, Delivery Rigs, Adams Wagons, Farm Trucks, Dump Carts, Wheel and Slush Scrapers, Cockshutt & Fairbanks Morse Windmills, Fleury, Cockshutt & Wilkinson Flows, De Laval Cream Separators, Bucher & Gibbs Garden Implements, Kokomo Cream Separators, and Vulcanite Roofing. B. C. HARDWARE COMPANY, LIMITED. OFFICE: COR. YATES AND BROAD. 510 JOHNSON ST. Phone 82. Phone 1611.

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been disposed of by the government. This morning James C. Shields was again heard in opposition to the bill, and the promoters were then allowed to put in further evidence in support of their proposition.

After the parties had withdrawn the committee discussed the measure and decided to throw it out.

CANUCK CURLERS WIN AGAIN.

Glasgow, Feb. 11.—The Canadian curlers to-day defeated the Loch Leven province players in a six rink match at Crossmoylo, by a score of 104 to 52.

HILL LINES IN MANITOBA.

Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 11.—Petitions are now before the Manitoba legislature, and bills will shortly be introduced for allowing James J. Hill to build further railways in the province and also to form a company which will purchase all these railways and control them under one name. This legislation will permit the Hill forces to concentrate their work in the province.

HAINS' MURDER TRIAL.

A Plot to Release Prisoner Now in the Tombs.

New York, Feb. 11.—Investigation of the alleged plot to release Romington Mercer from the Tombs prison, which caused the arrest last night of Joseph A. Shay, formerly counsel for Thorton J. Hains in the Flushing murder trial, was begun to-day by the city authorities. District Attorney Jerome, who caused Mr. Shay's arrest, declared that no suspicion of any kind was attached to John F. McIntyre, who was senior counsel in the Hains murder case, and whose name had been mentioned by Mercer in a statement made last night.

OUT OF WORK TRAGEDY.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 11.—Arthur Pollis, a young married man who has been out of work for a year, shot himself on Tuesday night and died of his wounds while on his way to the hospital.

WOMEN A

(Contd.) Taxation Mr. Oliver provisions for by municipalities improving per acre to ex tax, instead of decreasing the amounts shall a 160 acres. In provincial which improve down to 3 Oliver's amen plain that ski machinery for nection with lo long lumber o deemed to be statutory acd such logging s loved by cleo on the land. claimed area amount repres ditpre of not l not to be deen total amount ture shall be improvement to d exceeds or fall Mr. Oliver, s and minister o amendment and The change w rural municip immense mitea in proportion vast areas of untaxed, to the development. The amendm At the reque sity power was sonal property for fire protect An amendm toria gives pow places for sl their limits, of ing. On the r this power was palities. The power t aming and p present posses 5,000, was exte 2,000, at the couver. Licensi To a propos 3,000 power p "electricians a installing elect on poles, etc." of British Colu position develo E. V. Bodwe the B. C. Ele pointed out the employ who w work was fully for of wiring i protected by B. C. Electric places to plac hardship if its examination i which they wo nittee to exte of the sectio incorporated o W. T. Parrel Telephone Co There was no from their wiv whether, outd for of wiring i enough to form without calling C. Electric or panies. City Solicitor section and p nittee that it pass by-laws. not assume the pass vexatious "You cannot will not," obs Mr. Mann as was absolutely the action of the to save expens youths were se "Not by our Bodwell. "It is so, to this city," ret Mayor Hall, c of Municipali to enact the s sity, as poor w accidents and W. H. Hayw not think this s fecton there i sion running a and would be tent, and there provincial overs other matters s the section sta and that the c the government introducing provi This view was members of the N. F. Mackay, and C. W. Mun it, and the mo Other Fower to pass tanted to tow nicipalities. The sections taxes was amer no discount sha taxes. Victoria aske out and assess on property ad parks, squares, hwards, the sa Mayor Hall exp cover such cas avenue. The s City Solicitor asked that the considers the s the statutes of Municipal Act, to consult with "things they wa statutes" asie Fred Davey in "A pretty coo nicipalities," w committee "as a morrow. Twelve per ce ace yield of go