The Colonist.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1900.

WHAT OF THE PEOPLE?

We have heard a good deal during the last day or two of certain actual and would-be political leaders. We have been told that one gentleman was entitled to support, that another had claims which ought not to be ignored, that there ought to be a campaign against certain individuals, that the time is ripe for starting out on a federal lines campaign, and there are several places yet to hear from. There have been meetings here, there and everywhere of gentlemen with personal or party aspirations in view. But as yet no one seems to think it worth while to take the people into account. Now we have a statement to make, which we believe is capable of proof, namely that there is not a man before the people of British Columbia to-day, in the capacity of a leader or would-be leader of a political party, who has any personal claim upon the electors whatever, and that the time has come when "measures, not men," must be the watchword of the voters.

On Thursday last the Colonist indicated the general lines upon which it believed the affairs of the province should be carried on. The strongest approbation of the views then expressed has come from private individuals, some of whom representing large business interests, but no politician or no aggregation of politicians has thought it necessary to say a word publicly to take politics out of the rut of personalities, or strike a higher note than that of office-seeking. The country has waited for the word, but it has not been spoken. Those to whom it has been accustomed to look for leadership have shown no disposition to lead. There are plenty of men quite ready to take office; but there never was a dearth of such in this or any other part of the world.

What British Columbia needs to-day above and beyond anything else is a strong and progressive policy. Mr. Martin gave out a political pronunciamento a few days ago, but if it has met with endorsement from any quarter, the fact has escaped our notice. The policy needed is one that will appeal to all the great interests, to those engaged in mining, those engaged in mercantile pursuits, those who earn their living by manual labor, those who depend upon agriculture, those whose chief capital is their faith in the country and themselves and who care little what men hold office so long as the affairs of the country are conducted on lines that will ensure prosperity.

But generalities are not what is needed now. The people have a right to something specific. Therefore we say that in our view the composition of the next legislature ought to be such as will ensure legislation along certain well-defined lines. The blight upon business resulting from the ill-advised legislation of 1899 must be removed first of all. This should take precedence over everything else, for if investment is to be paralyzed and labor is to remain unemployed, there is no use of projecting enterprises calculated to develop the province under normal conditions. The law excluding aliens from our placers must be repealed, and workmen must be given the privilege of contracting out of the eight-hour law, if they so desire. We have no objection to a universal eight-hour day being established by law, that is, to legislation declaring that eight hours shall constitute a legal day's work in all cases where the contrary is not agreed upon between the parties, but we contend that no legislature should be guilty of the tyranny of saying that any man shall be compelled to remain idle for sixteen hours out of every twenty-four.

We contend now, as we have all along contended, that the province ought to enter upon a line of policy which will insure its development by railways. Two lines seem to us to be entitled to the first place in the consideration of the legislature, namely a line from the Coast to Kootenay and one to the northern end of Vancouver Island. We are quite open to conviction that other lines call for immediate consideration, but speak of these because we know most about them.

We hold that the relations between the Province and the Dominion ought to be taken up and adjusted. These include the mutual co-operation of the two governments in works of development, the definition of the respective powers of the two legislative bodies in the matter of railway charters, and some other subjects.

All questions affecting labor ought to be handled with firmness and disposed of in such a manner as to remove them once and for all out of politics. The proper way in which to treat the problem raised by Oriental competition must necessarily be considered, and should be dealt with as a whole and not in a local or fragmentary way. It is very evident that much will depend upon the line of action taken by the Dominion parliament in respect to Oriental immigration. There has never been a really honest attempt to dispose of this much vexed issue, which has hitherto been employed chiefly as the tool of demagoguery.

The agricultural interests of the province call for intelligent consideration in order that the very important industry of husbandry in its several ramifications may be promoted. The governments of all the other provinces have been able to discover practical ways in which agriculture and kindred industries could be rendered more prosperous, and it is only reasonable to suppose that the same thing can be done in British Columbia.

The construction of roads, trails and bridges should be carried on as rapidly as the business and colonization of the country requires, and if necessary money should be borrowed for this purpose.

Owing to the rapid changes in the distribution of population, frequent redistributions in the representation of in the general assembly are necessary. In settling upon a basis of representation, population, area and the claims of the several business interests of the province ought to be taken into account.

We believe that the laws relating to mining corporations, the control of crown lands and some other matters vest too much power in the hands of the government of the day, and that they should be so amended that neither the investment of capital nor the efforts of home-seekers shall be subject to the interference of those who are for the time being members of the executive council, but that there should be definite laws, which all persons can read and interpret for themselves without having to take account of political influence with the government.

Such are some of the matters to which we think the attention of the people of British Columbia can be directed with better results than to the aims of would-be leaders or the schemes of party organizations. We have endeavored to present our views upon them in a general way, and admit that wide latitude must be allowed for differences of opinion as to details. But upon the general principles and upon such few details as have been above mentioned, we feel that the great majority of the people of British Columbia will heartily unite.

AN EARLY DISSOLUTION.

We print a letter from Mr. D. W. Higgins, in which he urges an early dissolution and election as being of prime importance. We have not had time to examine into the legal questions involved, but it is undoubtedly very much in the interests of the province that the elections shall be held at the earliest possible day. Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated the case very correctly when he said that the issue is now in the hands of the people. The sooner the people dispose of it the better. If Mr. Higgins is correct in his views as to the time necessary to get a new house elected and called together for the transaction of business, we do not know of any one thing of more importance just now than an early dissolution. It will be simply intolerable if the existing unsettled conditions are to be continued all summer.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

(From Wednesday's Daily Colonist.)

So far as the public know the political situation has not materially changed during the last twenty-four hours. The statement made in the Senate by Senator Mills, that when a lieutenant-governor undertook to dismiss a ministry and appeal to the people he took his life in his hands, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reference to the same matter, introduce a new factor into the situation, though what the effect of it will be cannot be foreseen. Lieutenant-Governor McInnes certainly never contemplated such a possibility, and the Colonist did not when it urged him to surround himself with new advisers in response to the undoubted and indisputable attitude of the house and the country towards Mr. Semlin and his colleagues. We think it may be positively asserted that there is little dissatisfaction throughout the province over the dismissal of Mr. Semlin after the vote of the house. It would, however, be folly of the most egregious nature to deny that the selection of Mr. Joseph Martin as premier has created a genuine feeling of alarm. It is quite immaterial whether or not Mr. Martin is as dangerous a man politically as he is represented to be. The great majority of the people are afraid of him, and there is no time now to disabuse their minds on this score. What the Colonist in common with what we are satisfied is the great majority of the business interests of the province are most concerned about is not the actual harm which Mr. Martin is likely to do, if he gets control in the house, but the effect of the restlessness and uncertainty to which his premiership has already given rise, and which will continue for an indefinite time if he remains in office. For this feeling of restlessness and uncertainty there may be no real foundation, but it exists just the same, and there is little reason for surprise at its existence, when it is recalled that he was unable to command the support of even one member of the legislature, and that he could only secure a partial cabinet with which to carry on affairs in some sort of shape by taking in two utterly untried men.

It may be said that the voters will settle all matters when the election comes on, and that Mr. Martin will certainly be defeated. Granting this, we see no relief in it for the present serious conditions, which are daily becoming more serious. We do not know any reason why we should deny that Mr. Martin is actuated by a desire to advance the interests of the province. Indeed it is because we believe that he is that we appeal to him to take a comprehensive view of the whole situation and see if he cannot serve British Columbia best by recommending the Lieutenant-Governor to call some one else to the premiership. If he will realize the true state of public feeling, the actual dangers which are ahead unless something is done to restore confidence, and will sacrifice any personal feeling which he may naturally have and take the course just suggested, he will gain immensely more in the esteem of his fellow citizens than he can hope to do by persisting in his effort to form an administration which the country will not endorse. This is an exceptional sort of appeal to address to a premier, but the conditions of British Columbia are exceptional. His personal claims are nothing compared with the interests of the whole people, the welfare of all the chief business interests of the province. If he seeks for precedents where premiers have abandoned the attempt to form a government in order to allay public distrust, he will not have to look far for them.

The responsibility of forming a government with which to appeal to the people is the lightest of the burdens resting upon Mr. Martin. He can probably do this, if given sufficient time. Upon his action will depend not simply the political future of the province for the next few years, but its business future for a long time to come; for unless settled conditions are speedily restored a very long time will be necessary to re-establish the confidence which was so general a year and a half ago. If he succeeds at the polls the prevailing anxiety will be increased. If he is defeated, the unrest will be continued until a new premier has been installed in office and had time to formulate a policy. Meanwhile rather less than four months have to elapse before it will be necessary to have supply voted, so that there is little enough time to accomplish anything towards solving the political problem which confronts us. We believe that Mr. Martin can cut the Gordian knot by an act of political self-denial, and we are not hopeless that he will feel impelled to do so by a regard for the interests of the province, which are undoubtedly of greater moment to him than the premiership.

RAIL TO THE NORTH.

The active canvass for signatures to petitions addressed to the Dominion government and asking for a subsidy in aid of a line of railway to the northern end of Vancouver island has begun. Canvassers will call upon citizens during the week, and petitions have been left in a number of places for signatures. The following is the petition, which is reproduced here so that those who are asked to sign it may be familiar with its contents and not be under the necessity of reading it:

To His Excellency the Governor-General in Council.

The petition of the undersigned residents and voters of the Electoral District of . . . . . in the province of British Columbia,

Humbly Sheweth:

That Vancouver island, British Columbia, has an area of nearly 18,000 square miles, and is rich in mineral resources, timber and land adapted for settlement, but its development is retarded by the lack of proper facilities of communication.

That it is proposed to construct a railway from Wellington, the present terminus of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway to Hardy Bay, or some other suitable point at or near the northern extremity of Vancouver Island.

That the length of the proposed railway would be approximately two hundred miles, and with the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway would provide a continuous line of railway from one end of the island to the other, from which by a system of short branch lines every point on either coast of the island could be readily reached.

That mining operations are being carried on at many points on the island, but are much handicapped for want of railway communication, but the progress in metalliferous mining already attained is greater than what had been accomplished in the Trail mining division of Kootenay five years ago, and in the opinion of your petitioners, if the proposed railway were built, the mining industry on the island and its colonization would be rapidly promoted.

That statistics show that the residents of British Columbia pay an average of nearly $20 per capita into the revenue of Canada. Hence the colonization of the island would be of great benefit to the Dominion from a financial point of view.

That the proposed railway would be able to make connections over the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway, and by way of railway ferries or fast passenger boats, with the Canadian Pacific and the United States railways, and by means of fast steamers with points in Northern British Columbia and Alaska, and would thus become a very important factor in the traffic to and from the northern gold fields, and would also afford a connection between Victoria and Vancouver island generally, and also the city of Vancouver (by means of railway ferry) with any line that may be constructed to the Pacific Coast through Northern British Columbia.

Your petitioners therefore pray that a subsidy may be granted to aid in the construction of the proposed railway.

And as in duty bound will ever pray.

March, 1900.

If it had been thought advisable, much more in favor of such a railway might have been stated, but it was deemed best not to make the petition too long, so as to save the time of those who are asked to sign it. The committee having the matter in charge will probably send forward with the petitions a memorial setting forth in greater detail the merits of the proposed line.

The circulation of these petitions will not be confined to Victoria and Vancouver island but will be sent to all places in the province where any interest is likely to be taken in the proposed undertaking. We believe the people of Vancouver will take the matter up with equal avidity with those of this city, because the construction of this railway will mean the immediate development of the resources of Vancouver island on a large scale, and while this will be of more importance to Victoria than to any other part of the province, Vancouver will derive great benefit from it.

Special attention is directed to the statement in the petition that the average contribution of the people of British Columbia to the federal revenue amounts to nearly $20 per head. If 10,000 people sign this petition they will represent a population of at least 50,000 and this population will contribute annually to the Dominion exechequer $1,000,000, or nearly as much in a single year as the subsidy of $6,400 a mile for the railway would amount to. But as all know these subsidies are not paid out of current revenue, the money for them being borrowed. The loans run for, say, 50 years, and interest and sinking fund call for about 4 per cent. a year at the very outside. Such a subsidy as we have suggested would call for or entail a charge upon the federal revenue of not more than $50,000 a year, or one-twentieth part of what the number of signers above suggested pay. But this is not all. The construction of this railway would in ten years add thousands of people to the population of Vancouver island. We venture to say that in ten years after the railway is completed the people within the area directly benefited by it will pay into the revenue of the Dominion so large an amount, by reason of the increase in population, that one-fortieth part of their contributions will meet the charge upon the revenue which such a subsidy would create.

That this railway will be forthwith constructed if the subsidy is granted, we know, because we have definite information that capitalists stand ready to construct the road in such an event. No one need feel any hesitancy on this score. What we have to do in this city and elsewhere is to see that we demonstrate to the government at Ottawa that we are very much in earnest in this matter, and the best way to do this is to send in the most numerously signed petition possible.

A QUESTION ANSWERED.

A correspondent sends the Colonist the following communication:

Is there any warrant or precedent for the Hon. Mr. Joseph Martin retaining the premiership in the face of an almost unanimous vote of want of confidence in him passed by the unanimous consent of the house before it was prorogued? And failing such resignation, is it not the imperative duty of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to dismiss Hon. Mr. Martin at once, pursuant to the "no confidence" vote of his duly constituted parliament?

Replying to this we have to say that the Lieutenant-Governor might have dismissed Mr. Martin after the vote of the house, but it is probable that Mr. Martin stipulated that there should be a dissolution of the house as a condition precedent to his acceptance of office. One weakness of Mr. Semlin's postion was that he did not ask for a dissolution after his defeat on the redistribution bill. When Peter Mitchell formed his cabinet in New Brunswick in 1865 he was almost without support in the legislature, but was given a dissolution. This case is very much like the present one in this province. Great indignation was expressed because the Lieutenant-Governor in that instance disregarded the wishes of almost the whole popular branch, but he was sustained by the popular vote.

THE NORTHERN TRADE.

The statement has been made that the northern trade is falling off and that Victoria especially is feeling the effect of the decrease. So far from this being the case, the fact is that the trade is better than ever and our merchants are receiving just as large a proportion as they ever did. The output of Klondike will doubtless be much larger this year than ever before, and while there is not likely to be a great rush of miners to Dawson, unless some new discoveries of importance are made there, there will be a large influx of people into other parts of the Yukon valley, including Atlin.

The origin of the statement above referred to is doubtless the great attention which the Cape Nome diggings are now receiving. This district is temporarily eclipsing the Yukon in the sensational newspapers, and will doubtless attract the greater part of those who mine in other people's pockets. But even this will contribute to the northern trade, for if the Nome diggings prove as rich as it is claimed they are, there will be a great tide of travel to them down the Yukon river, which will be open both earlier and later than any other route.

We do not desire to print anything of a boom character, but if the reports from the Big Salmon river, brought out last fall by the few people who went in and returned are corroborated by the news received when spring opens, there will be a rush of people to that part of the country, which, by the way, is in Canada and possibly in British Columbia, that will rival the original Klondike stampede, only it will be handled with the greatest ease by the White Pass & Yukon railway and the steamers on the lakes and river.

We await with great interest the result of development work in the copper deposits around White Horse rapids. If this proves equal to the promise of surface indications, we shall see immediately the establishment there of great mining plants, which will lead to the building up of several towns.

Atlin will unquestionably take a new start this spring. There is nothing now to retard it except the alien exclusion law, and the effect of this will not be sufficient to prevent rapid progress.

We look for a better year than ever in connection with the trade of the Golden North.

MR. BROWN'S TERMS.

(From Thursday's Daily Colonist.)

We learn that the statement in yesterday's Colonist, telegraphed from Vancouver, as to Mr. J. C. Brown and the Lieutenant-Governor is not quite accurate. Our Vancouver correspondent represented Mr. Brown as saying that the Lieutenant-Governor asked him if he were called on to form a cabinet would he accept Mr. Joseph Martin as attorney-general. He had answered that he would not. We are informed on the best authority that this is calculated to create an erroneous impression and that the facts are as follows: Mr. Brown and Mr. Martin were summoned simultaneously to Government House, the Lieutenant-Governor's intention being to ask Mr. Brown to accept the premiership. No stipulation was made that Mr. Martin should be attorney-general. The Lieutenant-Governor's reason in sending for Mr. Martin was because he understood that it was through his instrumentality that the defeat of the Semlin ministry had been brought about. During the course of the interview Mr. Brown produced a telegram from some friends in New Westminster in which he was told that if he became premier and Mr. W. W. B. McInnes was made attorney-general he could count upon the support of that district. On this being shown to the Lieutenant-Governor, the latter distinctly refused to assent to any such arrangement. We are not informed as to the reason why Mr. Brown and the Lieutenant-Governor failed to come to an agreement, and make no comment upon it, the only object of this reference being to state the facts as are now informed on authority that they existed at the time.

A TRIUMVIRATE.

Martin—well, that's natural enough; Kellie—well, anything that Mr. Kellie may do will surprise nobody; but Kidd—the mild unassuming, child-like and bland Mr. Kidd, the Caesar's wife of the Semlin party, the supposed incarnation of guilelessness—to quote the language of the street, "Don't that beat you?"

The political morality of the agreement between this would-be triumvirate, and Mr. Martin's justification for breaking it are matters with which we shall not trouble ourselves this morning. What seems specially worthy of mention is that the existence of such an agreement furnishes the most convincing demonstration that the Semlin government was dismissed none too soon. It shows the impropriety of any premier undertaking to carry on without an actual majority in the house.

There sat grave Mr. Semlin looking, like what was once said of Lord Eldon, "Wiser than any man has any business to be"; there sat sleek Mr. Cotton, with a reputation for cuteness extending over two legislatures—and the whole country was wondering all the while what they were going to do. But behind them, as sombre as a sphinx and almost as unnoticed as a store that doesn't advertise, sat Mr. Kidd with the fate of the nation up his sleeve. We leave the merits of the business aside in order that this contribution to the gayety of nations may stand out in all its excruciating uniqueness.

A MODEST BURDEN.

(From Thursday's Daily Colonist.)

A few people yesterday declined to sign the railway petition because they feared the taxation which it would entail. Let us suppose that the subsidy to the proposed railway will be $1,000,000. For interest and sinking fund this will entail a charge of $40,000 a year. This distributed among the people of Canada would call for the payment of 8 mills per capita every year, or 40 cents in fifty years, when the loan would be taken up. The people of British Columbia would probably pay more than the others in proportion, for they do so in everything else in the way of federal taxes. They would probably pay two and a half cents a year or a dollar and a quarter in 50 years. This is the maximum per capita tax which a subsidy of a million dollars for a railway to the northern end of Vancouver Island would entail upon the people of this province. We do not wish to make any extravagant claim, but we venture to think that the benefit of such a railway would be worth at least 5 cents to each individual, or more than double his taxes.

This way of stating the case, though it sounds grotesque, is not only accurate, but it shows what an error it is to cry out against assistance to railways because of the taxation entailed by it. We do not feel the burden of taxation assumed for important public works which lead to the settlement of the country and the development of its resources. In the above calculation no account is taken of the increase of population, which will reduce the per capita contribution.

UNCLE SAM'S TROUBLES.

Our neighbors to the south have an assorted lot of troubles of their own on hand, compared to which our South African problem is simplicity itself. When we have defeated the Boers there will be no South African problem, and we are going to defeat them. But when our neighbors have defeated the Filipinos their troubles will only have begun. Puerto Rico is going to give them a foretaste of what is in store for them. This island now belongs to the United States, and as it is a very fertile piece of territory its trade is likely to be valuable. The great majority of the people of the United States would apparently like to see free trade established with the island, or in other words to bring it within the operation of the United States tariff, which would shut out all other countries from the share of the business, which they have hitherto had. To this the sugar trust and the tobacco trust object, and on top of their objection comes a protest from most of the European powers, exclusive of Great Britain. These powers say that if they are to stand by the "open door" agreement as to China, the United States must not close any doors in the face of trade with her newly acquired possessions, a proposition which seems not lacking in reasonableness. Then there are some people in the United States who say that if the tariff laws are to be extended to Puerto Rico the excise laws must also, but to do this would prevent the manufacture of the cheap cigars, which all the people use, and also the distillation of cheap rum, which sells at 40 cents a gallon. The idea of permitting the Puerto Ricans to frame their own tariff does not seem to be contemplated by any one. The "freedom" accorded to the people of this island appears to consist of relief from Spanish rule and the substitution of the American trusts. Of course the tangle will be straightened out, and in the end to the best interests of all concerned, but it is a bad one just the same.

But if Puerto Rico is a source of trouble, what about the Philippines, with their 10,000,000 Malayans? If Great Britain had the handling of this matter, the government would be given an absolutely free hand, and a benevolent despotism would be set up, which would gradually be transformed into representative institutions, as the people became accustomed to their changed conditions. Unfortunately for our neighbors everything in that country becomes a matter of party politics, and those having the settlement of great questions must always keep in mind the presidential elections, and there are in public life in the United States an unlimited number of doctrinaires—men who are strong in theories but weak in facts. Thus we are told over and over again that governments derive their authority from the consent of the governed, which principle if carried out regardless of facts would compel the United States to withdraw from the Philippines. Again, we are told that every person living under the flag of the United States is entitled to equal rights, by which rule every Malayan in the archipelago is entitled forthwith to become a citizen, indeed is a citizen of the United States, whether he wants to be or not, and has the right to send representatives to congress and help make the laws, and to come over himself and compete with his white fellow-citizen in the labor market. To practical men this seems clearly out of the question; but it is not so very easy to say what to do to meet the case presented. The necessities of the United States have not yet led to the evolution of a scheme of government applicable to the Philippines. There is not much use in an outsider proffering any advice, but if there were we should say to our neighbors that they may easily be in too much of a hurry in this matter. When they have established their authority over the archipelago, so as to feel confident that the end of armed resistance is in sight—and this will apparently not be for a little time yet—they can advantageously take a breathing spell, simply providing for sufficient revenue to meet the expenses of government for a year or two, and allowing the influence of time to get in its work.

We think the patriotic committee might very well take some method of acknowledging the thoughtful and kind resolution of sympathy passed by the American-British League of Seattle.

The Times takes no stock in the revival of the party lines movement by some of its political friends in Vancouver. We observe also that Mr. Martin denies that he is in sympathy with any such step.

A correspondent objects to anyone saying that the government has "control of the legislature." We admit that the expression is not a happy one, but do not think anyone is misled by it. But we remind him that a majority of the house so resolved on Tuesday last.

Our evening contemporary very justly rebukes the Nanaimo Herald for insinuating that it has been paid to desert Mr. Semlin and his political associates. As we understand the position of our contemporary it is that it no longer regards the Semlin party as a political entity and is watching events.

It is reported that Mr. Semlin contemplates retiring from politics. Such a conclusion would be a wise one and would meet with general approbation. Mr. Semlin's political usefulness is a thing of the past, and he shows wisdom in recognizing it.

The Times is disposed to make merry over the incident of the mace, and we concede that the theme may be made very fruitful of merriment. Nevertheless, the thing for which the mace stands, namely, the independence of parliament, is serious enough. It may be interesting to mention that the Governor-General never enters the House of Commons at Ottawa; neither does Her Majesty ever enter the House of Commons in London.

We venture to say that if the members of the legislature had shouted "Privilege" when the Lieutenant-Governor entered the house while it was in session, he would have been the first person to recognize that a mistake had been made and would have withdrawn. His Honor may be "a man of great determination," but he has too much regard for his position as a part of the machinery of the provincial government to desire to violate the privileges of parliament.

Some people have connected the Times' story about Mr. James J. Hill and a railway to Quatsino Sound with the statement in the Colonist that a wealthy and enterprising United States capitalist was interesting himself in the project. No such connection exists. The person to whom the Colonist referred, and to whom full details in regard to the Island were sent yesterday, it is not Mr. Hill, nor is he in any way connected with Mr. Hill. The Times reproduces a despatch in which Mr. Hill is mentioned as associated with a road to Port Angeles. We do not know what there is in this, but there was certainly nothing in it when Mr. Cushiag of the Port Angeles Eastern R. R. was here a few weeks ago. It would be a great thing for the Island if Mr. Hill would take the project up, but it is not well to jump at the conclusion that he is going to on the strength of a New York telegram, for Mr. Hill's plans are a favorite subject for Associated Press guesses.

Sir Alfred Milner's proclamation of martial law applies to that portion of Cape Colony which lies along the Orange river and in the neighborhood of Kimberley. Its object is doubtless to give the military authorities a free hand in restoring order in the districts mentioned in the despatch, and it is not to be understood as indicating any change for the worse in the situation, but rather otherwise. These are the districts which were embraced in the Boer annexation proclamation.

So far as we have been able to gather from the talk upon the streets, the efforts of certain Vancouver Liberals to accept Mr. Joseph Martin and make a party fight in the local elections under his leadership meets with very scant encouragement from the Victoria Liberals, some of whom say that a provincial convention of the party will reject the idea in the most emphatic way. In Conservative circles in this city, where federal lines in the local arena never had many friends, there is a good deal of quiet amusement over the Tupper-Wilson disagreement. The opinion seems to be that if anything were needed to show the complete hollowness of the party lines movement this has done it.

As yet no special reason has been disclosed why parliament should have been called together at all this year. There is even a dearth of party oratory and of this the supply exceeds the demand as a rule. Mr. Fielding has brought down the estimates. We have not had the opportunity to examine them in detail, but the brief synopsis telegraphed as to the amounts to be voted for British Columbia indicates that our interest in them will be of a purely negative character. Mr. Tarte was asked the other day why nothing had been done for the improvement of Victoria harbor, and his flippant answer was that the money could be used elsewhere to better advantage. The rules of parliamentary discussion prohibited Co. Prior from telling the minister that such an answer was a gross piece of impertinence, but that is the only way in which it can be properly characterized. There seems to be practically no limit to the amounts available for the improvement of harbors in the East; but Victorians, though they pay nearly four times as much per head into the revenue as the residents of Eastern cities, must be content to see their harbor gradually fill up, for the lack of a few thousands of dollars expended on it.

WOULD MAKE CUBANS PAY.

One-Fourth of Revenue to Go Towards Paying Huge Cost of Expelling Spaniards.

Washington, March 6.—Representative Levy, of New York, to-day introduced a resolution in the house reciting that inasmuch as the government of the United States in prosecuting the war with Spain to secure the freedom of the island of Cuba expended more than three hundred millions of dollars, and that it is now maintaining an armed force for the benefit of the Cubans, that the Secretary of War be directed to instruct the collector of customs for Cuba to deduct 25 per cent. of the money received of the island of Cuba until the amount expended on behalf of Cuba is paid.

Women with pale, colorless faces, who feel weak and discouraged, will receive both mental and bodily vigor by using Carter's Iron Pills, which are made for the blood, nerves and complexion.

NELSON'S THOUGHTFUL ACT.

Congratulated Lady Buller and a Graceful Reply Received.

Nelson, March 6.—After the relief of Ladysmith Nelson citizens cabled Lady Buller congratulating her on the success of her gallant husband. Yesterday the following cable was received: "South Farnborough—Citizens of Nelson: Most grateful for kind congratulations. (Signed) Audrey Buller."

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

CURE

Sick Headache and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing

SICK

Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured

HEAD

Ache they would be almost priceless to those who suffer from this distressing complaint; but fortunately their goodness does not end here, and those who once try them will find these little pills valuable in so many ways that they will not be willing to do without them. But after all sick head

ACHE

is the bane of so many lives that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not.

Carter's Little Liver Pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills make a dose. They are strictly vegetable and do not gripe or purge, but by their gentle action please all who use them. In vials at 25 cents; five for $1. Sold by druggists everywhere, or sent by mail.

CARTER MEDICINE CO., New York.

Small Pill, Small Dose, Small Price.