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UNPLEASANT RESULTS.

Mr. Laurier is already beginning to feel the consequences of his two-faced policy with respect to the Manitoba school question. The people of Ontario now see that he did not deal with them frankly in that matter, and the consequence is that the Controller of Customs, himself a most estimable man, finds it a matter of the greatest difficulty to get elected in an Ontario constituency. One of his strongest opponents in the North Grey campaign is the gentleman who was his most faithful ally during the general election. Mr. Clarke Wallace, perhaps more than any man in Ontario, contributed towards the late Liberal victory. But Mr. Wallace is disappointed. He sees that Mr. Laurier cannot be true to both his Ontario anti-coercionist supporters and his Quebec followers. If he follows the course which he led the anti-coercionists of Ontario and the other provinces to believe he would pursue he will break faith with the electors of Quebec, and if he keeps the promises which he made his Quebec supporters he will lose the respect and incur the enmity of large numbers who voted for his party in Ontario and other parts of the country.

The Premier's Quebec supporters are already reminding him in a very significant way of his ante-election pledges and of the promises which they were induced to make on the strength of those pledges. Mr. Choquette is one of the Quebec members who was elected because he promised the voters of his constituency that he and the party to which he belongs would restore to the Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba their schools. That gentleman, evidently not liking the appearance of things, has issued a manifesto in which he says:

"There are two questions which force themselves upon the attention of the public, and which will receive the special consideration of the Prime Minister and his colleagues. First, there is the settlement of the question of the schools in a manner efficient and practical, and on the basis of recognizing and of making the local authorities of Manitoba recognize the rights and privileges of which those authorities have been deprived our co-religionists in their province. During the last electoral fight all the Liberal candidates specially pledged themselves to effect a settlement by means of confederation if possible, and, if not, by a Federal law. Now that the fight has ended and that the Liberal party is in power, we hasten to declare that we have not forgotten the promises made during the fight, and we demand their execution. We know that the Liberals are men who will fulfill their obligations conscientiously; still we feel it to be our duty to call their attention to the facts in advance of the opening of the approaching session."

Mr. Choquette and those for whom he speaks are logical and honest. They promised that if the Liberals were returned to power they would recognize and would make "the local authorities of Manitoba recognize the rights and privileges of which those authorities have been deprived our co-religionists in their province." There is no misunderstanding this language. It is evident that Mr. Laurier's Quebec followers are bound to see that the Government shall restore separate schools to the Manitoba minority. Mr. Choquette does not talk about compromise, what he demands is that the minority be placed in exactly the same position as regards their schools as they occupied before the law of 1890 was enacted. The demand may be considered by the Government as ill-timed, and may be looked upon by the Prime Minister as exceedingly unpleasant; but what was he to expect? He must see that he could not make promises to the people of Quebec and prevail upon the Liberal candidates to repeat those promises without being required, when the

election was over and he had attained his object, faithfully to perform their promises.

It may be said that the negotiations that have been going on with different members of the Manitoba Government are so many steps towards the performance of Mr. Laurier's promises. Mr. Choquette evidently does not think so, and there are many in different parts of Canada who look upon those "negotiations," as they are called, as attempts to bribe members of the Manitoba Government to agree to terms of settlement which will be regarded as satisfactory by those who have the fate of the Government in their hands. The bribe is without doubt a large one, nothing less than a seat in the Cabinet with a portfolio, but hitherto there has been a difficulty in the way of any member of the Government taking the bribe. Is the bargain not closed because it is feared or known that the people of Manitoba are not to be bought by a seat in the Cabinet? If the position of Minister of the Interior is not held out to Manitoba as a bribe, why has it not been filled long ago?

A GREAT STATESMAN.

As Li Hung Chang, the great Chinese Viceroy, is on his way to visit this part of the world, it may be well to be in a position to form something like a true estimate of the man and of the position he occupies in his own country. "It is one of our insular ways," says an accomplished Englishman, "to consider the rest of the world fools," and it is certainly hard for anyone who knows the low esteem in which Chinamen are held, and has seen how they are treated on this side of the continent, to realize that any man of the Chinese race can be truly great and worthy of white men's respect. On the Pacific Coast the Chinaman is perhaps not regarded as a fool, but he is looked upon by the bulk of the population as something a good deal worse.

A highly educated Englishman who lived a long time in China, and who was formerly Chinese correspondent of the Times, Mr. Michin, in the introductory paragraph of an article on Li Hung Chang, in the August number of the Nineteenth Century, says:

From every point of view the visit of such a personage as Li Hung Chang to Europe would be an interesting event. He is the first Chinaman of rank who has crossed the sea, except under compulsion, and he is the greatest man in China known to have produced in this century, which out of 300,000,000 is something. He is also the only Chinese statesman who has made any practical attempt to introduce the modern spirit into the policy of his country from a conviction that in that alone salvation to be found. For thirty years he has been striving against overwhelming difficulties to put his country in a state of defence, as the condition precedent to all other reforms, and has thereby entitled himself to our sympathy. Lastly, Englishmen at least may remember that it is to Li Hung Chang they owe the discovery of General Gordon. But for the fortuitous contact of these two personalities at a critical period, perhaps neither of them would have gone down to history. The opportunity for Gordon to show his genius might never have occurred elsewhere, for he never would have sought it and would in all probability have passed his life in the obscurity of service routine, snubbed for his eccentricities by his superiors and loved by his intimates for the soul that was in him. On the other hand, but for Gordon and these same eccentricities of military genius, China might have been—who knows where?—without government, a scene of rapine on a titanic scale. Judging after the event it is easy to overlook the special merit of Li Hung Chang not so much in employing a foreign soldier—though that made an enormous breach in the wall of Chinese conservatism—but in cordial appreciation of and loyal co-operation with him which alone rendered his services effectual. It was a thoroughly un-Chinese proceeding, which it would have been well for China if it had been more consistently followed out in her recent history.

By sheer force of circumstances Li Hung Chang has been the pivot on which the foreign relations of China have turned for thirty years—a Chinese man, who alone, if we except one member of the Foreign Board, who died many years ago, ever dared to deal with foreign questions in a business-like manner. And so he has come to personate China in the imagination of Europe and to be the best known man in that country—so well known, indeed, that his faults and failings have been described at close quarters and then enlarged, while his successes have been passed over as flat and uninteresting.

Li Hung Chang has been to China what Bismarck has been to Germany and Gladstone to Great Britain. If he has not been so successful as the two great European statesmen it may be that the difficulties he had to contend with were very much greater compared with the means at his command to overcome them. Besides, the fame of the Grand Old Man and the Man of Iron has been trumpeted from one end of the civilized world to the other, while very little indeed has been heard of the achievements of the Chinese statesman. It was only the other day, comparatively speaking, that his name was known to the newspaper readers of the civilized world. Mr. Michin says that:

"It must on the whole be conceded that Li Hung Chang would have well earned his eminent position did his merit extend no further than being a one-eyed man among the blind, a description that has sometimes been ascribed to him. He must be judged neither by the religious, political or social laws of foreign countries, but by his own surroundings, traditions and hereditary. It has been the unique merit of Li Hung Chang to take a common sense view of things, to

meet complaints half-way, to reserve suggestions with courtesy, and to set an example of conciliatory demeanor towards foreigners; in a word, to form in his own person a workable joint between the petrifid ideas of Chinese polity and the requirements of modern Christendom. He has made himself accessible not only to foreign representatives, but to foreigners of every grade who could show a plausible pretext for occupying his time. His tolerance of irrelevant visitors has indeed been remarkable, but it was his only means of studying mankind and of learning something about foreign countries which fate seemed to veto his ever visiting."

But fate has at last been kind. The Chinese statesman has had the opportunity of visiting the most powerful and the most highly civilized nations of the world under very favorable circumstances. That he and his country will benefit by his visit to Europe and America there can be no doubt. It is a matter of regret that he could not have made the visit thirty years ago.

BACKED OUT.

As we expected the Vancouver World refuses to make good the statement which it defied us to dispute, "that there are in this province . . . prominent personages whose names and callings appear on the directorate of mining companies, for the privilege of which they have been allotted blocks of stock varying in value—on paper, of course—up to thousands, and for which not a solitary cent as consideration was paid." We did dispute the statement, stating our belief that it was false and slanderous. The excuse it makes for not confirming its statement is that it is not the business of a public journal to give specific instances. If that is the case, why did it make the wholesale statements and challenge contradiction. Is it the business of a public journal to make general statements reflecting on the integrity of "personages" looked upon as highly respectable, thus libelling the whole community, and then when proof is demanded, to refuse to substantiate its libellous accusation? The World should not have published its statement unless it was positive that it was strictly true, and was prepared to prove it to be so. We repeat our conviction that the accusation is false; that there is not a particle of evidence to show that there is the slightest ground for making it.

THE OFFENCE AGGRAVATED.

We do not see that the Province mends matters when it pretends to correct one inexcusable misrepresentation to perpetrate another equally inexcusable. It accused the Hon. Mr. Turner, Premier of British Columbia, of using his official status to promote certain private enterprises. We stated that if it had taken the trouble to inquire it would have found that its statement was untrue, and intimated that its not making the inquiry was inexcusable. In its issue of the 22nd it noticed our correction and said: "In our opinion the only inexcusable feature in the case is that the Hon. J. H. Turner permitted his name to appear in the advertising columns of the Toronto Globe, day after day, as one of the leading citizens of British Columbia, in whom the management and control of these mines was vested." This is indeed pettifogging journalism. The Province's second accusation is as false as its first. A little inquiry—inquiry which it was its duty to have made—would have shown it that Mr. Turner did not permit his name to be used in the advertising columns that appeared in the Globe or in any other newspaper; that his name was used without his knowledge or consent. We find that the same liberty was taken with the names of other gentlemen in Victoria, who not only did not permit their names to be used, but who were annoyed and angry when they discovered that they had been represented as being concerned in the management of mines about which they knew little or nothing. The course pursued by the Province in this matter has been mean in the extreme.

AN ENGLISH ENTERPRISE.

London is soon to have the first underground electric railway in the world. This road was projected some years ago, and a bill to authorize its construction was carried through Parliament, but want of funds prevented the company going on with the work. But the money has been raised, and the road will be before very long become an accomplished fact. This road is to be ten miles long, and will tap all the great arteries of travel. It will be in some places fifty feet from the surface, and in others one hundred feet. The passengers are to be raised to the surface on immense elevators, each having a carrying capacity of 250 persons. Forty trains an hour are to be run, and the schedule time for the ten-mile run is to be fifteen minutes, including fourteen stoppages. Every precaution is to be taken to prevent accidents. The safety of the passengers is assured by having two tunnels, one for the up and the other for the down traffic. Forty trains in the hour are to be run. Ten of these, morning and evening, will be workmen's trains, for which the fare for the round trip will be two pence. The traffic to make such a road pay must be simply immense, but the traffic of London is now so regular that calculations for an enterprise of this kind can be made with almost mathematical accuracy. This

project is not a mere speculative one. It is now being carried out energetically. "Twenty-three forces of workmen are now being engaged on the tunnels, a gigantic task which will involve the expenditure of several millions of pounds, and will be completed next summer." When an English company commences a work like this the energy and the pluck which it displays are something wonderful to contemplate.

ENGLISH IN ENGLAND.

Mr. Henry Watterson, an able American journalist, does not admire the way in which the English people speak English. He is evidently of opinion that Americans speak better English than the natives of England. He says in one of his letters that "Neither in accentuation, punctuation nor tone can the English speak English." This is a very sweeping condemnation, and there will be some, we have no doubt, who will question the competency of the critic to form a correct opinion of the purity of the English spoken by the English-speaking people of any country. Uneducated people in the United States speak quite as bad English as uneducated people in Great Britain. The accent and tone of the inhabitants of many of the States of the Great Republic are most unpleasant to those who are not accustomed to them, and it may be questioned whether the man who has for the greater part of his life heard nothing but American English can be a very good judge of the purity in tone and accent of the English spoken by the people of England. It is, in fact, very hard to form an opinion as to what is really the proper way to speak English. We are all very apt to think that those who speak English in a way different from that to which we have been accustomed, speak it badly. This tendency may, unconsciously to himself, have influenced Mr. Watterson's judgment.

It will, we think, be found that there is very little difference in the way in which really well educated men and women speak English, whether they are born in England or Canada, or Australia, or the United States. Provincialisms stick to most men who have not been thoroughly trained and who have not ways associated with well educated people. Habit is too much for men generally, and very many use expressions which they know to be ungrammatical, and pronounce words inaccurately when they know perfectly well what is the correct pronunciation. It should not be forgotten in criticising spoken English that a "touch of the brogue" and "honest broad Scotch" are not regarded as "bad English." They are, indeed, looked upon as rather the reverse, and are cultivated by those who could easily get rid of them if they were so inclined. But generally provincialisms should be carefully avoided, and a plain, unaffected way of speaking English cultivated. Our private opinion is that Canadians speak as good English on the whole as any English-speaking community in the world.

THE SALMON SEASON.

We cannot see why fault should be found with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries for having extended the salmon fishing season. It has always seemed to us absurd that the fishing season should be closed on a certain day, as if the salmon regulated their movements by the almanac. The salmon run lasts a limited number of days, not differing greatly in any year, and it seems to us that the open season should be continued as long as the salmon continue to run. By such an arrangement the canners and fishermen would be benefited, and the salmon fishery would not be injured in the least. It cannot be told beforehand on what day the run will commence, and consequently no one can predict the day on which it will cease. It should be left to the authorities on the spot to decide precisely when the fishing season should close. We trust that the ridiculous regulation that forbids the catching of salmon in the winter when the fish on this coast are in prime condition, will be done away with.

VENEZUELA.

The Venezuela difficulty has for some time been getting small by degrees and beautifully less, until now it is likely to disappear altogether. Lord Salisbury's objection to submitting the claims of the British to arbitration appeared at first very strong indeed. But reflection seems to have convinced him that the strip of country in dispute was not worth contending for. Besides, it is more than likely that the decision of capable and impartial arbitrators will be as favorable as the most exacting Briton could wish. The British case appears to be a very strong one, and the stronger it is the less risk there is in submitting the Venezuela boundary question to arbitration. The point on which Lord Salisbury held out the longest was allowing the part of Guiana that had been settled by British subjects to be included in the territory to be arbitrated upon. The British Premier considered that the nation at all risks was bound to protect these settlers, but it seems that there are very few of them on the disputed territory and that the property they hold is not worth a great deal, so that even if they have to be compensated for any loss they may sustain by the award of the arbitrators

the expense will be a comparative trifle. Late despatches contain the information that the British Government have given way on this point and have expressed their willingness to submit the whole territory without reservation to arbitration. The decision seems to be a wise one. Settling the question by arbitration, whatever the award may be, is wiser, more humane and better in every way than either to allow it to remain open or to settle it by war. A single expedition would cost the nation more than the whole territory is worth, to say nothing of the difficulties and complications to which war with Venezuela might, and probably would, give rise.

WASTED SYMPATHY.

Our neighbors across the line may in time find out that Canadians are perfectly contented with their position and prospects as British subjects. They have no desire for independence, neither are they pining for political union with the United States. They have Home Rule in its perfection, and they see no cause in this matter of self-government to envy the citizens of the United States. When they look across the border they see very little in either the social or political condition of the people to envy. It was believed some time ago that from an economic point of view Americans were better off, man for man, than Canadians. This, people on this side of the line are beginning to see, was a mistake. They find that thousands of Canadians who went South some years ago with the hope of bettering their condition would to-day have been better off if they had staid at home. The United States, it is now pretty well known in Canada, is not a paradise for farmers or mechanics or laboring men of any occupation. They see that men must work hard, live hard, and get on slowly, if they get on at all, in the States as well as in Canada, and they find that it is pleasanter in many ways to live under the old Union Jack than under the Stars and Stripes.

There is consequently in Canada no party which has Independence for its aim, and Annexation is not so much as talked about. This may appear strange to some of our sympathizing neighbors who consider Canada's problem "perplexing and rather gloomy." Reflecting Canadians consider the perplexity and the gloom are on the southern side of the line. Here we are not threatened with financial ruin by a silver question, and our politicians do not attempt to attack the most cherished of our institutions. Bryan would be simply an impossibility in Canada, and his friend and co-laborer, Coxey, would be sent to rave and rant with other lunatics. There is no element in this country out of which a Populist party could be formed. If Simpson the Sockless had remained in Canada, where he was born, he would most likely be to-day a quiet, hard-working farmer who if he kept himself under restraint might have become a member of one of our provincial legislatures and perhaps in time found his way to the parliament of the Dominion. But under the sobering influence of Canadian social and political life he would have continued clothed and in his right mind. Political and social cranks who flourish in the United States would be out of their element in Canada, for the simple reason that they would find here no material to work upon.

It is easy to see that there is a dangerous class in the United States which is every year becoming more powerful, and for some reason or other the social and political condition of the Republic is favorable to its growth. What to do with this class, how it is to be prevented from doing mischief to the institutions of the country, of debasing them, and of making them instruments of demoralization, instead of being as they were intended to be, the means of keeping the people in an orderly and thriving condition, is a problem infinitely more perplexing than any which the Canadian legislator and philanthropist has to consider. In Canada the patriotic public man has to study how to help the people to do well; in the United States the main object of his solicitude is to prevent a very large and a very energetic class from doing irreparable mischief to the State. It will have to be admitted that the outlook for such a man in the United States is to-day very gloomy indeed.

THE BYE-ELECTIONS.

The two bye-elections yesterday resulted favorably to the Government. The contest in both constituencies seems to have been sharp. In North Grey particularly the Government were obliged to strain every nerve to get their man returned. If Mr. Laurier could make up his mind to appoint a Minister of the Interior his Government would be complete and he would be able to show the country what a Government of all the talents can do.

One Honest Man.

If written to confidentially I will mail in a sealed letter particulars of a genuine, honest home cure, by which I was permanently restored to health and manly vigor after years of suffering from nervous debility. I was robbed and swindled by the quacks until I nearly lost faith in mankind, but, thank Heaven, I am now well, vigorous and strong, and wish to make this certain means of cure known to all sufferers. I am desirous of helping the unfortunate to regain their health and happiness. I promise perfect secrecy. Please address, simply: P.O. Box 388, London, Ont.

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