

THE MANITOBA MINORITY.

Conservatives in their somewhat tentative efforts to make political capital out of the school settlement feel inclined to preach about the "rights of the Manitoba minority." It is quite plain that while the opinions of the Manitoba minority as to their rights, and as to the effect of the settlement on those rights, should be treated with respect, it is nonsense to represent them as the deciding factor. Are we to believe that no matter how unreasonable a demand may be put forward by the Manitoba minority that demand must be satisfied in order to a settlement of the question? Suppose the Manitoba minority were unanimous in claiming the restoration of separate schools in the exact form of 1890, would the country be obliged to satisfy that claim? Who is there fool-enough to suppose that it would? That was the claim advanced on behalf of the hierarchy assuming to speak for the minority, but we all know that it has been most materially modified in view of the marked hostility of public opinion in general. Who, then, is to say where the modification is to stop? Certainly not a few ecclesiastics and politicians working for selfish ends, not for the good of the minority. Among the loud-voiced agitators are Mr. Lariviere, M.P., and Senator Bernier, whom residents of Manitoba have long known as solid beneficiaries of the old regime. The former has not only remembrance of past profits to supply him with a motive, but possibly future benefits to come from a handy election cry. Senator Bernier was superintendent of separate schools under the old system, receiving a salary of \$4,000 a year while many of the schools were starved. It will hardly do to accept such men as these as disinterested champions of the minority. In all probability if the minority were left alone by priests and politicians they would gladly accept the settlement as promising to afford their children a much better means of education than was available in the past. We do not believe that even with the efforts now making to incite them to opposition they will feel much inclined to reject it.

Municipal problems would never be solved by giving free rein to snobbery. The Canadian Gazette observes: "Canada, it would seem, has not much to fear from competition in British markets with Australasian fresh-killed meat. Mr. Alexander Bruce, chief inspector of stock to the New South Wales department of agriculture, admits, in his annual report to the assembly, that the attempt to establish a live-stock export trade with Great Britain has turned out a failure. The cattle were not up to British requirements in the matter of quality, the journey was too long, the accommodation inadequate, and the cost of transit too great to enable Australasian beef to compete with the very best trans-Atlantic meat at from 4d to 5d per pound. Therefore, the chief inspector concludes, that if a very considerable rise in the price of this class of beef and mutton does not take place in England, there is little or no prospect of Australasia, with the long voyage, comparatively high freight, and heavy expenses for forage and insurance, ever being able to compete with Canada, or the Argentine, or even the United States."

An Ottawa correspondent writing on Dec. 9th said: "Sir Richard Cartwright has been so long in public life that most people naturally think him an old man. Last Friday was his sixty-first birthday, so that he is, really, in the prime of life. A man of strong vitality and considerable physical strength, Sir Richard no doubt feels a touch of rheumatism a bit irksome, but on the score of good health, he has much more in his favor than the generality of mankind. He is now the senior member of the house of commons in point of service, having been thirty-one years continuously either in the old parliament of Canada or the new, with the exception of one session. Experience is the most coveted and costly thing in the world. It is especially valuable in public life, and Canada is most fortunate, irrespective of party, in having this long experience placed unobscuredly at her disposal, by such a well-balanced statesman." The country may well wish that Sir Richard's health and strength may long continue to permit of his giving it such service as he has rendered in the past and is now rendering. There are few Canadian public men to be named who have labored so unselfishly and so efficiently for Canada's benefit.

TORONTO'S EXECUTIVE.

A few days ago the Times suggested to those who favored the establishment of an executive board in connection with the city council that it would be well to enquire into the working of the system in Toronto, where it has been in force for a year or two. The "board of control" in that city is very much the sort of separate executive that some of our reformers propose. One thing is plain, that however great a reform the board of control may have proved in Toronto it does not abolish all "kicking." Witness its description by one of the Toronto papers as "an ignominy that is capable of being turned into a boodling machine with the greatest success and least danger of detection. It has been of no value whatever during the

past seven months, except to the mayor, whose penchant for secrecy has had free course in the secret box meetings of the controllers. It enables him to pay \$231 illegally to the mother of his political creator; it also enabled him to draw \$700 of salary additional, and in many other ways it has enabled him to work his grafts with greater ease than the old system when the executive committee was in existence. The proceedings of the legislative committee of the city council yesterday went to show that the aldermen are thoroughly disgusted with the board in its present shape. The best way to amend the act would be to strike it off the book entirely; failing this heroic measure the double vote of the mayor should be taken from him and the board increased to five members, although seven or nine would be better." Perhaps there are heaven-born civic governors in Lillooet recently. It was found necessary to amputate the limb. By last advice it is said Mr. Dalton cannot survive the shock. A prisoner named Eldridge escaped from the provincial jail at 6:30 on Saturday morning and was re-arrested 18 hours later. Eldridge was held for burglary.

IN A CIVILIZED AGE.

According to the New York Sun, an U. S. naval officer has laid down a very nice plan for the suppression of the Canadian sealers—whom he calls "pirates." As the Paris Tribunal put down Uncle Sam's assumption of the right to exclude sealers from the Behring sea, the officer, as quoted by the Sun, thinks the adoption of another line of policy necessary. He suggests that the sealers should be harassed in every possible way and puts his ideas into this very pleasant language: "Most of the ships of these pirates are rotten little tubs, bilge-bustum schooners, 'just a pack of rotten plates put up with tar. They are continually obliged to put into some of the little harbors or ports along the crooked Alaskan coast for wood or water or repairs of some sort. And there isn't one of them that doesn't violate some of these customs regulations every time he sets foot on shore. He's as certain to do it as he is to see land. He may not have the slightest intention of doing it, but ignorance of the law is no excuse, and the thing to do is to seize him every time he makes a break. Worry him. Make it cost him money. Confiscate the pirate's schooner every time it is possible, and burn as many of them as you can. Have the law on him continually. There's nothing these fellows hate so much and know so little about as the law, and they cannot afford to hire lawyers to fight for them. A first-class judge who knew maritime law and the customs regulations, and wasn't afraid, would soon make those fellows mighty sick mighty quick. Every time he couldn't confiscate the pirate boat he could render a decision that there was probably cause for seizure, and would release the government from all liability for damages." It is quite possible that these suggestions do not come from a naval officer, but originate with the truculent savage who edits the Sun. In either case it is rather surprising to find them made in cold blood to a nation that professes to be one of the most civilized on earth. The misfortune is that the barbarian plan is only too painfully like that which the U. S. authorities already pursue.

COOPER'S MISSION.

San Diego, Dec. 16.—The secret of Henry Cooper's mission to the United States is out. Mr. Cooper is Hawaiian minister of foreign affairs. He is here to-day and is quoted as saying that he came to the United States to urge annexation, owing to the fear that the Hawaiian government has of Japan. The situation in Hawaii, according to Judge Cooper, is that the Japanese far outnumber all other foreigners. The Americans are but a handful in comparison. Hawaii has a treaty with Japan and cannot exclude Japanese, who are pouring into the island constantly and pushing into every business. They are losing the humble demeanor which characterizes their countrymen on this coast and are beginning to chafe for elective franchise. If they force Hawaii to give them the right to vote, then the American ascendancy will be at an end forever. Judge Cooper laid the situation before influential men in the east and believes great strides will be made during the next year towards annexation under the McKinley administration.

A MESSAGE TO MEN.

Proving That True Honesty and True Philanthropy Still Exist. If any man who is weak, nervous and debilitated, or who is suffering from any of the various troubles resulting from youthful folly, excesses or overwork, will take heart and write to me, I will send him confidentially and free of charge the plan pursued by which I was completely restored to perfect health and manhood, after years of suffering from Nervous Debility, Loss of Vigor and Organic Weakness. I have nothing to sell and therefore want no money, but as I know through my own experience how to sympathize with such sufferers, I am glad to be able to assist any fellow being to a cure. I am well aware of the prevalence of quackery, for I myself was deceived and imposed upon until I nearly lost faith in mankind, but I rejoice to say that I am now perfectly well and happy once more and am desirous therefore to make this certain means of cure known to all. If you will write to me you can rely on being cured, and the proud satisfaction of having been of great service to one in need will be sufficient reward for my trouble. Absolute secrecy is assured. Send 5c silver to cover postage and address, Mr. George G. Strong, North Rockwood, Mich.

British Columbia.

VANCOUVER.

Hon. Mr. Davies met the representatives of the local pilotage board at 11 o'clock on Monday and had a protracted discussion with them. He met the board of trade and city council at 2:30. The corporation presented him with an address of welcome, which was followed by an address from the board of trade, which referred to the fast Atlantic steamships, neglect of British Columbia by the federal government, the Fraser survey of the northern channel, the fisheries, a police boat for the north, a lighthouse at the Narrows, and support to a road from the coast to Kootenay. An address from the cannery men followed. The banquet to Mr. Davies in the evening was largely attended.

Mr. A. C. Stewart, who was recently accidentally shot, is recovering rapidly. He was taken from the hospital yesterday to his residence on Mount Pleasant. Mr. J. D. Dalton, of the Fraser River Mining and Dredging Company, who met with a serious accident at Lytton some weeks ago, died yesterday at St. Paul's hospital. Whilst on a dredge at Lytton he was caught in the machinery and his leg was seriously hurt. On Sunday the leg was amputated but deceased failed to rally from the effects of the operation and passed away yesterday.

On Saturday last public meetings were held in the town hall, Langley, at Fort Langley, at Langley's Prairie, at the school house, Dunsmuir, Mount Lebanon and the Lytton hotel, for the purpose of discussing and listening to addresses delivered by the promoters of the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern railway. These were all largely attended and the several speakers listened to with much attention.

Lord and Lady Shelton Douglas have arrived in the city and are registered at the Manor House. His Lordship says he has come to British Columbia to escape the persecutions of the sensational American press and to shoot ducks. In the Supreme Court Justice Justice Drake the suit of the Golden Gate Mining Company to recover \$1,000 damages from the Granite Creek Mining Co. was tried. The damages were claimed on account of the defendants blasting and falling on the plaintiff's ground, seriously interfering with their operations. The jury returned a verdict for \$750 damages. Mr. D. G. Macdonnell appeared for the plaintiffs and Messrs Chas. Wilson, Q.C., and J. E. Seiler for the defence.

At the annual meeting of the Richmond Agricultural and Industrial Association D. Rowan was elected president; J. W. Sexsmith, vice-president; M. J. Henry, second vice-president; A. B. Dixon, secretary and treasurer.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

The result of Monday's civic elections is as follows: For mayor—Shiles, 295; Armstrong, 233. Aldermen, T. Owens, C. W. Gillanders, W. A. Johnson, J. Jaeger, R. Buckland, W. A. Handcock, D. Robson, J. A. Calbick, B. Douglas, W. H. Keary, Messrs. Handcock and Johnson are new members, replacing A. J. Holmes (who did not seek re-election) and A. E. Wood (who has been elected).

On Sunday morning Miss Upton, an old resident of this city, died somewhat suddenly. On the day of the municipal election the ratenayers voted on the question whether there should be an audit of the civic books for the past six years. The vote in favor of an audit was 341, and against 146. The council at its last meeting passed the following resolution: "Whereas the number of tramps and vagabonds in this part of the province is rapidly increasing, and to whom a number of serious crimes have been charged; and whereas, armed burglars and highwaymen have committed numerous outrages in this and other cities of the province within the past few years; and whereas the dread of the lash has had a remarkable effect in checking criminal outrages in other countries; therefore be it resolved that this council through its representatives in the commons, intimate to His Honor the minister of justice, that it is in favor of an amendment to the criminal code which would render burglars armed with deadly weapons, or tramps carrying deadly weapons, liable at the discretion of the court to be flogged."

NANAIMO.

The police commissioners on Monday pronounced on the charges made against Chief Crossan and Constable Thompson by the Rev. D. A. McRae. Commissioner Davidson found the charges sustained by the evidence and proposed dismissal of the officers. Commissioners Johnston and Simpson found that the charges were not sustained, and voted to keep the two men in office. The majority, of course, ruled.

Saturday afternoon. The meeting was a large one and was in session for some time. After some discussion the agreement was come to that the miners and mine laborers of the New Vancouver Coal Company work for six months at the present schedule of wages, subject to any material change in the price of coal in the meantime.

ROSSLAND. Rossland, Dec. 15.—The cross-cut on the 108 foot level of the Deer Park has been driven twenty feet in solid ore and no wall is in sight, the ore being of the same character as was found in the last forty feet of the shaft. Shipments will begin as soon as the new machinery is installed and the wagon road is built. The new plants of the Homestake and Red Mountain started up yesterday. President Corbin to-day received telegraphic permission to begin operating the Red Mountain railway. The blockade of freight at Northport for this point will be cleared up before passenger service begins, which will positively be on Saturday.

A negro named Aston attempted a serious assault at Trail yesterday on an 18-year-old daughter of Mr. White, of the Columbia Hotel. He is now in jail here awaiting trial. The coroner's jury has been hearing the testimony for two days as to the death of John Dwyer. The verdict tonight was that death had been caused by injuries to the spleen inflicted by an unknown person. Dwyer was on a spree and engaged in several fights, but no one so far appears to be responsible for his death, although a miner named Jim Manson, who had the last fight with him, is still held.

Announcement has already been made of the purchase of the Zilior, in the south belt, by a strong syndicate, a member of which is F. Aug. Heinze, of the Trail smelter. The syndicate has commenced work under the management of H. Stevenson. Five men were sent out by the Big Back Gold Mining Company to the east fork of the Salmon river from this city last Monday to work all winter on the properties of the company in that district.

REVELSTOCK. The fact of Messrs. R. Marpole and J. A. Mara going to Montreal together was given out to much speculation, but it is generally conceded that the most probable reason is the possible purchase of the C. & K. S. N. Co's steamers and business by the C. P. R. Co.

Last week there was shipped from Arrowhead a consignment of Silver Cup ore to the Tacoma smelter. The shipment was of one 20 tons, and was of an average value of \$400 per ton, a fact which should not be overlooked, representing, as it does the grade ore to be had in the Trout Lake camp. The silver ore of the district are as rich in silver as those of any other grade well known in the Silver Cup ore being some \$36 per ton. Mr. Jameson, engineer for the Horne-Payne Co., has given Craig & Hillman a contract for 15 hundred tons of ore from the Broadway. On this property they are sinking a shaft and running a level to the vein, and will also run a second tunnel one hundred feet below the first workings to catch the vein for depth and give stopping. When the vein is caught and the ore picked, shipments will probably begin.

Trout Lake will be one of the shipping silver camps this year. The Great Northern, Hugh McPherson, manager, has let a contract for hauling three hundred tons of ore to Craig & Hillman. The ore will probably go to the Nelson smelter. At the sitting of the court of revision Thursday it was demonstrated that this town and surrounding country were progressively being developed materially to the country's wealth and development. The total taxes of last year were: High rate, \$7,325.14; low rate, \$5,700.19. This year they are: High rate, \$9,199.84; low rate, \$7,312.09, giving an average increase of nearly \$2,000 in taxes. But this is not all. The increase from other receipts in the local office, such as mining and revenue, amounts to about \$6,000 more than last year, and it is fair to state that in common with all the other districts of West Kootenay, we have greatly increased their receipts, this one will be well in line and give an addition to provincial revenue of \$8,000 over 1895.

The inquest on the body of the man killed on the Arrow Lake branch last Friday disclosed the fact that deceased was a Swede named Andrew Johanson. The coroner's jury decided on Monday that he was "killed accidentally by an engine, while under the influence of liquor, no blame attaching to any one." A rider was added to the verdict suggesting that as the depot and its neighborhood at Arrowhead is more or less a thoroughfare, the railway company should properly light the place.

BOUNDARY CREEK.

Boundary Creek Times. The shaft on the Nightingale is now down 17 feet in solid ore. The double compartment shaft is now down 45 feet on the R. Bell. Mr. Dier is putting 15 men to work on his newly acquired property at Fairview. An important deal is being consummated for the transfer of a large tract of coal land at Rock creek, the particulars of which are not at liberty to divulge this week.

The Times is informed on good authority that assays as high as \$50 and \$60 in gold were obtained by Mr. Turner from the Gold Drop, at a depth of 50 feet. The copper value was from three to six per cent. The tunnel is now in 110 feet on the Mother Lode and the assays are steadily improving. The manager states, however, that in his opinion "the rock is harder than any to be found in British Columbia." Sinking was started on the Oro, owned by Messrs. Douglas, Wake and Atwood, in Central camp, on Thursday, supplies being taken up to the claim sufficient to last the winter. The ledge is four feet wide upon which a shaft has been sunk for 12 feet. The ore is very high grade copper-gold. The vicinity of Christian lake gives

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promise of becoming a rich mineral producing region. Some excellent results have been obtained recently from assays of ore from that neighborhood. At present seven men are working on the Lalla Rookh, and three shifts are employed on the Edison group. Mr. Galloway bought, this week, a quarter interest in the Tip Top, and a quarter interest in the Sylvester K., Greenwood camp. Another mining company has been organized in Spokane to operate in Boundary creek, and have acquired the B. C. Central claim, in Deadwood camp. The claim was formerly the property of Mr. J. McNeill. A group of four claims in Deadwood camp, the Gem, Iron Top, Lizzie and Buckhorn, have been bonded by Mr. J. Dunn, to a Mr. Elliott, representing a New York syndicate. The gem is in the vicinity of the Mother Lode and is considered to be one of the most promising claims in the camp. Mr. Bartholemew, local manager for the Combination Mining and Milling Co., returned from Spokane last week. Mr. Bartholemew states that the company intend to thoroughly develop the property in Providence camp during this winter, carrying the present 35 foot shaft down for 250 feet, cross cutting and drifting at respectively 100 and 200 feet. Later on a force of men are to be employed to drive a tunnel from the south end of the claim with the object of tapping the larger quartz ledge (supposed to exist) and connecting with the main workings, gaining a depth of 400 feet. Messrs. Sanson & Hubbrook have received the smelter returns from approximately four tons of ore shipped to the Puget Sound Reduction Company at Everett, Wash., from the D. A., one of the Boundary Creek M. & M. Co's properties, as follows: Silver 74.7 oz., gold, 4.99 oz.; lead, 2 per cent; total value, deducting freight and smelter charges, \$449.69. Judging from assays made this week the G. A. R., owned by the same company, is also a shipping proposition, the ore from the bottom of the shaft running \$15.05 in gold and 196.45 oz. in silver, or \$142.87 for all values. The vein matter is galena, blende and pyrites.

PORT SIMPSON. Port Simpson, Dec. 11.—The weather during the past week or so has been very stormy, but it is now changing for the better. Mr. R. H. Hall met with a sad accident last Sunday night. He, while leaving the Northern Hotel, fell over the wharf on to some rocks. On being examined it was found that one rib was broken, while his scalp was badly torn. However, under the skillful attention of Dr. Bolton he is fast improving and hopes to be around again soon. The Salvation Army returned on Monday, the 6th, from Juneau, by the steamer Willapa. Archdeacon Collinson, Rev. Stephenson and Mr. W. D. Clifford left here yesterday morning for Metlakatla to attend the funeral of Mrs. Ridley. The

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. CURE SICK HEAD ACHE. 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 cure.

SEVERE That is Right Coast Keep Schooner Grace from her Crew cured by Wind Blowing Miles an New York, Dec. 16. set in yesterday snow and sleet still continues. At ing Sandy Hook blowing from N. A steamer are anchored in the harbor. One pilot b The telephone c with the life-sav sey coast is do from the life-sa ports from Lonk Park say nothing morning of the Green, which wa afternoon. Her- the Dominion stea two steamers res morning, the Star the Asion from m sels left port thi can line steamer ampton, Red St istic for Liverp of coasters, were day but it is dou ture out in the e New Haven. Co storm of unusual this section. It along the coast. snow has already Philadelphia. D snow storm whic ening continued and at noon to-d abating. During the wind blew a s street car track. The suburban tra two exceptions, a New London, Co panive harbor is crafts of all sorts from one of the The trolley lines b by the snow fall, and promises to r

FROM TH Messrs. Laurier, to take Pa wall O Mr. Bostock Arr his W Eng Ottawa, Dec. 16 Laurier, Hon. Mr. Devlin left for Cornwall and to-m Lord Aberdeen a here to-morrow a go the same evening ing to Ottawa for Through trains P Parry Sound will Monday next. Mr. Bostock is he ish Columbia from there is a great a in England respect The free dairy s ment auspices, will N. B., from Janua year fifty-four stud lar school. Local medical me a branch of the Br Toronto, one of the Halifax and Winni meets in Montreal Ottawa, Dec. 15. eau and Prefontaine to-day making final the winter service of leurs railway with They are also seek proposed bridge ac river at Montreal. Subsidies have alre by the city and pro ask 15 per cent. A statement comes that the next larg ment will underlat ment of the St. A arrangements are same. A survey will first of the year an passed at the nex The rumor is agat Gwynne will be nuated from the S making room for C Toronto, one of the tario's judiciary. A collector of cus for the port of Des dismissal. Mr. Tarte and the ere have gone to M with Sir Richard Messrs. Fielding and

DEFECTIVE AR Condemnation of a Stock now at N New York, Dec. 16 Herald from Newport Net results of the board, which is inve steel, may be summ equivalent to the con the whole amount no Newport News Com