

# YE HORNET.

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This insect careth not one rap  
 Who may despise or scorn it.  
 'Tis full of fight and vim and snap—  
 In short, a most pugnacious chap  
 You'll find the dandy HORNET.

### HUMMINGB.

It must be admitted that the meeting held on Saturday week, in Vancouver, to select delegates to the Kamloops convention of the Independent party, was not the conspicuous success which it might have been. There were elements of disturbance, if not of positive disintegration, present, and their existence in the party is a most undesirable thing, in view of the absolute necessity, which undoubtedly confronts them, of presenting a solid front to the enemy. Mr. Duval's assault on Mr. Cotton, however he may have felt justified in making it, was undoubtedly an injudicious thing in the circumstances, and, although met in a very dignified way by the gentleman assailed, could not fail of having a damaging effect on the public mind. Rev. Mr. Maxwell did a good deal to redeem the credit of the assemblage, and Mr. Cotton's speech was undeniably a strong one. But Mr. Magee's declinature to act as a delegate must have had a terrible effect. To be sure, as he himself, with refreshing candor, admits, there should be no difficulty in getting a better man to fill his place. Of course not, George; but think of the compliment paid you in the selection of you when that "better man" was available! Altogether we are disappointed that Vancouver could not furnish better material from which to select delegates than that which showed up at that meeting, and it was a great pity that they should have begun by spitting at each other like so many Thomas cats on a back fence. It was a worse give-away than the Premier's Soda Creek telegram.

That was a great meeting of the School Trustees on Thursday evening. The same old feud was resurrected, and the sparring over Sparling was resumed. Fortunately they did not come to fisticuffs, but it was almost a pity they did not. Brown might have been brought to his senses—or killed. Either consummation would be one devoutly to be wished. He tried, as he has always done, to bully the Board, because

G. I. Wilson's being in the chair gave Brown "a working majority." Mr. Wilson, in our opinion, acted perfectly right, and both he and Mr. Macgowan were in the line of their duty to the public in objecting to the re-instatement of Mr. Sparling. The Board, after finding him guilty, as they claimed to have done, of making false statements to the Board and tampering with examination papers, would only stultify themselves by re-instating him. The action of the householders in the East End in urging his re-instatement was unquestionably ill-advised. If Mr. Sparling can, even at this late day, clear himself of the charges made against him, then let him do so, but, in the name of all that is manly, let him not be re-instated simply on an appeal *ad misericordiam*. Let the whole Board resign, and at once. Then the people will have a chance to show their approval of those members whose official action appears to have been right, and put men in the place of those of them who appear to have forgotten the maxim "that public office is a public trust." As for "Wullie," it is high time that he was given his *coup de grace*. But we would save his wig to place in the museum of which the Council formed the nucleus last year by buying those seals. Wullie's wig would, after the lapse of a few years had ripened and mellowed it, be quite as interesting a relic as Yorick's skull.

The animus that actuated the assailants of Colonel Tracy has been sufficiently exposed by themselves, but it will do those gentry no harm to furnish the readers of THE HORNET with a further exposure of the disgraceful way in which they have misrepresented facts in order to gratify their very small professional jealousy or disappointment. The editor of this paper had quite a long talk with one of the employees of the Water Department, who is at work on the laying of the new main in the Narrows, and who has had long experience in the work under those who have run the system since its inception, and he readily and frankly spoke as follows: "Colonel Tracy can afford to smile at those attacks upon him, just as he could defy the combination that was formed for his removal from the control of the Water Works in the last Council, and which collapsed so ignominiously, to the intense disgust of the present (and then) Chairman of the Fire, Light and Water Committee of the Council. We men who are doing the work may be presumed, I think, to know something of the methods and the efficiency of the system adopted by those at work. Now I have this to say, that Colonel Tracy has always given the closest personal supervision to the work; that he has, at all times, given the men under him the courteous treatment that one is entitled to expect from a gentleman, but which one never looks for from a contractor, and that he has shown himself, in every instance, capable of grappling with every difficulty that arose promptly and effectually.

"About the death of that man about whom Westcott talks so much, as if it was part of the extra expenditure incurred in consequence of his (Westcott's) not getting the contract, I have simply this to say, that the man caused his death by his own carelessness and that nobody else could, for a moment, be blamed. Furthermore, I must add, that Colonel Tracy spared no personal trouble or expense to have the man properly cared for, after the accident, and in this respect he deepened the high feeling of esteem in which we all held him, both as a gentleman and an engineer. I think it would not be a bad idea for that irate contractor to "wipe off his chin and pull down his weskit."

Our informant, we may add, spoke very strongly in regard to the inefficiency—or, rather, incompetency of the Superintendent. If all that was stated in regard to that gentle-