

The Colonist

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1900.

SHIRKING A DUTY.

(From Sunday's Daily Colonist.)

Mr. Joseph Martin has published an elaborate platform. It contains twenty-two planks, concerning which we may quote the famous saying, "Some of them are good, and some of them are new; but those that are new are not new, and those of the latter is the means by which he proposes to deal with the eight-hour law. This is the only one to which reference will be made this morning, for it is that upon which the most will turn in certain sections of the province. In brief Mr. Martin proposes to refer the eight-hour law to a plebiscite, if he cannot adjust the disagreement between the miners and mine-owners. This is a direct attempt on his part to shirk a duty, which devolves upon him as the first minister. By it he lays himself open to the charge that he lacks political courage, which was the one virtue claimed for him. In order to catch a certain vote, Mr. Martin calls his proposed referendum "the principle of the referendum," but the word is yet without evidence that the principle of the referendum can be successfully applied in any community, except where the population is compact and the actual conditions to be dealt with by the plebiscite are matters of common knowledge. The submission of a specific enactment to a popular vote is foreign to British ideas of government, and it is there were any precedents for it, the nature of the question proposed to be submitted and the ability of the people of the province generally to form an intelligent opinion upon it preclude the possibility of a verdict being arrived at which will have any great value in an economic sense. For the eight-hour law is purely an economic question. Sentiment has nothing to do with it. It is simply a business proposition upon which the great body of the voters cannot possibly have an opinion based upon knowledge. The duty of the first minister is to deal with questions of this nature. That is what he is for. He has no right to shirk it. We can easily understand that the coal miners of Vancouver Island, for example, as well as the eight-hour day, would naturally vote for the same hours of labor for the metalliferous miners. But how many of them really understand the circumstances under which metalliferous mining is carried on? On the other hand, we can understand how a rancher, who works from sun to sun, might decline to vote for a short day. As a general proposition, we suppose most people would vote for an eight-hour day on principle. But how many of us are able to say understandingly whether or not the conditions existing in Kootenay are such that this rule should be enforced there? Mr. Martin is going to endeavor to have the people, who ought to understand the question, settle it, and if they fall he is going to refer it to the vote of those who do not understand it. Then if 10,000 people say the law must stand, and 10,001 say it must go, it must, no matter what merits it has or how much its repeal will injure the miners. If the vote is reversed then the law must stand, no matter what injury it may do to the mining industry. Mr. Martin also fails to take note of the fact that when the new house meets the majority of the members may refuse to be bound by his plebiscite. His duty as premier of this province is to decide upon what is the best policy for the province, and take the responsibility for placing it upon the statute book, if he secures a majority in the house. Instead of recognizing this, he shirks his duty, abandons his boasted position as the champion of the workingman, and adopts a line of policy which is not only unstatesmanlike but is open to the charge of cowardice.

PROGRESS OF THE COAST.

(From Sunday's Daily Colonist.)

If wise policies prevail in regard to legislation had administration the residents of the Coast section of British Columbia may look forward with confidence to a period of exceptional prosperity. Said a Victoria gentleman a few days ago: "If you should go to any ordinarily well-informed person in New York or London and tell him that you knew of an island nearly as large as Nova Scotia, lying in the very highway of the world's travel, with a climate like that of Southern England, with great deposits of coal and metalliferous ores, with the finest forests in the world and a large area of fertile soil, and almost practically unoccupied and not yet fully explored, you would be taking chances with your reputation for veracity. If you should tell them that with green fields all the year round the small population of the island sent two thousand miles inland to a country where winter rules for nearly half the year and also to the Antipodes for their butter, you would be regarded with absolute distrust, and if you added that sometimes they send away ten thousand miles for potatoes, you would probably be given in charge as a dangerous person. Yet you and I know that this is true of Vancouver Island." It is undoubtedly true, it is also true that if some wandering mariner should report that he had discovered such an island uninhabited in any part of the globe, there would be a rush to take possession by the fleetest cruisers of all the nations in the world. The plain unvarnished truth is that the resources and advantages of Vancouver Island and the Pacific Coast of Canada are very imperfectly understood

by the best informed and are practically unknown to the very great majority of people. Nearly every one now understands that this Northwest Coast has matchless scenery. The army of tourists which has visited it, and the magazine writers who have told about it have made this widely known. That we can boast marvelous mountain ranges, great glaciers, grotesque totem poles and picturesque siwash is universally recognized. But the tourist and the magazine writer see things very superficially. Hence the popular idea of the Coast is a misconception. It is not quite as far astray as Congressman Benton, who, opposing the Alaskan purchase, said: "We know that north of the strait of Juan de Fuca all is darkness and desolation," but it is far from regarding this portion of the world as a field for the employment of capital and energy. Happily a great deal of quiet work has been done during the last few years in the way of bringing the actual facts of the case home to those who are in a position to act upon the knowledge, and we are glad to feel able to say that the time seems even now at hand when a period of rapid progress on this Coast is about to open.

We do not feel at liberty to mention certain matters approaching consumption, which are calculated to inspire the belief that exceptionally good times are in earnest to do as a rule seek newspaper publicity. They prefer to let their actions speak for themselves. Moreover, it is not wise to create a "boom" feeling, which may result in partial disappointment or lead to the misdirection of energy. We therefore shall only seek to increase the general feeling of hopefulness by saying that we believe it to be more than well-founded. Unless the promise of existing conditions is false, the next decade will witness a growth in the population, business, commercial importance and prosperity of the Pacific Coast of the Dominion without parallel in the history of North America. Our firm belief, and it is based upon what seems like a solid foundation, is that the turning point in the history of this part of the province has been reached.

Just here reference may be made to the progress made by our own city during the past two or three years. We are such a self-contained people in Victoria that we almost feel ashamed to express satisfaction at what is being accomplished. But a man must be willfully blind, who cannot see that Victoria is advancing not merely steadily but rapidly. Without mentioning names, we ask readers to recall for themselves how some of our business houses have expanded during the last few years. And it has not been a mushroom growth. In the business district there has been a marked advance in the character of the buildings, and one has only to compare the private residences during the same period to note how the average quality has improved. The improvement in our streets and sidewalks reflects in part the general progress of the city, although it has not kept pace with it. Certainly Victoria is advancing, and if the progress is not of the speculative kind that sets every person talking, it is none the less great and substantial. One may travel a long way and not find a city where there is so little poverty as here, or where there can be seen upon the streets any day as large a proportion of well-dressed men, women and children, who look as if they sat down to three good meals every day and are not worried about the future. We sometimes wonder if the Victorians appreciate the full truth and meaning of this greatness. When we all wanted to have a good time on Ladysmith Day no one counted the cost, and a small fortune was expended in fire-crackers. If subscribers are wanted for anything, everybody is ready to give. If a good play comes to the theatre all the seats are taken, as a rule. The stores carry high class goods, and no one fails in business. In short Victoria is in an exceedingly healthy condition and ready for an immediate advance.

WHAT OF THE PEOPLE?

(From Sunday's Daily Colonist.)

There have been several political gatherings lately. They have been called by different names. We suppose that the aggregate attendance at them has reached fully five hundred people. They have discussed a variety of things. They have discussed Mr. Joseph Martin. They have discussed whether or not they were a good time for the Liberal party to turn a political trick. They have debated whether it was not opportune for the Conservatives to score a point. They have reached quite a variety of conclusions, and if any mortal man can tell from them where the community is at he must have phenomenal powers of analysis and generalization. Meanwhile what about the people, the plain every day people—"even you and I"—what about the interests of the province in a material way, what about the fundamental principles upon which the government of our country is supposed to rest? Good reader, whose welfare is all bound up in the appreciation in value of vested property of some kind, you who have some money with you, you who like to invest with some certainty of not losing it, you who have little capital except courage, resourcefulness, energy, and honesty, you who work day after day earning your living by the labor of your brain or the toil of your hands, and all of you who wish to enjoy something of the great possibilities before this province under wise government and leave it all for your children a little better than you found it—where do you come in? What is your place in this political hodge-podge? Suppose we try for

a change—a little less politics and a little more patriotism.

We quote from an article printed in the Colonist of the 1st inst.: British Columbia is, as Emerson said of America, another name for opportunity, not an opportunity for some one to come on in and take it, but an opportunity where capital, skill and labor can be applied to the raw materials so abundantly lavished upon it by bountiful nature, and wealth created, bringing in its train general prosperity.

We plead for a more statesmanlike policy for British Columbia. We plead for the development of its vast resources, for a policy which will take cognizance of future possibilities and go fearlessly forward on lines in keeping with the magnificent future to be achieved. This is the greatest promise of those who have come here in the faith that they could safely invest their money or expend their skill and labor upon some prospect of permanent success, be sacrificed for the lack of some one with courage enough, with firmness of purpose and with statesmanlike qualities enough to strike out on new lines? This is what the people are asking themselves, and the question to which they will have an answer.

How much longer must the province wait for the right word to be spoken? Mr. Martin has come before the people with a declaration of his views. On some of his propositions there will be no difference of opinion. Others, if given effect to, will prove highly detrimental to the best interests of British Columbia, will intensify the unrest now existing, will magnify the distrust now retarding provincial development, are largely impracticable and in many respects mischievous. But what is being done to offset them? Practically nothing. There is much being said and done to offset Mr. Martin's personal appeal to the people, but next to nothing to show that the radical views which he advocates are not those which prevail in British Columbia, and this notwithstanding the fact that it is once understood abroad that they are to prevail our provincial credit will fall, and capital will shun the province, as it shun travel since a plague-stricken city. It is time for the people to arouse themselves and take matters into their own hands. In 1897 a Liberal convention was held in New Westminster, at which a platform was adopted, which it gave the Colonist much pleasure to expose as a piece of hollow demagoguery; last year a Conservative convention was held in the same city and some of the most objectionable political heresies of that day were adopted. Against this also the Colonist protested. Now we find Mr. Martin coming to the front with a platform made up on the same lines. And again the Colonist stands alone among the newspapers of British Columbia in denouncing it as hostile to the truest interests of the province.

We appeal from the politicians to the people. Shall the welfare of the province stand in jeopardy while a three-cornered fight is being waged for political supremacy? Let the property owners speak; let the mercantile classes speak; let the workingmen speak and let it be known if British Columbia, with all its limitless possibilities, is to be sacrificed to the unbridled ambition of a few men. If ever there was a dime in the history of this province when the voice of patriotism should be heard, it is now. For patriotism is not shown only by a readiness to die upon the battle field, but by duty done in an arena where the rewards are less glorious, but are perhaps far more permanent.

THE WAR.

Gen. Roberts appears to have inflicted a very severe blow upon the enemy, that is measured by its results, and not by the loss of life. The position of things in the Free State recalls the story of the returned East Indian, when asked if lion hunting was not an exhilarating sport. He said: "That depends. It is fine fun when you hunt the lion; but it has its drawbacks when the lion hunts you." While the Boer forces were on the British territory, strongly entrenched and holding back our columns, the enemy thought they were having a real good time, which they rendered still more enjoyable by firing on ambulance wagons and women's laagers, and using flags of truce treacherously. They do not enjoy the performance quite as keenly now that Roberts is after them with a sharp stick. Kruger says he wants peace. So does Great Britain. But Kruger will get peace on our terms, not his. He has talked of foreign intervention; but if he fancies that the Empire will tolerate any kind of that kind, he is very much mistaken. If he wants peace, let him send his soldiers home and give up unconditionally. There is not a man, woman or child in the two republics who will suffer in mind, body or estate, by reason of any terms which Great Britain would then exact. The burghers could return to their homes and follow their ordinary pursuits unmolested, and under a government which would score for them liberty and equality. Kruger must realize that further resistance is hopeless, and if he does not, there is little doubt that the mass of the Boer people do, and it is an open question if he can induce them to stay in the fight much longer.

Eastern Cape Colony is now free of the enemy and this leaves our forces in that part of country free to advance to strengthen Gen. Roberts, or if necessary to march around Kuthart, where rebellion has shown its head. There is a good deal of speculation as to the fighting strength of the enemy, but we fancy that Roberts must have much the stronger force. Everything points to the conclusion that the Boer army is disintegrating.

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THE QUEEN.

The reception accorded Her Majesty by the people of London was one of the most extraordinary ever extended to any sovereign. It was a spontaneous outbreak of loyal enthusiasm, a testimony to the virtue of the woman and the glory of the queen.

Let no one misunderstand the significance of this wonderful demonstration. Only one thing rendered it possible, and that is the perfect content of the British people with the government under which they live. No other capital in Europe could afford such a spectacle. For no other sovereign in Europe stands in the same relation to the people. Our despatches tell that three hundred thousand people assembled before Buckingham Palace at night singing "God Save the Queen" and cheering the Queen and the princes until the air was filled with the roar of voices. This tribute was unthought and unappreciated. No squares of cavalry paraded the streets to keep the vast gathering in order. No regiments of infantry were held under arms ready to suppress an outbreak; no one thought it worth while to swear in special police. The people were allowed to have their own sweet will. Encompassed by the nation's love, as the island kingdom is by "the inviolate sea," the Queen stood, bearing nobly her years, her honors and her responsibilities, and received the tribute which is her just due. Is there a British heart anywhere that will not feel a thrill of patriotic pride at the simple story of that glorious day?

These are days when the Empire is advancing by leaps and bounds to a consummation scarcely dreamed of by the most sanguine believer in the Empire's future. There were some who thought the celebrations of the Jubilee year would form the climax of Her Majesty's reign. But the demonstrations of that auspicious occasion were as nothing compared with what we are now witnessing. They were carefully planned, and though there never was any doubt about their sincerity, there might always be a question as to what reality was behind them. But when Boer guns belched forth defiance to the flag, the Empire arose in its might, and the world saw a spectacle for which history can furnish no prototype. The tramp of Britain's sons re-echoed round the world. The nations saw that the Empire was one and indivisible. More than this—they saw that the sons of colonial peoples were cast in the same heroic mold as the heroes of Creec, Agincourt, and Waterloo. They saw that in every corner of Her Majesty's vast domains the feeling of personal loyalty was intense and intimately associated with devotion to the nation's welfare. Perhaps it is not too much to say that the demonstration throughout the outlying portions of the Empire served to fire the heart of the British people, and in a measure to contribute to the unprecedented enthusiasm of Wednesday night.

The visit which Her Majesty is about to pay to Ireland is not the least interesting feature of the movement. That she will be royally received goes without saying. The visit is not so much that of a sovereign to a portion of her kingdom as it is a testimony to the loyalty, courage, devotion and loyalty of the Irish people. Like the thoughtful order permitting the Irish regiments to wear the shamrock in their hats on St. Patrick's Day, it is a token of gratitude, and love, and to it must be added that mark of confidence bestowed in the proposed order for the formation of the Royal Irish Guards. This can hardly fall to have a profound effect upon the Irish people and strengthen the bonds between Ireland and the Empire.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

(From Saturday's Daily Colonist.)

The political atmosphere is no clearer. Indeed, if we read the signs aright it is becoming surcharged with all the elements of a tempest. On the occasion of the dismissal of the Turner administration, the Colonist pointed out that at that time the principles of responsible government as understood in other parts of the British Empire. Possibly the force of this contention was not appreciated at the time. In a small country the personal element always enters very largely into public affairs, and it was frankly said by very many persons that the crisis of 1898 was purely a matter of individuals, and that no principle was at stake. When, during the session of 1899, the Colonist contended that the constitutional question should be forced to the front to the exclusion of everything else, its efforts were not crowned with success, the personal reflections upon the vital constitutional principles involved. We think it will be conceded now that if the course recommended by this paper had been taken and the constitutional issue had been urged home upon the house and the country, the province would not now be confronted with the present emergency. The Colonist contended that unless the fundamental principles of responsible government are insisted upon now, precedent will follow precedent until we will find the Lieutenant-Governor ruling the province, and the legislature ignored. This is the stage now reached. We draw attention to some extraordinary facts. The Senate ministry having been deposed, the Lieutenant-Governor selected as minister a member of the legislature without a single follower in the house, thereby ignoring both the government and the opposition.

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is a recognized principle of parliamentary government that supply will never be refused except in cases of the gravest emergency, for it is a fundamental maxim of our constitution that "the Queen's government must go on."

When the legislature was prorogued, the Lieutenant-Governor was made to say that a new session would be called before the close of the fiscal year. This statement must have been made on the advice of the new minister, and it is to be assumed that only the belief of His Honor that a session could be induced him to consent to prorogue the house without supply. There may be some doubt as to the duty of the Lieutenant-Governor on some points, but there is none as to his obligation not to retain in office a minister, whom the representatives of the people will not entrust with the disposal of the public money. It is true that the law authorizes His Honor to sign special warrants in certain emergencies; but we do not believe any constitutional lawyer will say that this extends to authorize him to spend the public money on his own motion, when the legislature has refused to vote it, or has not been asked to do so. The emergency contemplated by the act is something in the course of nature or uncontrollable accident or chance for which urgent demand that could not have been foreseen. It cannot be construed to cover a failure of the house to grant supply.

The position is very extraordinary. The house was in session when Mr. Martin was made minister, and if the Lieutenant-Governor was advised that there is nothing to prevent the house without special warrants, he was wrongly advised. It may be answered that the house would not have granted supply at Mr. Martin's request. This we freely admit; but this only proves that some one should have called upon to whom the house would have granted supply.

Whether the delay before supply can be voted in six days, six weeks or six months, the principle is the same. If a lieutenant-governor can prorogue the house without supply being voted and carry on the affairs of the country for six days, six weeks or six months by special warrant, he can do so for six years. If Mr. Martin's position is correct and the principle of emergency expenditure applies to the present case, there is nothing to prevent the Lieutenant-Governor, if the new house to be elected is hostile to Mr. Martin, from proroguing it and issuing special warrants.

Mr. Martin's position is substantially that the Lieutenant-Governor is the personal ruler of the province, or more accurately speaking, that he, as first minister for the time being, is the personal ruler, that the legislature may be ignored, and that the cardinal principle of parliamentary government, giving the house control of the public expenditures, has no application to British Columbia.

There are questions of policy involved in the present crisis; but they must not blind us to the great constitutional issue which is at stake, and for the defence of which the people of the province ought to unite as one man.

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NOTICE.
Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the Parliament of Canada at its next session, for an Act to incorporate a company with power to construct, equip, operate and maintain a railway (standard or narrow gauge) for the carrying of passengers and freight from some point on the coast of the District of Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, thence in a north-westerly direction by the most convenient and feasible route to a point on the Nanaimo Lakes; thence by the most direct and feasible route to a point at the head of Alberni Canal; with power to build a branch line to the headwaters of Chemainus River by the most feasible route; and to build and operate tramways in connection therewith, with power to construct, operate and maintain branch lines and all necessary bridges, roads, ways and ferries; and to build, own and maintain wharves, and docks in connection therewith; and with power to build, own and maintain steam and other vessels and boats; and operate the same on any navigable waters within the Province; and with power to build, equip, operate and maintain telegraph and telephone lines in connection with the said railway and branches, and to build and operate all kinds of plant for the purpose of supplying light, heat, electricity and any kind of motive power; and with power to acquire water rights and to construct dams and flumes for improving and increasing the water privileges; and with power to expropriate lands for the purposes of the company, and to acquire lands, houses, privileges and other aids from any government, municipal corporation or other authority, and with power to lease and to connect and make traffic and other arrangements with railway, steamboat or other companies now or hereafter to be incorporated; and with power to make wagon roads to be used in the construction of the railway; and with all other usual, necessary or incidental rights, powers and privileges as may be necessary or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

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(From Friday's Daily Colonist)
In connection with the operations of the White Pass and Yukon route and the Canadian Development Company, the Canadian Pacific Company has issued the circular letter, whereby the reduced rates for through business North (referred to yesterday) will into force. The tariff, it will affect a general reduction of those of last year, ranging from 60 per cent, and with an elimination of the old system of weight and measurement ship's option, the rates not being absolutely fixed on a weight with a liberal allowance for the weight of goods are carefully prepared for transit there are no reason why classes of goods should be charged for the rate. The circular letter reads: "The Canadian Pacific Company, Limited, having contemplated covering the lines of panes mentioned above for the routes and the C.P.C.'s line to place before shippers their new freight tariff, effective on the Yukon navigation for the season and applying on all ordinary commerce and five stock mules British Columbia port to Dawson upper Yukon river points. The tariff itself is as below: "1. Shipments of five tons or through rates, \$145 per ton, provided the total measurement of ment does not exceed an allowed 55 cubic feet measurement, all such excess measurements over allowance to be charged for in the through rate at a rate of 50 cents per cubic foot. "2. Shipments of over five Through rate, \$125 per ton, provided the total measurement of ment does not exceed an allowed 55 cubic feet measurement, all such excess measurements over allowance to be charged for in the through rate at a rate of 50 cents per cubic foot. "3. Shipments of over five than fourteen head, \$85 per head. "Shipments under this tariff carried subject to the usual company's regular bill of lading also be subject to the following conditions: "Single articles of freight over 2,000 lbs., or timbers over in length, will be carried only on special arrangement. "Powder and high explosive carbide, acids, gasoline, and will be carried only under special arrangement. "On all freight of a perishable character must be prepaid in full before delivery during 1900. "Parties in interest from all liability arising out of or connected with the above agreement, the C.P.N. Co. will operate on the northern coast of the Yukon (the White Pass and Yukon route), the agreement the Pacific & Yukon way and Navigation Co., the Yukon and Yukon railway and the British Yukon M. T. way between Skagway, a White Horse Rapid, Y.T., the Development Company, third contract, is to operate the Canadian steamer, Columbian, Victorian, Australasian, and Anglian. "ANGLIAN FIELDS OF KLO Moderate Priced Fuel Soon available in the Home of Frost King.

It was 3 o'clock yesterday when Cottage City took a sleepy of customs, press and hotel. The fact that the C.P.C. Co's liner being on her way from Alaska ports, after a passage, marked with interest and excitement snow squall 42 passengers in all, the Juneau, a few from the all from Dawson, the points, the railway traffic for several days at a stop over the big gold fields rotary plow out of service understood that a large number of pilgrims had arrived and were there awaiting the connection with the local coal deposit on Rock Creek and the big gold fields Bonanza, Hunker, Sulphur ion creeks. These coal owned by the Alaska Exploration Company, the C.P.C. Co., of which R. L. Fuld Commissioner Ogilvie and Gosnell, the public exhibition made persons examination tunnel and drift in the next report that the field is expected and the coal of highest quality comprise about 1,200 19 miles from Dawson, on south fork of Rock Creek, affluent of the Klondike. J. Gates, A. Gillis and locators were Charles R. J. Gates, A. Gillis and others whom located and cases in November, 1888. Exploration Company property from the locator's development in July, 1900, development work has been commenced. The locator's, and necessarily will be not obsolete, machinery has been sent to the field. Little over \$5 are now played sinking the shaft deep out coal, with several other shafts being sunk each ready for the market in charge of Mr. Mars. The fact of the discovery of a good, permanent seam