

THE WORLD IN ERUPTION.

The Vancouver World is very angry. The protest against its unseemly conduct in vilifying Liberals who favor a Liberal convention, made by the Times recently, has evoked a characteristically savage reply. Among the insane personalities there is but one that is worthy of attention. The World complains, with extreme bitterness of language, that the manager of the World was not included among those who received invitations to attend the Liberal convention. The complaint is an exceedingly childish one. The circulars sent out from Victoria, and we believe also those sent out from Kamloops, were addressed to the officers of the Liberal Association, whose duty it was to convene meetings for the purpose of appointing delegates. This was done in Vancouver, and the manager of the World was elected a delegate. Notices were also sent to newspapers, the World among the number, and to the Liberal members of the local house. Except in one or two instances, where there are no Liberal organizations, circulars were not sent to individuals, and all told, for associations, newspapers and individuals, only fifty circulars were issued. Messrs Maxwell and McInnes, M.P.'s, received the notification. The convention has not been called by private circular, but by the associations, and the World must see that its pitiful plaint is without rhyme or reason. Now that the World, the one sinner that needed repentance, is in line with the convention, the Times rejoices more than ever the ninety-nine that needed no repentance; and further than expressing the hope that he will stay penitent he will not say anything to disturb the present complacent opinion of the World manager that he has always been, is now and ever shall be the finest specimen of a Liberal politician that the World has yet produced.

THE LIBERAL CONVENTION.

The opponents of the Liberal convention are neither numerous nor influential. That there are opponents cannot be denied, and it would be unwise to underestimate them. Any plan of organization which would increase the working force and power of the Liberal party in this province would be certain to meet with objections. The supporters of Liberalism will only see in such opposition stronger reasons for pursuing their present course.

The Turner government supporters, including the Colonist and Vancouver World, naturally look upon the movement with disfavor. They fear that the convention may by resolution enter upon the discussion of provincial politics. If the convention does so and arrives at the conclusion that it is wise to oppose the Turner government as a party, then the Hon. J. H. Turner may as well throw up the sponge at once. It is therefore to the interest of the Colonist and World to create a sentiment that is opposed to the convention.

The Colonist leads the way by declaring that it is foolish and wrong to introduce Federal issues into local politics. To that proposition we frankly agree. For candidates for the Legislature to discuss the tariff laws, the Manitoba school act, Sir John A. Macdonald's gerrymander act, the railway scandal, the Dominion franchise, would be a crime against common decency. But who proposes to do this? Who ever suggested that any speaker, in inviting an audience to listen to him upon provincial issues, must necessarily introduce Dominion issues? The Colonist knows full well it is drawing a red-hercing carpet across the trail. The Liberal party recognizes that as a party it has much in common in its support of good government and opposing corruption, whether it be connected with Dominion, provincial or civic politics. But to discuss Dominion politics when convened for the purpose of enquiring into provincial affairs would be an absurdity that no candidate of average intelligence would think of doing.

We frankly sympathize with the Vancouver World's difficulty. It has tried too long to "run with the hare and hunt with the hounds," and the sport is of a critical character. To sit upon two stools at one and the same time is proverbially unsafe. The true Liberal will fight corruption wherever found. He will oppose monopoly, class legislation, unjust taxation and religious disabilities, whether found in Dominion or provincial affairs. And it is due the editor of the World to say that he has had a task set before him that might make the stoutest heart quail in endeavoring to support Mr. Blair in his railway policy without interfering with his duty toward Mr. Turner's administration. But must these opponents hinder a convention at New Westminster? The mere statement of their dissent ought to be the weightiest argument in its favor. If there be any argument in a "Victoria Liberal" letter to the World, published in yesterday's Colonist, it is that certain well-known Liberals of this city did not attend the meeting convened to discuss the business. This may have possibly happened in other cities, although their absence must not be taken for dissent. On the other hand, we have the overwhelming testimony of Liberals from all parts of the province that the convention may be fraught with immense benefit to the party, and we think it shows exceedingly bad taste

and judgment to endeavor to throw cold water upon a representative gathering. We repeat again that the convention is called primarily for the Liberal party to discuss Dominion affairs, and that convention may if it chooses refuse to enter upon provincial politics. If it does refuse the convention will not have been worth convening; if it does not refuse, it may sketch a programme and declare a policy around which true Reformers will be sure to rally, whether those Reformers bear the name of Liberals or Conservative Oppositionists. The Liberals have everything to gain and nothing to lose by the conference, and it may be that the consolidation of the scattered forces of the party will be so abundantly manifest that all dissent will disappear and a strong Liberal contingent will be created to do battle against the combined efforts of the thoroughly weakened and frightened Turner administration.

MR. COTTON'S PLEDGE.

Some days ago we reprinted from the Nelson Miner an interview with Mayor Templeton, of Vancouver, in which that gentleman was credited with the statement that Mr. Cotton could not again be elected in Vancouver, and that he held Mr. Cotton's written pledge that he would not join the government without the consent of the party. That, in effect, was the wording of the published interview, and very naturally it created some surprise and not a little comment in political circles. The Times among other papers expressed astonishment, and called for an explanation. That explanation has at length been given by Mayor Templeton, and we print it in full in another column. The alleged pledge, it will be seen, was the promise given in writing in 1894 by the candidate for the nomination of the opposition convention, and it was to the effect that they would use every legal means to defeat the Davis government. It was a very proper pledge to give, and was asked as will be seen by Mayor Templeton's explanation, because a former representative who had been elected as an independent had "ratified." It was Vancouver that had the "option" on Mr. Cotton, and not Mayor Templeton, and it was quite right, we think, that the representative should stand in that relation to the constituency.

THE MINING REGULATIONS.

We do not hear so much now about the excessiveness of the royalties imposed upon the product of the Yukon mines by the Dominion government. As time has shown the reasonableness of the government's effort to obtain some revenue from a district that was going to cost of many hundred thousand dollars, the protests have diminished. We will have with us in a few days the Hon. Mr. Sifton, who, as administrator of the interior department, is responsible for the regulations, and we feel satisfied he will be willing and anxious to discuss this matter with the board of trade or any private citizen who may feel interested in the matter.

We observe the question is being discussed in some eastern papers, and the view is expressed that the government's exactions will be certain to provoke a lawless condition of society, and to such an extent that the constituted authorities will be defied. This is all the veriest sort of nonsense. The idea possibly grows out of the failure of the mad proposition of a Mr. Kerr, of Toronto, who had the "courage" to ask the government to surrender to a private company the reserved claims in consideration of a certain amount of police duty which the servants of the company would render the government; or, possibly, the company got its idea from the foolish talk about resistance and rebellion, for it would seem to us incredible that a company of respectable men, and many of them good Liberals, would think it possible for the present administration to surrender these reservations to a private company, unless they really imagined that in offering to police the territory they believed they were tendering to the state an adequate quid pro quo. There will be no resistance. There may be attempts to evade the royalty; but there are attempts everywhere and always to evade the payment of duties or taxes of any kind. There will be no lynch law, as the Montreal Witness seems to fear, and there will be little violence of any kind. Why? Because our administration of the law is respected by Americans, and more important still, because the men as a class who have gone into the Yukon country are intelligent and law-abiding.

The Witness justifies the imposition of the royalties principally on the ground that the industry will be transient and that in a few years when the placers are worked out all the gold will have been taken out of the country and nothing will be left. Americans will crack the nut and take away the kernel, leaving only the shell for Canadians. It admits that the "the man who first discovered the richness of the Clondyke district might justly claim a liberal share of the riches he discovered, but the rest, who merely rushed in and took up rich claims, for which they had not labored and had given no return, certainly should not object to being taxed to pay the costs of the administration of the country, and should be willing to share their riches with the owner and sovereign of the soil." We agree with our Montreal contem-

porary in its closing remarks in the article we have been referring to: "All governments exact large royalties, as large as they profitably can, in fact, upon the richer cut within their jurisdiction. Royalties are generally exacted upon coal also. If iron, copper, tin and other metals escape, the reason is that the manufacture of them affords a sufficient return to the country, and the competition of other countries reduces the prices of the manufacture so much as to make the mines unable to bear a royalty. But gold, silver and precious stones that may be easily dug up and carried away without leaving any return to the country in which they are found, may be justifiably subjected to a very heavy royalty indeed. Of the six or seven millions or more of dollars' worth of gold taken out of the streams of the Yukon this year with so little labor, probably not one million, perhaps less than half a million, remains in Canada or in any way enriches Canadian citizens; it has all gone to the United States, which itself enacts laws forbidding Canadians or other aliens from owning mining claims within its territory, in order to keep all its own gold among its own people so far as it can. And Canadians who claim to be 'good citizens' yet object to the Canadian government exacting a royalty upon gold, because they themselves being miners object to paying their share of the general tax on the country. These 'good citizens' would rather see the Dominion government suffer loss to its revenues, would rather the rest of the taxpayers of the country should bear the cost of ruling those who are suddenly becoming wealthy by exhausting the mineral riches of the Dominion; would rather that the Canadian Northwest should become a region of lawlessness and disorder under the British flag than that they themselves should contribute from rich mines a share of the revenue necessary to administer their country."

PROVINCIAL POLITICS.

With all due respect to our morning contemporary, and a full appreciation of its motives in seeking to keep Liberalism out of provincial politics, in the coming elections, we are unable to see how its desire in that respect can be fulfilled. Nor is there anything to excite alarm in the Colonist's prediction that if the Conservative lamb were to lie down with the Liberal lion the lamb would soon be inside the lion. We venture to suggest that such a fate, though ignominious, would not be undesired, even the casual observer that the sort of Conservatism which has held sway in British Columbia so long has earned for its disciples the sobriquet of "Mooseback," and as it has been detrimental to the best interests of the province, it ought to be swallowed up or be got rid of in some way, it matters little how. We need not concern ourselves about any issues that may or may not have presented themselves in the local politics of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. They cannot be quoted as object lessons to us, and can be of no interest except perhaps as matters of "ancient history." Besides, the conditions are totally different. In the eastern provinces they have never had any Chinese question with its consequent evils to contend with, nor any shady transactions in land, mining or railway schemes, whereby the government could rob the people and enrich themselves and their friends. It pays our neighbor to indulge in specious advocacy of the present administration and to uphold a system of rule by a small oligarchy with an autocratic premier at its head. It is only to be expected that the Colonist, as the government organ, should act as a shield for Mr. Turner and his friends against the arrows of a criticism which, if truth and candor are to prevail, must be somewhat sharp.

It is time our local politics should cease to be parochial and a government by Bumbles give place to a government by and for the people. What is wanted is a government that can formulate and carry out an honest, vigorous, and progressive policy, a policy based on something better than the "chances of politics," which divide the "ins" from the "outs" and create between them a scramble for office, each seeking the "loaves and fishes." British Columbia is not a parish; indeed, we are proud enough and patriotic enough to regard

Table with 2 columns: Country, Amount of gold produced in 1896. Includes United States, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Dutch, Guinea, British, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaya, Transvaal, and All others.

Operations Resumed on the New Reduction Works at Rossland. Operations will be resumed immediately on the new reduction works which the British Columbia Bullion Extracting Company will erect on the line of the Red Mountain railway, near the O. K. grade for the treatment of the low grade ores of the camp. In an interview with a Miner reporter yesterday, Mr. L. H. Webber, the general manager of the company, gave an interesting statement of the company's intentions.

The company will give particular attention to the low grade, but highly silicious ores of the camp, which in most cases must be mined in connection with the heavy sulphides. The completion of the plant will make it profitable for mine owners to operate this class of ore instead of dumping it, as at present, with the absolute waste. The company expects to stand ready to buy for cash this ore as it lies on the dump at figures which will help materially to defray the cost of mining. The extraction company does not intend to compete with the smelting industry, as it will handle the low grade highly silicious ores, while the massive ores will be more in demand for the smelters. The extraction company hopes to treat successfully ores of the class named carrying values of from \$6 to \$15. The initial chemical cost of the plant will be 100 tons daily.—Rossland Miner.

An old negro being informed that a member of his race had forged a note on a bank exclaimed: "I got ten chillun, but thank de Lawd, not one dem kin read or write."—Atlanta Constitution.

Dinwiddle—You often say that the street car companies are not taxed sufficiently. Dinwiddle—That is what I maintain. The papers say they were taxed to their utmost in taking people home from the fireworks display.—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

It is one of the greatest provinces of a young nation. We aim at a truly national policy as well for the province as for the rest of the Dominion. If we reject Liberalism from our programme we cannot accept Conservatism, of which we have had too much already. Leave out both, what is there left?

The Turners are as much terrified at the prospects of thorough Liberal organization as were the Tupperites at that never-to-be-forgotten campaign of 1896.

It is understood that the real object of Tupper the elder's visit to British Columbia is not to engage in mining pursuits, but to study at close quarters the Turner government's method of "exploiting" the resources of the country. Sir Charles is reported to have remarked that he thought he knew something about the art, but was compelled to confess that he is as unophisticated as an infant in arms compared with the colossal ingenuity of the Turners in this respect.

The school authorities of Goettingen, a German town, noticing that the children in one school went unwashed, decided on an experiment which has worked well. A spray bath was placed in the school at a cost of less than \$200. No compulsory rules were enforced, but in two months after the introduction of the bath, the children made use of 75 per cent. of the children made use of the bath was placed, in groups of from six to nine. The school programme was so arranged that but little time was lost from the regular work. It was found that a class of fifty-one boys could bathe in fifty minutes. Up to the present about 40 cities in Europe, principally in Germany and Switzerland, have followed the example of Goettingen.

The following is the estimate of the amount of gold produced in the world for 1896: United States, \$52,880,209; Canada, 2,510,206; Mexico, 6,075,108; Argentina, 498,450; Central America, 93,015; Bolivia, 98,211; Brazil, 2,480,400; Chile, 697,830; Colombia, 3,100,500; Ecuador, 78,546; Guatemala, 2,558,000; Guyana, Dutch, 555,568; Guinea, British, 21,077,058; Hungary, 122,945; Italy, 1,652,800; Japan, 1,282,735; Korea, 10,335; Malaya, 31,902,870; Mexico, 6,075,108; Norway, 10,335; Russia, 51,902,870; Sweden, 627,900; Turkey, 8,000; United States, 52,880,209; Venezuela, 814,067; Australasia, 43,896,653; East Indies, 92,718; Austria-Hungary, 1,384,463; France, 233,261; Germany, 1,652,800; Italy, 1,282,735; Japan, 1,282,735; Korea, 10,335; Malaya, 31,902,870; Mexico, 6,075,108; Norway, 10,335; Russia, 51,902,870; Sweden, 627,900; Turkey, 8,000; United States, 52,880,209; Venezuela, 814,067; Australasia, 43,896,653; East Indies, 92,718; Austria-Hungary, 1,384,463; France, 233,261; Germany, 1,652,800; 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