

LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.

Perhaps it is too much to expect model legislation from the aggregation of estimable gentlemen who compose the legislature of British Columbia. Perhaps it is even unreasonable to expect polished diction and exquisitely-drawn sentences from the members of the cabinet; although one distinguished member thereof has been known to soar into the perilous realm of verse on more than one occasion, and not such bad verse, either. But we have a right to expect from the cabinet and from the ordinary members the temperate, the civil language that gentlemen employ to one another in common discourse. Since the present session of the legislature opened we have been treated to some extraordinary spectacles. We have heard with feelings of very great regret, the premier of this province hurl across the floor of the house at a member of the opposition an epithet which we think is without precedent in our legislative assembly. What must be the rising generation think, what effect must such language have upon their receptive minds? Is it not really deplorable that the premier of this province, a gentleman for whom, personally, we entertain feelings of respect, and whom we have always considered to be a well-bred English gentleman, should so far forget himself as to cry from his high place in that house "You are very far from justifying when you declare that Hon. Mr. Turner's faux pas caused us genuine sorrow. It is bad to have such things go forth into the world; we do not wish to see the satirists of Eastern Canada and the States and of London holding our provincial legislature up as something of the New Mexico type. No doubt, Hon. Mr. Turner felt angry at Mr. Cotton's ruthless exposure of facts as they appear to all people who came to the study of the company-mongering matter with unbiased mind, but that is no reason why he should have forgotten parliamentary usage and the temperate and self-restrained language which become a gentleman at all times. The word "liar" applied to an opponent anywhere is a vulgar epithet, unfit for the lips of a gentleman.

Then, as Hon. Mr. Pooley's extraordinary behavior. We have commented already upon that scene in a half-humorous manner, but it deserves very serious treatment; because such behavior is most injurious to the dignity and reputation of the house. Mr. Speaker, it is true, checked the ministers for their outrageous language, but he did not go far enough. He ought, we think to have warned them most earnestly that such talk would not be permitted in that house under any provocation, and that the consequences of disregarding the warning of the chair would be of a very serious character.

It is almost incredible that the president of the council, a Queen's Counsel, should commit so flagrant an offence against decency as to threaten in the coarsest manner condign vengeance upon an opponent in debate, if that opponent should dare to repeat his remarks outside the house. Persons who do not exercise much care in the selection of their words, or in the composition of their phrases, refer to such language as that made use of by Messrs. Turner and Pooley as "strong." It is very far from strong; it is, indeed, the very reverse; it is the expression of great weakness of temper, character and judgment, and shows that the speaker has temporarily relinquished the reins of self-government.

When the time comes for the people to express their opinion of the Turner ministry, we hope that they will not forget among the host of other charges that lie against the present cabinet, that the head of it called an opponent a liar across the floor of the house; and that the next highest member of it threatened an opponent with a fist-mauling, the argument of blood-and-broken-bones, if the people of British Columbia want gentlemen of that kind to control the affairs of the province they must be content to have the province looked upon by the world as a very "wild, woolly and western" kind of a place.

TAX UPON MORTGAGES.

In a late number of the Montreal Insurance and Finance Chronicle, one of the highest financial journals in Canada, appeared a brief editorial against a suggestion which had been made to introduce a bill in the Quebec legislature during the current session, to impose a tax upon mortgages. The Chronicle says it has always opposed the imposition of such a tax, and it does so in the present instance with characteristic vigor, for the following reasons:

"We think it will be admitted that as much as possible we should encourage capital to come to this province, as it is a benefit to the whole community. Were a tax to be imposed upon mortgages, it would undoubtedly fall upon the borrowers, and it would simply mean taxing such persons twice over. They already pay their ordinary taxes, and if they have to borrow on mortgages, the lender will certainly stipulate, either by charging a higher rate of interest, or otherwise, that the unfortunate borrower is to pay the mortgage tax, so that, instead of assisting the borrowing classes, it would really be imposing an additional burden upon them. One effect would be to drive capital seeking mortgage investments out of this province. There are securities of this class to be had in other provinces of the Dominion which, being free from taxation, would be preferred by investors. As this tax would increase the cost of money for legitimate uses, as it would also put an additional burden upon persons temporarily in need of financial assistance, as it would reduce the income of the mortgagee, as it would have been placed here in the confidence that it would yield a certain return, and as the taxation of fixed capital is certain to operate against the industries of the province, we shall hear no more of a mortgage tax in this or any other province."

The foregoing is a fair statement of the case against the imposition of such a tax. In a young and growing country like Canada, and in the youngest and most growing of all its provinces, we cannot afford to indulge in any financial foibles; or allow frosty enactments to nip the eye and opening bud of British Columbia, now about to blossom in British Columbia. We believe, with the Chronicle, that

legislators should be most careful in what they do regarding money, because, in so much of the laws as are mentioned, instead of bringing relief or improving existing conditions, only impose an added burden upon those who are least able to bear it. British Columbia is at the present time extremely weak in financial leaders; the finance minister and his colleagues have shown themselves extraordinarily unfit to deal with those questions. It is most devoutly to be hoped that the Turner ministry will leave to their successors, who will assume the reins of office next June, the handling of all financial questions, and not attempt to meddle with such a measure as the mortgage tax question. They have done damage enough to earn their undying odium; but, if, as has been hinted, a mortgage tax measure were sprung upon the country by these 'pretence hands at statecraft nothing short of perpetual banishment would fit their crime.

GLADSTONE AND MR. TURNER.

When, in the provincial legislature last week, the premier so far forgot what is due to decency as to glory in his "unique connection" with a speculative company, and, probably while his mind was in an over-heated condition and he had for the time taken leave of his prudence, he justified himself by referring to the London Statist as a "scurrilous paper," even going so far as to repeat and emphasize the stupid slander we thought it better to pass the matter over with silent contempt, on the ground that the minister at the time was not fully aware of what his tongue was about. But the Vancouver News-Advertiser hit off the matter very neatly yesterday and we cannot refrain from quoting. Says the News-Advertiser:

"For a gentleman occupying the position of premier of the British Columbia, to characterise the London Statist, and other prominent English journals as 'scurrilous sheets,' is to make himself the ridicule of intelligent people. In passing, it may be noted as an interesting coincidence that at the time when the article appeared in the Statist, which called forth Mr. Turner's rejoinder, the Statist was publishing in that same paper from Mr. Gladstone's pen a communication appearing under the name of the Statist, the authority of which was unquestioned on financial subjects. It is the Premier, Mr. Gladstone, who is the 'scurrilous sheet,' but the latter gentleman appears to have thought that it was possible to make the comparison still more injurious, which cannot be passed over as he has succeeded.

"We have never seen a slander more neatly caught in the toils than Mr. Turner has been by the remarkable coincidence supplied by Mr. Gladstone's letter. Mr. Gladstone may refer to Mr. Turner as 'scurrilous sheets,' but the Premier's own words in his doctory, in the post-card stage of senility and probably meant some other paper of the same name. Some gentlemen on the Opposition side could considerably enliven the debates if he would politely ask Mr. Turner for an off-hand depreciation of Mr. Gladstone. We should not feel at all surprised if things like this happened. We are losing our faculty of amazement altogether—should Mr. Turner say that Mr. Gladstone is a scurrilous old rascal who does not know what he is talking about and who should have been in an old woman's home long ago."

THE YUKON RAILWAY.

For those who have the time (and the stomach) the Tory newspapers of Canada are now full of interesting reading on the subject of the Mackenzie & Mann contract. Countless columns of double-headed destruction are being fired off; if leaders and under-bolts could kill not a Liberal would now be drawing the breath of life in all the broad Dominion; and upon a hecatomb formed by the yet palpitating corpses of the Laurier ministry and the substantial forms of Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann would probably be seated, like Lucifer in—, well, Tartarus, the dark spirit of the Tory press howling "Idiot hit," while the black frost of the Conservative periodical literature would be settling down upon Canada again and making it a land of abandoned ambitions, stagnant enterprise, decaying trade and dwindling population. By the mark! a fine subject for a Hogarth study. All the Tory criticism of the Stikine railway scheme has been pure destructive; never a line of suggestion or advice as to what should be done; all is the damatory strain. Their lugubrious allusions remind one of Carlyle's everlasting scolding, of which Douglas Jerrold remarked; "Carlyle is like a man who comes under my bedroom window beating a big drum and alarming everybody; but when I hasten down to ask him what it is all about he cannot tell me." If the Tory press were to offer some useful suggestions instead of being the moon for the sake of hearing their own voices, it would be a more profitable expenditure of ink and paper and muscle and brain. Mack, in Toronto Saturday Night, re-

views at considerable length the Yukon railway project and summarizes his views. "There are times when a young country or a young man should rise to an emergency and boldly stake much on a venture. In attaining success there are financial difficulties and the foolishness do not perceive, but which wisdom recognizes at a glance. This is the way I look at the Klondike railway transaction. The building of that railway will energize our whole Pacific region; it will act on the people of this country like a national stimulant; will capture the world's attention and will perfect that growing boom which is promising to give Canada ten years of phenomenal prosperity as no young country has experienced since the first navigator 'beached his boat on an unknown coast.' This transaction is one that strikes the hand of destiny, for at a stroke it extends the scope of the boom from the little valley of the Klondike over all the great tracts of northern British Columbia. There is no time for parley; there is no time for interest to flag, there is no chance for Alaska to set up counter-navigators to oppose the development of the region west and north of Dawson—the world's energy must forthwith flow into the channel, and the 'foolishness' of the development of Canadian resources."

Mack is only expressing the conviction of every sensible person who examines the Stikine railway project; it is not a matter to quibble over now; the contractors are taking chances almost as great, perhaps greater, than the government and Mr. Semlin and members of the Opposition in that they are attempting to give to the railway to the Yukon at once by hook or by crook. All these petty matters over which the Tory press has been howling itself hoarse will right themselves. As the ever-convenient Shakespeare has it, and this is a case if ever there was one of the full tide offering: "There is a tide in the affairs of men (and nations), which, taken at the flood leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life is dry sauntering and ignorance; on such a full sea are we now afloat; and we must take the current when it offers or lose our ventures."

WHERE THE BLAME LIES.

With deliberate disregard for the plain facts of the case the Colonist is endeavoring to throw upon the Opposition the blame for the so-called waste of time in the provincial legislature, when everyone who knows anything at all about the matter is perfectly well aware that the government have been guilty of the most shocking disregard of pledges and promises which have ever been passed. Unscrupulous is a mild term to apply to the conduct of the government in this matter. Their worthy agent has carefully suppressed this morning all mention of the long and bitter dispute between Hon. Mr. Turner and his colleagues, and the Stikine and members of the Opposition regarding the discussion of the address scrialium. We earnestly call upon all Times readers to peruse our report of the proceedings and judge for themselves as to whether the government are acting honestly by their opponents. Hon. Mr. Turner agreed with Mr. Semlin that he would not mention the address as a whole, the address had been discussed seriatim (clause by clause). For some years past the Opposition have not insisted upon their right in this matter, but that, by no means establishes a precedent; they are desirous of exercising the right now; the premier pledged his word to secure the name and signature, but he wants to back out of it. The Speaker pointed out that the whole matter hinged upon the arrangement between Mr. Turner and Mr. Semlin, not upon the irrelevant quotation introduced as a blind by Mr. Joseph Hunter. Mr. Semlin looks to Mr. Turner to keep his word, and Mr. Semlin has no right to that (indisputable authority on honor and literature) says he is. Let us see whether he is or not. Mr. Turner had no idea, he said, that the discussion would be spun out to its present length. Mr. Turner is lamentably lacking in ideas and foresight; it is not only in financing, but in matters of his own kind, he has no sense, the common precedence and fact which we have a right to expect from a premier. Mr. Semlin and Mr. Forster, with a rare, abiding faith in the 'off saying' that there is some good even in the worst of men, urged the government to keep good faith. The Speaker appealed to Mr. Turner's sense of honor in saying that he had known the premier from a long time and believed him to be an honorable man, and that as he had passed his word to the leader of the Opposition he would probably keep it. No wonder Tennyson wrote:

"Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith is worthen crowns."
And simple faith is worthen crowns.

But the simple faith of Mr. Speaker, of Mr. Semlin and of Mr. Forster was doomed to the disappointment which too often in this wicked world overtakes that beautiful sentiment. The matador of the house, Hon. C. E. Pooley, gave the coup de grace to the matter by moving the adjournment of the debate, which was carried, thus leaving him in possession of the floor. Yet the mean-spirited obsequious flunkies of the government, the "honorable" Colonist has the daring to assert that the Opposition are keeping the business of the house back! How long will the people of Victoria put up with such cool, impudent insults upon their intelligence?

AN OBLIQUE AFFIRMATIVE.

In the provincial legislature on Friday Mr. C. B. Sward asked Premier Turner, minister of finance, these questions: "Were Messrs. Woolston & Beeton authorized to promise to intending investors in the loan of 1895 that no financial aid would be given to the railway? and would be given to the British Pacific or other transcontinental railway scheme?" The Hon. Mr. Turner replied as follows: "I do not remember that Messrs. Woolston & Beeton were authorized, either verbally or in writing, to promise to intending investors in the loan of 1895 that no financial aid would be given in interest of principal would be given to the British Pacific or other transcontinental railway scheme." Now, that is a most extraordinary answer for a responsible minister to make to such questions; and considering the promises regarding this identical matter which Hon. Mr. Turner passed to the

electors of Victoria in 1894 and his subsequent conduct and remarks it is simply beyond belief that he could be so candid in saying that he does not remember. Is that a subject that Hon. Mr. Turner (who has been so closely identified with the matter from start to finish) would be likely to forget? This is the same shameful trifling that has disgraced the Turner administration from the unfortunate day that it got into power to the present time. Had Hon. Mr. Turner gravely announced that he had forgotten his own name it would have been no more of an outrage upon the credulity and patience of the assembly than that desperate: "I do not remember." Does Hon. Mr. Turner think that anything is to be gained at this hour by senseless equivocation of this sort? Does he try to delude himself that the members of the opposition are such gulls as to swallow his statements without due mastication? But what does that: "I do not remember" imply? Simply this, that Hon. Mr. Turner does not deny having authorized the project which it says little for his will that he could frame no better reply to such a question than that which came from the lips of the wretch James Carey, when giving evidence in the Phoenix Park murder trial; an exasperating, monotonous: "I don't remember"; "I disremember"; "I can't call it to mind." But the time is approaching when Hon. Mr. Turner's memory will be refreshed for him; jogged as it never was before, and it will be ill for him if he tells the electors from a public platform that he "does not remember" whether or not he made one of the most important promises that ever passed the lips of any British Columbia premier. Does he remember, indeed, a pretty story. It is the business of finance ministers to remember; that is what they are put there for and paid for; not coolly to insult the house and members of the opposition with jauntily "don't remember." If Hon. Mr. Turner does not remember that very important matter what, may we ask, does he remember? This is another dangerous piece of evidence in the matter worthless to us of our middle-headed provincial government? The electors should not forget that Hon. Mr. Turner has a very bad memory, when they are invited to give their opinion next June. What is the good of a man who cannot remember plain business matters and has not the gumption to carry it off debonairly in the pinch? Even a little clever trick like this is a little too much for the memory. "I do not remember," which is simply in the present instance an oblique affirmative meaning, does not seem to me very well, but I dare not make a confession."

THE SPANISH CRUISER.

Her Reception in New York Harbor—Salutes Fired.—New York, Feb. 21.—The Spanish cruiser Vizcaya came up the bay yesterday afternoon, and on her arrival at 3 p.m., flying the American flag from the main truck and preceded by the steam pilot boat New York. On arrival at the Battery a salute of 21 guns was fired. As soon as the salute was finished the American flag was hauled down. Surveys J. J. H. De Groot, reported that the Vizcaya had 188 officers and 493 crew, making a total of 681 on board. Two tugs loaded with newspaper reporters accompanied the vessel through the narrows. Hundreds of people lined the adjacent shores. Captain Williams, Governor of New York, visited the Spanish cruiser with the customers. Neither Forts Wadsworth nor Hamilton fired a salute. They have not done so in over thirty years.

MILITIA GETTING READY.

Reading, Pa., Feb. 22.—Captain Samuel Willis, of the Reading artillery, says that their quarter-master has received orders to get the militia ready for service by the night of the 13th inst, was brought before the Court Commissioner Dennis at 10 p.m. for preliminary trial. Messrs. MacDonald and Johnson appeared for the crown; the prisoner had no counsel. The evidence was read, the prisoner was asked if he had anything to say, and was given the usual caution. Doyle stood up in the prisoner's box and said that his name was Davis, and that he had lived in the West for 18 years. The shooting was done in self-defence, as Connors had threatened previously to shoot him, and when he stepped up to him in the Alex. Andre hotel Connors got up and made a motion, as if he were going to draw a revolver. He understood that Connors had a gun and shot first. The prisoner was committed to stand for trial at the Assizes in June.

THE HURRYING FEET OF WOMEN

At the new-born infant's cry, tells the story of woman's sympathy for her sister-woman. If women would only spread the medical gospel, that a woman is unfitted for wifehood and motherhood, if she suffers from weakness or disease of the distinctly womanly organism, there would be less necessity for the sisterly sympathy that a woman receives when she is in the throes of child-bearing.

A woman who is thoroughly strong and healthy in a manly way has to suffer comparatively little pain and sickness when she becomes a mother. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription acts directly on the delicate and important organs that bear the burdens of maternity and gives them health, strength and elasticity. It allays inflammation, heals ulceration and soothes pain. It banishes the discomforts of the faint-hearted period and makes baby's advent easy and most painless. It insures the newcomer's health. Over 90,000 women have testified to its marvelous merits and many of them have permitted their experiences, names, addresses and photographs to be printed in Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, so that other women may learn of this wonderful medicine. Good medicine dealers sell it.

"I am now well," writes Mrs. Lillie White to Dr. R. W. Pierce. "I have been doing my own household, including washing and ironing, and I have not had a day's sickness since I took four bottles of your Pierce's Favorite Prescription, one of 'Golden Discovery.' I have not been taking any medicine for over two months, but I have felt well enough to do my work for over three years. Your medicine is all that helped me."

Send, at one-cent stamps, to cover cost of this paper, to Dr. R. W. Pierce, Common Sense Medical Adviser, Cloth binding, 50 cents. Address Dr. R. W. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y. It is the most popular medical work in the English language; it contains a thousand and eight pages, and over three hundred illustrations. It is a great storehouse of valuable information—a veritable medical library in one volume.

Provincial News.

NANAIMO.

It is a pity that Messrs. Dunsmuir and Lysons, the man of business at the head of the E. & N. Co. We are perfectly aware that the Dunsmuirs love us with all their might and main and treat us accordingly, and, to be plain about it, we are fools to stand it. The last straw was about the coolest way to show their regard for us, and their desire to catch our cooing. How they must yearn for justice! The steamer Joan was suddenly taken off the Vancouver route here at a minute's notice, and no adequate provision made for anything to take her place. It was given out at first that the Dunsmuir could be got, but that was not to be. There was no boat from here on Wednesday morning, and passengers had to stay here whether they liked it or not. Late in the afternoon, the magnificent ocean liner Mystery made her appearance with the mails and tied up at the wharf. The belated passengers tried to induce her to return with them, but she declined to show them that she was a telegraph dispatch and passengers had to be put to return with them, but the telegraph dispatch was the general manager of the E. & N. Co., but the message was ignored. At last, however, permission was granted, and the "Joan" put to sea and returned to Vancouver. Now we hear from the "Daily Dunsmuir" that the "Joan" is not to be neglected, but the mystery makes her appearance with the mails and tied up at the wharf. The belated passengers tried to induce her to return with them, but she declined to show them that she was a telegraph dispatch and passengers had to be put to return with them, but the telegraph dispatch was the general manager of the E. & N. Co., but the message was ignored. At last, however, permission was granted, and the "Joan" put to sea and returned to Vancouver. 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