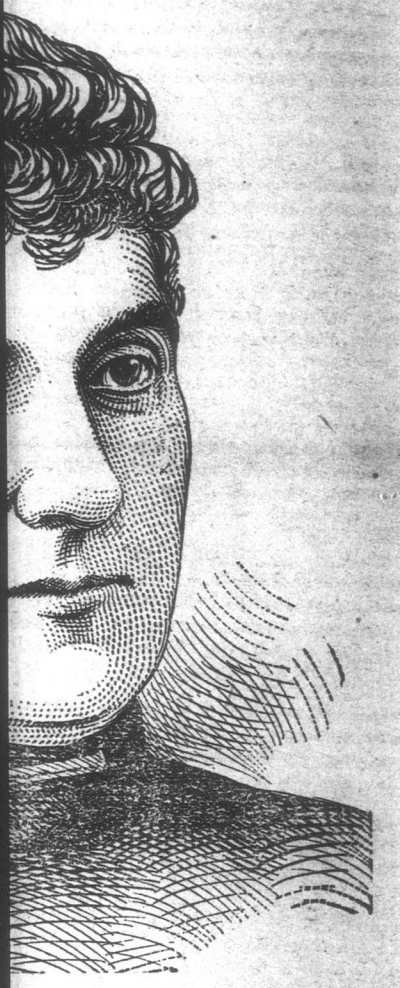


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This is the plain, unvarnished and true
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OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

The Royal Commission on Prohibition of
Great Farce.

THE LIQUOR INTEREST RAN IT

A Long and Lively Session of Parlia-
ment Expected—Government Afraid
of Scandal—Interior of Labrador.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, March 11.—The royal commis-
sion appointed to inquire into the liquor
question sat for a few hours during the
past week in Ottawa and examined a
number of witnesses, most of whom gave
evidence which was not favorable to the
passing of a prohibitory liquor law. When
it does report, there will have been
one of the most gigantic farces which
ever a long-suffering and weary-waiting
community has witnessed.

When the house of commons three years
ago was well nigh filled with petitions
explaining the views of thousands of
persons asking for prohibition, when the
question was so strongly pressed upon
the government that some notice had to
be taken of the matter, the old plan of
shunting the matter was resorted to,
and the whole subject was relegated to
a perambulating commission, with full
license to do nearly anything as long as
it kept the matter from parliament. The commission has
been all over the continent, including
Mexico, and the taxpayers will be ben-
efited just to the extent that they will
have the bills to pay.

Parliament has about run its term
since the commission was appointed, and
each session that the subject was men-
tioned in the house the cry was at once
set up that nothing could be done until
the report of the commission was re-
ceived. Indeed, it is very doubtful if it
will be received this session, so that it
will be seen that the sole object of ap-
pointing the commission, namely, shun-
ting the matter, has been accomplished.

The temperance people have long ago
been disgusted with the proceedings of
the commission, and have openly stated
that they will have no confidence in what
it may report. Conservatives as well as
Reformers, who are earnest temperance
men, are of this opinion. Senator Vidal,
from whom there is no more zealous
Conservative, has repeatedly been out-
spoken in his denunciations of the com-
mission.

The liquor people ran the whole af-
fair in Montreal, for instance, Solicit-
or-General Curran gave evidence against
prohibition, yet he is a total abstainer.
In Ottawa the temperance people wanted
to put in the evidence of the Hon. Geo.
E. Foster and Hon. R. W. Scott, the lat-
ter the author of the Scott act. The
commission decided that it was not prac-
ticable to receive the evidence of those
men. That was all the explanation that
was given. Just why Curran could be
examined and the other two legislators
left out cannot be seen on any other
ground than that the latter two are sup-
posed to be in favor of prohibition, while
Mr. Curran was well known to be against
it.

Everything is in readiness for the op-
ening of parliament on Thursday. The
cabinet is busy dealing with the tariff,
the committee appointed to confer with
the manufacturers having disposed of
their duties. Of course there will be
chambers, but that they will at all come
up to the standard people expect few
now imagine. At any rate it is perhaps
needless discussing that which in a few
weeks will necessarily be known. The
government will exactly give what the
manufacturers will submit to, for it is
well known that the ministers are under
the control of the Red Party.

One thing both Conservatives and Reformers
are agreed upon, and that is that the
session will be both long and lively.
Some say it will last four months, while
others say it may last five. A few are
quite willing to believe that before many
weeks are over the government will be
defeated in the house. That is not at all
likely. That there are serious dissensi-
ons in the cabinet is well known, but
as long as their salaries are at stake
they will all vote together.

That the government are afraid of
scandals looms up during the session
is apparent. For instance, there was a
strong likelihood of Justice Palmer, of
the supreme court of New Brunswick,
being impeached. During the past week
he was superannuated, so as to escape
this. An inquiry was to be made into
some accusations against Post Office
Inspector Barwick, of Toronto, but he
too has been laid to one side. All, how-
ever, cannot be disposed of in this way,
and the result of the session will show
this.

The interior of Labrador is not the
barren, good for nothing place people
have always taken it to be.

Mr. A. P. Low, of the Geological
Survey staff, who left here on June 5
last to explore the country, and who is
now wintered with his party at Big Lake
inlet, a Hudson's Bay post on Hamilton
inlet, on the north shore of Labrador,
in a report tells a story that will open
the eyes of the scientific world, this be-
ing the first known exploration into the
districts traversed. He says that the vast
interior between the north of Lake St.
John and Ungava bay is thickly wooded
with spruce trees, mixed here and there
with poplar. There are thousands and
thousands of square miles of spruce,
sufficient to last for years after local
forests are done out. The majority of
the spruce trees would make timber 18
inches square.

Here and there over the country are
indications of vast deposits of the richest
iron ore. The whole of the route
traversed was a revelation to him.

Mr. Low has so far made a very ex-
tensive and arduous trip. From Lake
St. John to his present quarters, follow-
ing the various streams in canoes, with
his party, he has travelled 900 miles. The
ascend of the river Ashoonpouchnonah,
which flows into Lake St. John, was
very difficult. The party carried with
them six canoes. The country proved
very rough and the rivers dangerous, so
that the trip on the whole was no picnic.
Mr. Low expected to leave his quarters
early this spring and be home during the
fall. He will try and make the return
trip through the southern part of
Labrador, just above the Quebec bound-
ary.

Mr. Low's trip has cast Professor
Tyndall's report in the shade.

It is known but to few that the first
exploration of any account, at least in
recent years, of Canada's northwestern
territory was made by Dr. Selwyn, of
the Geological Survey. In 1873-4 Dr.

Selwyn explored the great Saskatchewan
river, giving to the world its first map.
In that trip he travelled 1,056 miles
overland in a cart, and paddled 1,300
miles down the Saskatchewan, making
the greater part of the journey with two
Sootch halfbreeds. The sketch of the
river then made has not been much im-
proved by subsequent and more thorough
surveys. Dr. Selwyn then discovered
coal seams near Edmonton, which have
since been worked. The doctor also
made the first survey of the great Peace
river.

SLABTOWN.

THE CHINESE.

To the Editor:—In his second letter,
(Daily Times, Feb. 27) Capt. H. J. Rober-
tson, of Moresby Island, writes thus:
"Through the mistaken policy of foreign
governments, urged upon them by the Ex-
eter Hall style of twaddle and the retali-
ation cry, much blood has been shed and
bitter hatred kindled. At the present
time, in China and Japan, the cry is
'turn out the barbarians' brought about
principally by the actions of these mis-
sionaries. Vaillant, the bomb-thrower,
killed and injured others and was justly
punished. The grievous injustice was
trifling compared with the injury done to
our race by these missionaries in their
vain efforts to convert these Asiatics,
one being transitory, the other lasting,
therefore the work should be disconti-
nued, for the very slight good done is out
of all proportion to the harm."

What is to be understood from the
above quotation? As China and Japan are
the only countries mentioned, the evi-
dent sense is that "the mistaken policy of
foreign governments" in dealing with
China and Japan was "urged upon them
by the Exeter Hall style of twaddle and
the retaliation cry, and that this is why
much blood has been shed and bitter hat-
red kindled." Now, every one who
knows anything at all about the "Exeter
Hall style of twaddle," knows the burden
of their cry is "deal justly with all men
because all men are children of one great
Father," and as the policy of Great Bri-
tain, France and Russia—the three na-
tions most involved in their dealings
with China at least, has been consistent-
ly unjust and aggressive ever since they
came into contact with her, it is difficult
to see how their "mistaken policy" could
have been urged upon them by "the Ex-
eter Hall style of twaddle," which insists
on just, and even kindly dealing with
weaker and heathen peoples.

When H. J. R. speaks of Exeter Hall,
one naturally thinks of English-speaking
Christians, for certainly neither France
nor Russia has anything answering to the
"Exeter Hall style of twaddle," but
when he brings forward what he thinks
are proofs, he refers us not to English
missionaries nor to China and Japan, but
to the French and Spanish and those in
Annam and the Philippine Islands. "Was
the 'mistaken policy of these two foreign
governments urged upon them by the
Exeter Hall style of twaddle?" Such an
assertion as Exeter Hall, with its de-
fence of human rights—red, black, white
or yellow—could not exist in these coun-
tries. I am prepared to admit that the
Chinese would like to "turn out the bar-
barians" and that while many Chinamen
like the missionaries and individual for-
eigners, the nation as a whole would be
gladly rid of them, but I deny that it is
because they are missionaries or because
of their preaching Christ, and affirm that
it is wholly on account of their being for-
eigners. The Chinese hate and fear all
foreigners, partly on account of their race
pride and prejudice but more largely on
account of the injuries they have received
at the hands of foreigners, and of what
they suspect them, namely, designs upon
their country.

E. H. Parker, one of H. B. M.'s con-
suls in China, the China Review, for March
April, just received, says: "There is
no doubt that the Chinese originally were
still as they are, willing to tolerate Chris-
tianity, just like any other religion, if
it only could be divested of all political
and anti-Confucian effect."

You, Mr. Editor, and the readers of
the Times, are certainly to be congrat-
ulated on having found one who under-
stands "this question thoroughly," as H.
J. R. says he does; but what puzzles me
is to know what particular question he
means. At one time he speaks of Asia-
tic labor, at another of Chinese labor, and
at still another of Chinese and Japanese
labor. Of course Asiatic includes the
others, but it also includes much more,
moreover, he promises to show us how the
"labor question is affected in British Col-
umbia by Asiatic immigration." He has
China and Japan and the colonies of Co-
chin-China and Tonkin, and the protes-
torates of Annam and Cambodia, as well
as the "Philippine Islands," from which
places no laborers come to com-
pete with labor in British Columbia, and
that in his next letter he will
take us all through India, Afghanistan,
Beloochistan, Persia and Arabia, any of
which affects our labor market as much as
Indo-China.

We ought also to appreciate the purity
of H. J. R.'s motives in discussing these
questions. His motto is "nothing ex-
tenuate nor ought set down in malice,"
particularly the latter. He does not wish
to injure "any person nor employing
Asiatic labor." No, indeed, the only per-
son of this class he can injure is one who
employed Asiatic labor a few years ago,
namely, himself. He does not "write
these letters with the view of injuring
either Chinese or Japanese," nor even
"with the view of exposing the malef-
icent workings of the typical missionary."

It would be uncharitable even to suspect
him of such a motive. Did you notice
that the phrase "typical missionary" is
only a creation of his own imagination,
influenced by a warped moral vision, for
the man seemed incapable of recognizing
good in a missionary or Chinaman though
it should be placed before his eyes. To
have one head offense than in a
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H. J. R.'s love for his fellowmen is so
great as he would have us believe, if he
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and to "produce evidence to prove to the
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that these men are doing work most in-
jurious to our race." He need not fear
a libel suit, as I do not think that any
"typical missionary" will sue him for
damages even though he should make
still more untruthful assertions than
those he has already made in his three
letters, in which he speaks evil of men
who are greatly his superiors in every-
thing that makes a man superior to the
mere animal.

He says of me, "he fails to contravene
my statements that the Chinese will con-
tinue to taminate and degrade our race and
ruin our province inevitably if their immi-
gration is not stopped." I did not try

to do so, because I do not believe it, on
the contrary, I believe that if we do our
duty and treat them fairly we will ele-
vate them, and do something toward
making China the great nation it is ca-
pable of becoming. "Christians are the
salt of the earth" and are in the world
to preserve and purify it; the type of
Christianity that can be contaminated by
Chinese influence has "lost its savor," it
is good for nothing but to be cast out,
and to be trodden under foot of men."

Col. Denby was not speaking of the
enactments to keep the Chinese out of
the United States when he spoke of "the
tremendous crimes against them (the
Chinese) at home." He was, doubtless,
thinking of the disgraceful legislation of
the State of California, and of the harsh,
unjust municipal acts of the city of San
Francisco, and other cities of California
against the Chinese; "of the robbery, ar-
son, and murder, with unlimited perse-
cution, which followed kindly in the train
of these legislative acts; of Rock Springs,
Wyoming Territory, where a brutal mob
attacked the Chinese, "set fire to their
houses, and shot them as they fled, kill-
ing at least 50, and driving the rest into
the mountains to die of starvation and
exposure," but time would fail and the
heart faint to tell of all the outrages
against the Chinese in Boston, New York,
Brooklyn, Tacoma, Seattle, Denver, San
Jose, Sacramento, and many other places
in the United States. Was not Colonel
Denby justified in characterizing them
as "tremendous crimes?" Remember
that many of the outrages are directly
traceable to anti-Chinese trades by men
who hoped to gain by them, and then tell
me whether H. J. R. wishes to injure
the Chinese or not. Disclaiming the
intention will not relieve him of the re-
sponsibility. Listen to the San Fran-
cisco Argonaut: "The refuse and sweep-
ings of Europe, the ignorant, brutal, idle
off-scouring of civilization, meet weekly
upon the sand lots of San Francisco, to
determine whether respectable industrious
foreign born citizens and native-born
Americans shall be permitted to treat
Chinese humanely, and to employ them
in business vocations, or unite with the
idle and worthless foreign gang in driving
them into the sea."

H. J. R. finds fault with the Chris-
tians of Great Britain and the United
States because they spend large sums of
money—probably \$30,000,000 in four
years—on foreign missions, while he says:
"hundreds died of starvation and thou-
sands suffered from hunger." Does he
know that United States and Great Bri-
tain spend in four years more than \$3,
000,000,000 in intoxicating drinks? Six
thousand million dollars worse than
wasted for it carried in its train untold
crime and misery! These two countries
spend two hundred times more money in
destroying themselves than they spend in
trying to benefit heathen peoples. H. J.
R. is a fairly wealthy man; according to
his own evidence, given in his lawsuit
with the Colonist, he owns about 4500
acres of land in this province and \$55,000
worth of land in China; would it not
be interesting to know what proportion
of this wealth gained in China, he has
given to help any of the "thousands"
who "suffered from hunger?"

He speaks of "the injury done to our
race by these missionaries of the 'very
slight good' and of 'the harm' done by
missionaries." Our missionaries, he
called them once, surely he did not mean
the French missionaries in Indo-China.
He describes their work as "the malef-
icent workings of the typical missionary,"
as "evil results," "most injurious to our
race," "the workings of the typical mis-
sionary from my experience is maleficient."
Now I should like to know, Mr. Editor,
if H. J. R. does not think that Chris-
tianity itself is "evil results," "most in-
jurious to our race," and if it is not
this hatred to Christianity that causes
him to abuse missions and missionaries.

By the way, it might be permissible
to suggest to him to use the phrase "our
race" so that it will be clear whether he
means the whole human race or merely
the white race. He uses it so as to ex-
clude the Japanese and Chinese in sev-
eral instances, but when he brings what
he considers proof for the assertion "that
these men (missionaries) are doing work
injurious to our race," he includes the
habitants of Indo-China who suffered
from French aggression, and of the Phi-
lipine Islands who suffered from Span-
ish greed.

He speaks of the "authority of experi-
ence," his own experience, evidently, but
what experience? He was in China, and
ready dragged in "the colonies of Co-
chin-China and Tonkin, and the protes-
torates of Annam and Cambodia," as well
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