

TAXING "FUTURITIES."

There have been rumors that the farmers of the province are not in a particularly amiable frame of mind over the Assessment Act which is alleged to have produced such an increase of revenue that there is always a surplus in the treasury. It has been the boast of the McBride government that although it has increased taxation the burden has been placed equitably upon all and bears most heavily upon those most capable of bearing it. The farmers do not accept either of these propositions. John Oliver, M. P. for Delta, on behalf of the class he represents, has undertaken to enlighten the Finance Minister and Minister of Agriculture upon this point. The following letter, which appeared in the Vancouver World, will be read with interest by all classes interested in the subject of taxation:

To the Hon. R. G. Tisler, Minister of Finance and Agriculture, Victoria, B. C.

Hon. Sir—As Minister of Finance, charged with carrying into effect the provisions of the Assessment Act and also as Minister of Agriculture and the official head of the agriculturists of B. C., I venture to address this protest against the unfair manner in which the provisions of the Assessment Act are being worked out and to appeal to you on behalf of the farmers of British Columbia for a reasonable construction of the statute.

To better define the position, allow me to state a few facts.

The Assessment Act does not define any specific time when the assessment shall be made. Practically, the assessor has from January to November inclusive, in which to make the assessment.

Form 8 of the Assessment Act requires the taxpayer to state the amount of all personal property owned in possession of or under his control at the date of the return.

Item 7 of form 8 requires the value of "farm products on hand or stored, except such as may be necessary for feed to stock or for personal use."

Item 14 requires the value of money in bank, gold or silver coin, bank notes, deposit receipt, gold dust or bullion.

Your assessor for New Westminster district has for some time past been requesting information to ascertain with form 8.

Under item 7 your assessor has requested the gross market value of crops still growing and forming part of the real estate.

Your assessor stated his understanding was that he was to assess the crop at what it would be worth when fully matured and prepared for the market and sold.

To prevent mistakes your assessor wrote to your department for instructions and was advised that the assessment must be made on the basis of the labor, packages, etc., could be all away to pay for food products which could well be grown here.

I respectfully ask you to compare the return made out to our farmers with the assessed value of the same crops. I believe the instructions given in this matter and if you cannot see your way clear to deal with them in the same manner as with item 14, that you will at least instruct your assessors that only farm products actually on hand or stored at the date of the return are to be assessed and that a uniform date will be fixed for making the return so as to place all taxpayers in the same position.

JOHN OLIVER.

which borrowed capital an income is derived, if such interest is paid to the lender, or if such interest is paid to a company doing business in the province, and which pays taxes in the province, but not otherwise.

4. Losses and bad debts arising out of the business from which an income is derived, irrecoverable and actually written off during the year, but not otherwise.

5. For premiums of life insurance on the life of the taxpayer, if paid, not to exceed one-sixth of the annual income of the taxpayer. Receipts therefore to be produced to the assessor on demand.

6. For municipal taxes and rates paid on real property, from which an income is derived, but not otherwise.

7. For repairs actually expending during the year on real property from which an income is derived, but not otherwise.

8. For all incomes derived from shares, or dividends, from companies or corporations where such companies or corporations are assessed and taxed under the headings in this act of "Taxation on Mines and Minerals," and "Taxation of Companies."

9. On the real and personal property and income of such companies are assessed and taxed under this act, but not otherwise.

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case, it is not denied that the present government is spending annually twice as much upon the militia of Canada as its predecessor did. It has been attacked by the opposition on this account. It has been charged with extravagance by a powerful element in the Canadian community which believes that the act of war is entirely antagonistic to the genius of the continent.

One thing it beyond question. The opposition has been using Lord Dundonald for its own political purposes. It found him in the mood for a fall with the government at a time when it was at a loss for an effective campaign cry.

The leader of the party, knowing well that the position of the government was unassailable, stood afar off contemplating the battle. No doubt he thought he had found a very effective medium for the proclamation of the Tory election cry that the Liberals are disloyal. Lord Dundonald calls upon the men of Canada "to keep their two hands upon the Union Jack."

There is a subtle and insidious influence in this injunction. The men of Canada need no schoolmaster to teach them lessons in loyalty.

The state of mind of the Tory party may be estimated from the reports of what followed the recall of the late G. O. C. by the British government. The friend and counsellor of Lord Dundonald and members of the Imperial Parliament with traitorous and disloyal conduct. There is none loyal, not one, save Sir Hugh, his friend Lord Dundonald, and the select agents of the Tory party of Canada!

Of course the superior newspapers of "independent" proclivities protest against the purposes to which the agitation started by Sir Hugh and Lord Dundonald is being applied. They and their correspondents which do not attempt to conceal their bias in a disguise of superior political virtue are surprised that the people of Quebec appear to resent the charges of disloyalty that have been hurled against them. Toryism in Ontario, true to its traditions, assails the leader of the Liberal party, proclaims its belief that the filly of the tongue made by the English reveals his true traitorous sentiments, and then it expresses its horror at the thought of the French-Canadian being offended because of the charges levelled against them.

Toryism never learns anything from the lessons of experience. Twice it attempted to win elections by raising issues of race and religion. Twice it was utterly routed. Disloyalty is thought to be a head. The blind party is at its old tricks.

WHAT THE BLIND DO NOT SEE!

Strangers who visit Canada sometimes discover some wonderful things. We notice in the telegraphic dispatches that an Englishman who has just returned home after a visit to this country has been telling the reporters that Canada is a ferocious land, about the eccentricities of Lord Dundonald, as might be supposed about some fiscal matters. We are in such an effervescent state that the Imperial circle is threatening to fly out of the bottle. Not to put too fine a point upon it, we are about to bubble over into a republic, with the inevitable end of a state of anarchy of chaos, being added to the American union. The law of gravity renders this final result inevitable. It is also curious that an American, a writer in Collier's Weekly, a man who has had special opportunities to study the Canadian situation, is convinced that we are rapidly and surely becoming republican in our political sentiments. He says it is only a matter of a very short time until we shall see the establishment of a brand new nation, republican in form of government. Of course he has no doubts as to the ultimate effects of the law of "manifest destiny." Canada is gradually maturing and will soon be a sweet morsel in the month of Uncle Sam.

Are Canadian blind, that they behold none of the wonderful things that strike the eyes and the minds of strangers? The Englishman says it is the preferential tariff that is causing the political waters to boil with angry bubbling. It had been supposed in this country that the preference given Great Britain was a tribute of goodwill, amity and affection, while incidentally a shrewd business venture. Instead of that, it is estimated by this shrewd observer as the final coal upon the fire that is going to generate the steam that will burst the great Imperial boiler!

Now, despite the predictions of the two observers, we believe that if a really unbiased person of sound judgment were to travel from Prince Edward Island to Vancouver Island he would read in the minds of ninety-nine hundredths of the Canadian people perfect contentment with the present status of the Dominion and firm resolve to maintain the British connection.

There is nothing more certain in this world of change than the fact that the present generation of Englishmen and Yankees will behold no political revolution in Canada.

The newspaper fellows are telling stories about Oom Paul again. The apocrypha of the ex-president is not yet complete. This one is not true, but it is a good story. When the first Australian contingent arrived at Capetown to take part in the Boer war, Mr. Kruger is said to have asked General Joubert if he knew anything about these Australians. "I only know that eleven of them were sent back to England," "Good God!" cried the president, "we are lost, thirteen thousand of them have just landed."

ALTOGETHER WILE.

O-o-o! What a bad, bad, wicked, wicked, mean, mean, government it is, that government at Ottawa! We had supposed that the blackest sin that could be laid up against us was the failure to tell the Grand Trunk Pacific Company that under no circumstances must it approach the McBride government of British Columbia, and ask for a subsidy towards the construction of a road whose construction has already been provided for. But we underrated the fruitfulness of the Tory imagination. The purdy of the Grits at Ottawa is merely being exposed in chapters.

In the second chapter it is charged that the federal government has been guilty of a political crime of heinous character in refusing to make a grant of several hundred thousand dollars towards the cost of the New Westminster bridge. There would seem to be an end of surprises at Ottawa if the principles were thoroughly established that governments are bound to rush to the assistance of such provincial administrations as that of McBride in all works undertaken purely for the purpose of securing political support. Any mere Grit government that undertakes to satisfy the cravings of the gang that is in power in British Columbia at the present time would be under the necessity of distributing largesse from the federal treasury with a lavish hand.

Whatever government may be in power in the Dominion, Grit or Tory, it is bound to adhere strictly to the provisions of the terms of union. All the provinces have made claims for "better terms." None was recognized unless the fact was clearly established that the federal authorities had not adhered to the compact in letter and in spirit. Mr. Hendry of New Westminster has pointed out in reply to the complaints of Conservative newspapers, that if a company had been formed for the nominal purpose of erecting the bridge a subsidy might have been secured from the Dominion. But the organs are not to be thrown off the scent by any such ploy as that. The Colonialist retorts that Mr. Hendry was after a "graft." He is no philanthropist; neither can he be admitted to be patriotic enough to lend his name to the province without recompense. He had in view a possible ten per cent. "take-off," which on three hundred thousand dollars would surely have been worth while. There can be no doubt that the "arguments" other than congratulatory ones of our charitable and innocent-minded contemporaries on its remarkable success. It has had special opportunities of acquiring knowledge of the manner in which "grants" are worked by governments and on government, and may be presumed to speak with a full understanding on the subject. It is at present engaged in the congenial task of preparing the public mind for a "graft" of Brobdignagian proportions of which we shall doubtless hear more at a later date.

We do not know whether Mr. Hendry, the officer who prescribes the "graft" with the "graft" specially reserved for those who are in the inner circles, leans in his politics to the Grit or the Tory side. Whatever his political faith may be, we have no doubt he appreciates the delicate manner in which the Colonialist has exposed his plot.

SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR TRANSVAAL.

The New York Post is a fine newspaper in all respects but that of temper. In that respect it is short and crabbed. Nearly everything that is wrong, especially if it is in Great Britain, our contemporary has always looked forward with apparent satisfaction to the prospect of trouble for the British government in South Africa. It has always contended that responsible government would have to be conceded in the course of time, and then the trouble would begin. It was convinced that the agitator Jameson would not last long as Premier of the Cape, but he seems to retain the confidence of the Legislature, and there has been no trouble since he was called into the councils of the Governor. The advisers of the Post, we fear, are not always well informed. They seem for the most part to be people who look forward to the decline and fall of everything British. Some one told the Post that the Imperial government could not long withhold self-government from the Transvaal, and that as soon as that was granted the trouble would begin. A Mr. Solomon takes strong exception to such statements as being false in substance, and likely to be mischievous in effects. He characterizes his raising of the racial question as a huge mistake. Speaking as an English Afrikaner, he emphatically denies the existence of racial differences in the Transvaal on the part of the Dutch or among the majority of the English; but he adds that the Dutch, who are now Britishers, are within their rights in forming a Dutch party, and are entitled, equally with the English, to govern the country. He declares also that if Dutchmen controlled the affairs of the Transvaal, they would prove as loyal and honorable as the English themselves. Mr. Solomon believes that the English will remain a minority for many years, if not always. His opinion is that the British population will steadily decrease on account of the numbers of Englishmen leaving the country for lack of employment. He denies the right of recently imported fortune-hunters to dictate to national aspirations. His letter has created a sensation at Pretoria, and is said to represent the opinions of a majority of both races.

The most effective answer to the predictions of the Post is that the British government has already announced its purpose of granting representative government to the Transvaal.

In the cup of the Dominion government's iniquity yet full? It betrayed the McBride administration into the hands of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company in providing for the construction of a transcontinental railway. It was guilty of a crime against the people of the province in not contributing to the cost of the New Westminster bridge. We suspect that work is going to be a heavy charge upon the finances of the province and that the blame for the same will be saddled upon the Dominion. Isn't the federal government to blame for the delay in the settlement of the Songhees reserve matter? The Colonialist on the other day in effect held Mr. Dumas responsible for the present status of that case, but we believe it did that without reflection and without its usual regard for the Laurier administration as a seagoose on which all the sins of the provincial government can be laid. Can't not the Dominion ministers be charged with retarding the summer session of the British Columbia Legislature, an event to which the provincial government looked forward as a full promise of profit? There is the railway policy of the McBride government. Did not Laurier take that too? Are there no other extravagances that we in our state of perfect irresponsibility can enter upon and charge the Dominion with niggardliness when it refuses to pay the bill? Why not throw a bridge across the inlet at Vancouver? There may not be such another opportunity for many years.

Let not any one suppose that all the hoodlums in the United States have evaded punishment for their crimes against the people. One of the notorious St. Louis gang is in jail yet. Not only he is in jail. He is in a dungeon after receiving forty lashes with the "cat" for insubordination. It is said Berch has not been a model prisoner. Having been used to fine-wines, good cigars and the best of fare generally, he spurned the prison bill with scorn. That is said to be the reason why the lash was applied. But also let it be noted that Berch arranged states evidence and gave the whole "graft" away. An informer is never popular even in prison. An example is evidently being made of Berch.

We suspect it must have been some special besetler who sent the Times the suggestion, the suggestion that it was worthy of publication. "Wives fulfil a double position in these days," declared Judge Edge in the Clerkenwell County Court, when a debtor stated that a house he had built was his wife's property. "They used to be simply domestic protectors, but now they are the trade promoters of the husbands as well." Some day I suppose the legislators will legislate to the abominable frauds which wives are being constantly made the means of perpetrating.

Why do people ask other people questions which their common sense ought to tell them are embarrassing? A fellow at Nanaimo asked Hon. B. F. Green if there would be a summer session of the Legislature. And again the minister was compelled to explain that the government had not yet determined upon its railway policy.

THE CROFTON HOTEL DESTROYED BY FIRE.

M. J. Conlin's Hostelry is Now No More—Burned Down in About an Hour.

The Crofton hotel, owned and conducted by M. J. Conlin, in the smelter town, was totally destroyed by fire early Friday morning. The blaze broke out in the kitchen, originating probably from an overheated range, and soon the whole building was in flames. The fire was discovered by one of the guests, Mr. Young, of Ketchikan, who hurriedly woke Mr. Conlin and the others. Residents of the town hastened to help fight the flames, but they were handicapped by the lack of water and adequate facilities. The fire started about 1:30 o'clock, and in an hour the building and its contents were destroyed. Fortunately they managed to run a line of hose to the smelter, and prevented the fire from spreading to the adjoining buildings.

By a stroke of luck the wind which had been blowing a stiff breeze from the southwest died down just before the fire started, and it is owing to this fact that the Osborne hotel, belonging to J. T. Pearce, on the other side of the road, was saved; but at one time the chances of saving it were not very great.

Every one got out of the building in safety. The value of the building was \$10,000. The furniture, etc., was totally lost, except the safe, which was saved. Had there been a strong wind, the Osborne hotel would have gone. A barrel of rain water and a bucket were the only things that saved the building when the fire was first discovered.

"30 PEOPLE BADLY BENT" have in effect used these words in speaking of the curative qualities of South American Rheumatic Cure—"My legs were crippled"—"My hands were distorted"—"My joints were swollen"—"My back was bent double"—"My pain was excruciating"—"Bedridden for years." "This great remedy has been used from the first application, and now I am permanently cured." Sold by Jackson & Co., and Hall & Co.—135.

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LORD CHAS. BERESFORD. The Idol of the Lower Deck.

TEACHERS TO INVADE VICTORIA NEXT MONTH

Many Pedagogues Attending Winnipeg Convention Will Visit Coast Before Going East.

From 150 to 200 of the teachers attending the convention now in progress at Winnipeg are expected to visit Victoria next month. This is a direct result of the advertising of H. Outbert, while in that city several weeks ago. Learning of the cheap rates to be inaugurated from Manitoba to all Western points for the benefit of the teachers, he took steps to make known the manifold attractions of this city to the pleasure seeker. Copies of the illustrated booklet "Picturesque Victoria" and other literature was placed in charge of the secretary of the convention for distribution, and a large number of posters calling attention to a "Special teachers' excursion to Victoria and coast points" was placed in the most prominent positions throughout the convention building. The outcome of this, as already stated, is that several parties of Eastern and Manitoba pedagogues will spend a couple of weeks on the coast next month.

A much larger number of visitors, however, may be looked for next month from San Francisco as a result of the annual convention of the Knights Templar. Between 15,000 and 20,000 delegates are expected to come to the coast from all parts of America, and a great many will return East via Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. Already two parties of about 250 each are booked to pass through this city on their way from "Frisco." They will spend a couple of days here and, it is understood, steps will be taken to make their stay as pleasant as possible.

Mr. Herbert Outbert, as an illustration of the widespread advertising Victoria's attractions have been receiving, drew attention to an extract from a Toronto paper announcing the departure of a party of over one hundred tourists by special train for the St. Louis exposition. From there they intended making a tour of the Southern States, California, and returning East by British Columbia, spending several days in this city. This, Mr. Outbert contends, proves that the work of the local association has not been in vain, and that the capital of British Columbia is now considered a city to be included in pleasure trips of this kind.

Members of the executive of the society have decided to take some steps to direct some of the Eastern excursionists to Victoria during August and September. The new route will be used by all through trains of heavy tonnage, while lighter freights and local passenger trains will continue to use the old route, which will still be kept up.

STEEL FACTORY DEAL.

Purchase Made by Company of Extension Wire Plant.

New York, July 29.—It was announced today that the wire plant of the Trenton Iron Company has been purchased by the United States Steel Company. The price was in the form of 5 per cent. second mortgage bonds of the steel corporation. There are now of these about \$107,000,000 outstanding. The plant was founded by Cooper in 1847. The Trenton Company is capitalized at \$2,000,000, with about \$800,000 issued.

DOCTORED NINE YEARS FOR TESTER.—Mr. James Gannon, merchant, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., writes: "For nine years I have been distressed with rheumatism and face. At last I have found a cure in Dr. Agnew's Ointment. It helped me from the first application, and now I am permanently cured." Sold by Jackson & Co., and Hall & Co.—135.

SATIFACTORY PROGRESS.

Civic Improvements Are Being Well Advanced—The Rock Bay Roadway.

Should this fall be long and favorable for construction work it is possible that most of the permanent sidewalk improvements contemplated by the city council will be laid this year. The work is advancing in a very satisfactory manner.

Yates street from Blanchard to Cadboro Bay road, and Fort street from Blanchard to the Oak Bay junction on one side and from Blanchard to Stanley avenue on the other, has been receiving attention. King's road, King's road and Hillside avenue will probably be the next to be improved. There is, as previously reported, a long walk to be laid on the south side of Hillside avenue, reaching from Douglas to Fourth street. The new walk on King's road will extend only from Douglas to Second street.

City Engineer Topp stated this morning that the permanent works being building with all possible dispatch, and he expected to see the most of that already outlined carried out this year if the weather permitted.

The B. C. Electric Railway Company will begin the laying of its permanent tracks across Rock Bay next Tuesday, and probably in a few weeks hence the Esplanade cars will be running regularly over this new roadway.

Before the roadway can be used for vehicular traffic it will have to be macadamized, which work the city council will undertake as soon as possible.

IMPROVED GRADE.

J. J. Hill Is Diverting the Main Traffic of the Great Northern.

St. Paul, Minn., July 29.—In sixty days the Great Northern railway will abandon 100 miles of its present main line in Montana in favor of a new route covering the same distance which strikes north from Columbia Falls to a junction with the Fernie, B. C. branch at Rockford, thence back again over the Fernie branch to the main line at Jennings.

The existing main line will become a branch to all intents and purposes and fourteen prosperous main line towns—La Salle, Kalispell, Balfour, Selkirk, Athol, Marion, Haskell, Park, Lacombe, Pleasant Valley, Lake View, Melbourne, Atlanta, Stirling and Fisher river—will be cut off from the principal channel of the through business.

By the abandonment of the 100-mile section President J. J. Hill will secure a minimum grade for the Great Northern which he claims to be slightly less than that of any of the American transcontinental routes. The new route will be used by all through trains of heavy tonnage, while lighter freights and local passenger trains will continue to use the old route, which will still be kept up.

Wives and Sweethearts 50 yards—1st, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 2nd, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 3rd, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 4th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 5th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 6th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 7th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 8th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 9th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 10th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 11th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 12th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 13th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 14th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 15th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 16th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 17th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 18th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 19th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 20th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 21st, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 22nd, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 23rd, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 24th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 25th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 26th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 27th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 28th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 29th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 30th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 31st, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 32nd, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 33rd, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 34th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 35th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 36th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 37th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 38th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 39th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 40th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 41st, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 42nd, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 43rd, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 44th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 45th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 46th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 47th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 48th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 49th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 50th, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 51st, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 52nd, Miss S. L. Baker's Association; 53rd, Miss