

GOVERNMENT POLICY REVIEWED.

High Educational Status of the Province—B. C.'s Municipal System.

Effective Administration of Justice—Sound Sanitary Measures—Mining Encouraged by Legislation.

The more material aspects of the Government of the Province have been dealt with in previous articles in which opposition criticism has been met in the spirit of argument and the statement of a long series of facts that cannot be gainsaid. We now purpose to examine the character of the legislation as a whole, and its direct influence on the affairs and conditions of the Province.

Education being of paramount importance in its moral and intellectual effects, our school system is worthy of first place. Even the most virulent opponents of the Government, excepting a few chronic apoplexies, will not affirm that British Columbia has not taken a high educational status among the other Provinces. The training has been brought to a high standard, the character and attainment of teachers are exceptionally good, and a healthy moral tone pervades the whole system. Methods and legislation have progressed rapidly with material development and to-day are fully abreast of modern requirements. The transition from direct Governmental management to popular control has been speedy and almost complete. The history of our school system has been marked by its steady progress, uninterrupted and undisturbed by the sectarian and political issues that have marred the results observable elsewhere in the Dominion. In this respect our Province has been singularly blessed. From an educational point of view the people of British Columbia have every reason to be proud of their accomplishments.

Under our constitution there has been ample provision for the free development of municipal institutions, and while we have had the example and experience of other Provinces to guide us, we have been able to arrive at results equal, as compared with our requirements, to what has been achieved even in Ontario. As population grows our municipal system, established on a broad and firm basis, will expand naturally and easily. There are few respects in which our municipal institutions are not equal to those of our most enlightened neighbors.

Our civil code contains the best features of modern jurisprudence, and its operations are as successful and as free from useless incumbrances as in any part of the Dominion. It has received the most careful attention of the Government and the Legislature and constant effort has been made to render it useful and workable.

It has been conceded on every hand that the administration of justice, so far as it has been in the power of the Government to make it effective, has been wholesome and vigorous. Our criminal code has been brought to a high state of perfection, and the law is administered with a firm hand in the prevention and punishment of crime. When we consider the extent of our sea coast, the physical character of the country, the mixture of populations and the contiguity of the American Republic, the success with which our law has been carried out is not only a matter for congratulation, but has earned for us the admiration of our neighbors.

As regards these reflections, it may be stated, as something not capable of contradiction, that British Columbia is essentially a Province of law and order, and will compare favorably in this regard with any province in the Dominion or any country in the world. There is no country in which the rights of person and property are more sacred or better safeguarded, and if it were not for the offenses imported into our criminal calendar by aliens and a few of our Indians our record would be unique. In a Western province, which to the Eastern carries with it a significance of what is best understood as the "wild and woolly," this is remarkable. As a people, British Columbians are sober, moral and law abiding, and in no degree, either politically or socially, turbulent.

If we accept this maxim as true, that the people are a reflection of the Government, or the Government a reflection of the people, there is little to condemn in the character of the administration into the history of which have been incorporated conditions such as we have described.

Scarcely less important in the light of the public weal, are sanitary considerations. As the direct result of dangers, then present and prospective, the Government placed on the statute book a Health Act, sound in principle, comprehensive in scope and drastic in application. In the face of an emergency, such as confronted the Province two years ago, the Government acted promptly and vigorously and stamped out the infection, and to-day machinery is provided whereby, without extraordinary means, any epidemic may be stayed and the general

health conserved by the application of sound sanitary measures.

A few years ago, when vein mining began to attract attention, the mining laws, which had had special reference to placer work, required careful revision, and at this task the Government set itself to work. In a new country, without experience in the requirements of quartz development, legislation must be to some extent experimental, and so it proved in this instance. Miners themselves, largely of the prospecting class, were very much divided in opinion as to what the law should be, but although less than four years have elapsed since a mining commission was appointed to frame a code, and numerous alterations and re-alterations were found necessary since that time. The mining laws are now on a satisfactory basis and are meeting with approval everywhere. In this, as in other matters, the Government has shown every disposition to conserve the interests of so important an industry. Where mistakes were made, these were rectified as speedily as possible. A Government that is above reviewing its own actions and admitting its fallibility is not adapted for the government of a country where the "heaven-born" financiers and immaculate wise-ones in public policy are so conspicuously in the minority as in this Province.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, May 23.

PREPARING TO CELEBRATE.

Victoria Harbor Alive With the Trim Craft From the Waters of the Sound.

Preparations for Reception of Visitors—The Wheelmen's Part—Rifle Arrangements Complete.

Still they come. The yachting fleet for the celebration yesterday received addition in the form of the Seattle Earl, which had been expected in during the night, and which is as neat and trim a little craft as ever carried a sail. She is commanded by Captain George Brown, whose ship's company comprises Messrs. Amos Goodell, Joe Brown, F. E. G. Barry, S. A. Haynes, E. H. Pacheco and C. S. Green.

The Ada, from Waldron Island, is another of yesterday's arrivals—not exactly expected, but as welcome as the sunshine which has marked this first part of celebration week. Then there is the Ariel from Anacortes, which left home Sunday morning and came sailing in about 9:30 yesterday, having had a pleasant, lazy cruise across, piloted by Captain J. M. Carpenter. Her regular sailing crew are not yet on board; they are to arrive by the Kingston this evening, plenty of time for the races.

All of the Everett yachts are also here now save the Sincere. The Sincere (and owner) S. Peterson, who has with him John B. Skadder, Charles Erik and a few other friends. She started from home Sunday morning, and was fighting winds and tides until ten yesterday morning.

The Storm King (also from Everett) bringing with her Messrs. George E. Montano (captain), A. R. Whitney Jr., and C. E. Knowlton. The Whites is sailed by Colin Campbell, with a crew of four. From Whatcom the flyer Mythy has arrived, Capt. E. B. Leamy in command, and crew composed of Messrs. J. R. McKinley, Charles Brandis, R. Burrows, L. B. Alexander, Young and Van Ripen. The Hornet, from Whatcom also a celebrated crew joining in the parade. "Scientific Water Melon" is in command of her owner, Capt. George Simpson, who has with him Messrs. Charles Simpson, A. Wilmot, J. Sutherland, George Dunn, Fred Woodward and John Merritt. The third of the Whatcom fleet was reported outside last evening, and will no doubt come in with the morning breeze. From Fairhaven there is a new flyer just launched, the Garland, which will be manned by Messrs. Garland, Mackay (the owners) and others. Besides these yachts from Bellingham Bay, there will be on hand to-morrow three launches, the Columbia, Jeannette and Clover. The Bellingham Bay yacht weighed anchor at 2 o'clock yesterday morning, and after a hard run with light winds and against the tides, came in with the Garland in the lead at 3:30 last evening, the Hornet following close, and the Whatcom and Port Townsend squadrons at anchor, and then all will be ready for the fray.

Yesterday the Edna M. was the first to lift the anchor; she went around to Esquimalt, exchanged compliments with the ship, and returned with all on board in high good humor. Later in the day the other visitors tried their wings, while the skippers and crews admired the speed of the Victoria Daisy Bell, which one of them enthusiastically prophesied "will beat anything in the Northwest in her own class."

Bell were Dave Anderson (in command), E. Pell, T. B. Norgate, R. R. Burns, C. Northcott and Mr. Will Carson, the honored guest. On the course she came into the skimming-dish class, is a racing machine pure and simple—but, my, she can go! A meeting of the local yacht club is to be held to-day to arrange the classes, the particular point being to decide just what rating shall be given the Bellingham Bay fleet.

The citizens' committee on yachting held meeting last evening at which it was decided to pay an official call upon the visiting fleet between 9 and 10 o'clock this morning for the purpose of extending the hospitality of the city to the city's guests.

THE CITY.

Mr. JUSTICE WALKER yesterday settled the compensation to be given Messrs. Heisterman and Coltart, the retiring employees of the Green, Worlock & Co. bank. Each gentleman was allowed \$600 for his services.

Mr. HARRY PROCTOR, of the Crescent Pharmacy, Nanaimo, is a guest at the New Hotel, with a party of friends. The latter was until yesterday morning Miss McLean; the marriage took place at the Wallace street Methodist church, Rev. R. R. Matland officiating.

In the provincial police court yesterday George Alexander was sentenced to four weeks with hard labor for deserting from the schooner Triumph and refusing to return to his master. James Mullin paid \$20 fine and \$4.50 costs for hitting Ab Jim over the head with a shovel on Friday night at Millstream.

Two two-and-a-half year old child of Mrs. Braden, residing at 1414 1/2 street, had a very narrow escape from poison yesterday. In some manner the little one procured some Indian hemp and was in a dangerous condition when Dr. McKeehin was called in and by the prompt use of emetics, succeeded in saving the child's life.

The firemen will leave at 1 o'clock this afternoon on a special train for Nanaimo. The team consists of twelve men, who go to Nanaimo to-morrow, to fire tests at Nanaimo to-morrow. They will probably return by special train in the evening with the Nanaimo team, which will compete on Saturday in the local contests at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The remains of the late George E. Jackson were laid in their final resting place yesterday afternoon. The funeral took place at 2:30 from the residence of the deceased's mother, Hillside avenue, and later from St. John's church, where Rev. Percival James delivered a very impressive address, and appropriate music was furnished by the church choir. Messrs. R. F. Tolmie, J. W. Tolmie, S. F. Tolmie, E. E. Blackwood, H. J. Blackwood and K. O. Finlayson acted as pallbearers.

REV. R. R. MATLAND, LL.B., of Nanaimo, who was appointed by the conference at Vancouver to the pastorate of the Centennial Methodist church in this city, has most emphatically declined the appointment. Two considerations influenced the reverend gentleman in reaching this conclusion, one the same as that of the other part of his own board, and the other the division of feeling amongst the Centennial church people. As a result Rev. Joseph Hall will remain in his present position.

The announcement in a Seattle paper the other day that the U. S. military authorities at Vancouver had granted permission for the British Columbia militia to enter armed into the United States, for the purpose of taking part in the national holiday festivities on the 4th of July, has been read with great interest by many military men in this city. Permission was not applied for from other sources. He started from home Sunday morning, and was fighting winds and tides until ten yesterday morning.

A LETTER which Miss Collins received yesterday from her brother Melville, who is in the Libby, brings the news of the drowning of Henry Georgeon and J. T. Bodine. The letter is dated May 2, and was written from Akihi Bay, Japan, where the vessel had called to get water with the intention of going to the following day. The writer gives the following particulars of the accident. He states that Georgeon and Bodine and himself were out sailing in a small boat on the 23rd of last month, when they were attacked by a whale which smashed their boat to pieces. He clung to the floating debris for six hours and was finally picked up by the Libby, which two companions sank from sight soon after their boat was struck. The homes of both unfortunate men are at Plummer Pass where their parents now reside. Collinson says: "He still paid him from the injuries he received in the accident. The schooner, he says, is going to Hakodate on July 18."

THE VICTORIA CHALLENGE CUP.

The second rifle match for the handsome Victoria Challenge Trophy will take place on Saturday. This prize was offered last year for the first time, being the gift of the celebration committee and was passed into the custody of the Nanaimo team, who secured a lead of 16 points over Victoria. It will again be competed for by three teams, these being one from the Nanaimo team, just named and one from the Royal Marines, whose ready response to the Victoria rifle men's invitation shows good spirit. It is remembered that they have just had a long sea voyage and soot opportunity for practice. The favorites on this occasion are the Nanaimo men, who appear to have been making careful preparation for the past few weeks, while in Victoria the trial shots since the season opened have been comparatively few.

THE CITY.

W. J. Vanner, E. Carmode, G. A. Malby, M. Sutton, R. Brown and W. Kershaw. In consequence of the amount of snow still lying on the ground around Barclay Sound, mining operations there have not yet commenced.

BEFORE Mr. Justice Drake yesterday the case of Foot & Carter v. Nicholas & Mason came up for trial. A lease of certain land was made between plaintiffs and a man named Hewitt containing an option to purchase at a certain day. Plaintiffs then entered into an agreement with Mason as agent of Nicholas to sell him the land which they had the option to purchase. The sale was not completed according to the agreement, and the action is taken to compel the completion. The defense is that Foot & Carter were not able on the day mentioned in the agreement to give a title, and therefore the lease was void, as time was the essence of the contract between plaintiffs and Mason. Mr. Bodwell, other plaintiffs' case was in, moved for a non-suit. Judgment reserved. Mr. J. E. Walls for plaintiffs; Mr. Taylor for Nicholas; Mr. Bodwell for Mason.

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The vast facilities of the J. C. Ayer Co. of Lowell, Mass., enable them to place the Superior Blood-purifier—Ayer's Sarsaparilla—within easy reach of the poorest invalid. Don't be induced to take a "cheap" substitute. Always remember that the name is the best. Is your tongue coated? Take Ayer's Liver Lozenges. They will work off that bilious condition.

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ALD. BAKER favored paying the money now. The city in that event would only lose the interest on the money for a few months. ALD. STYLES had understood that the aid to the Jubilee hospital would not be asked if the by-law passed.

ALD. KEITH-WILSON replied that had never been intended, Ald. Styles must have misunderstood the matter. ALD. VIGLIUS moved that the report be laid over, but when it was pointed out to him that the hospital was badly in need of the money, he withdrew his opposition and on Ald. Baker's motion, seconded by Ald. Humphreys, the report was adopted.

ALD. DWYER introduced his waterworks regulation by-law, which he explained was intended to regulate the rates paid and to make the mode of collecting rates easier and more satisfactory. A by-law of this kind was badly needed and this one he thought would meet the case satisfactorily.

Besides providing conditions for plumbing, connections and proper precautions against waste, the by-law sets out the following water rates to be charged per month: Buildings occupied by one family, \$8.75; when occupied by two families or lodgers, \$10.00; Baths (private houses), \$1.00; Baths accessible to others than family, \$1.00; Barber shops, \$1.00; Bakeries, \$2.50; Breweries, \$3.00; Butcher shops, \$1.00; Building purposes, per M bricks, \$1.00; one coat, \$1.00; two coats, \$2.00; Cow per month, \$1.00; Laundries by special rate or meter, \$1.00; Lawns and gardens 2,000 sq. ft. or under, \$2.00; do 2,001 to 5,000 sq. ft., \$3.00; do 5,001 to 10,000 sq. ft., \$4.00; Saloons, \$2.00; Urinals, \$1.00; Closets (private), \$1.00.

Water for other purposes charged by estimate or special agreement. Water supplied by meter at 20 cents per 1,000 gallons, but monthly meter bill shall be less than \$1, exclusive of water rent, which is:

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The tug Sadie will bring the judges' barge to be used in connection with the regatta, to Esquimalt to the Gorge to-day. She will also tow the committee open to sail. Arm to-morrow. As in other regatta events, steamers will be engaged in carrying passengers up to the regatta, among them being the Florence and the Mary Hare.

Celebration visitors will find the Provincial museum an attractive place to go to in a pleasant and profitable time. Mr. Farnham, the curator, has the various rooms in splendid order and the mineral, wild animal, Indian curios, and other exhibits are looking their best. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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ALD. KEITH-WILSON replied that had never been intended, Ald. Styles must have misunderstood the matter. ALD. VIGLIUS moved that the report be laid over, but when it was pointed out to him that the hospital was badly in need of the money, he withdrew his opposition and on Ald. Baker's motion, seconded by Ald. Humphreys, the report was adopted.

ALD. DWYER introduced his waterworks regulation by-law, which he explained was intended to regulate the rates paid and to make the mode of collecting rates easier and more satisfactory. A by-law of this kind was badly needed and this one he thought would meet the case satisfactorily.

Besides providing conditions for plumbing, connections and proper precautions against waste, the by-law sets out the following water rates to be charged per month: Buildings occupied by one family, \$8.75; when occupied by two families or lodgers, \$10.00; Baths (private houses), \$1.00; Baths accessible to others than family, \$1.00; Barber shops, \$1.00; Bakeries, \$2.50; Breweries, \$3.00; Butcher shops, \$1.00; Building purposes, per M bricks, \$1.00; one coat, \$1.00; two coats, \$2.00; Cow per month, \$1.00; Laundries by special rate or meter, \$1.00; Lawns and gardens 2,000 sq. ft. or under, \$2.00; do 2,001 to 5,000 sq. ft., \$3.00; do 5,001 to 10,000 sq. ft., \$4.00; Saloons, \$2.00; Urinals, \$1.00; Closets (private), \$1.00.

Water for other purposes charged by estimate or special agreement. Water supplied by meter at 20 cents per 1,000 gallons, but monthly meter bill shall be less than \$1, exclusive of water rent, which is:

A public presentation of prizes is promised for this celebration; the Admiral, the Lieut. Governor and the Mayor have been asked to assist.

At a meeting of the members of the Victoria Canoe Club last evening arrangements were perfected for the races on the 24th and 25th. On Saturday evening all members will take part in the grand illuminated procession over the harbor.

Contracts for furnishing music for the celebration have been awarded as follows: Thursday, B.C.B.G.A. band; Friday afternoon, B.C.B.G.A. band; Saturday afternoon, B.C.B.G.A. band; Sunday evening, B.C.B.G.A. band.

The tug Sadie will bring the judges' barge to be used in connection with the regatta, to Esquimalt to the Gorge to-day. She will also tow the committee open to sail. Arm to-morrow. As in other regatta events, steamers will be engaged in carrying passengers up to the regatta, among them being the Florence and the Mary Hare.

Celebration visitors will find the Provincial museum an attractive place to go to in a pleasant and profitable time. Mr. Farnham, the curator, has the various rooms in splendid order and the mineral, wild animal, Indian curios, and other exhibits are looking their best. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Seattle Athletic Club's baseball team leaves home this morning by the City of Seattle for Victoria, where it plays its first match game of the season. The makeup will be: Thomson, pitcher; Cobb, catcher; Randall, first base; Gardner, second base; Calhoun, third base; Noble, shortstop; W. Morris, left field; Russell, center field; Small, right field. The James Bay team will be the same that met and humiliated the V. A. C.'s at Beacon Hill last Saturday.

The Grand Lodge officers, A.O.U.W., and His Worship Mayor Tague have shown a very commendable spirit in the manner in which they have taken hold of the proposed entertainment of the excursionists leaving Seattle at 7:30 a.m. on May 26, on the City of Seattle. Their kindness in arranging the programme so as to enable the citizens of Seattle to take advantage of it is, according to the Furze press, much appreciated. It is now all but a done deal that the laying of the corner stones of the new A.O.U.W. building will be made a feature of the celebration.