

The Weekly Times

Victoria, Friday, February 16, 1894.

ORGANIC STUPIDITY.

The government organ falls foul of a resolution adopted by the workmen's meeting in Nanaimo in favor of proportional representation. It finds that:

This resolution shows clearly the nature of the men who are anxious to be entrusted with the management of the affairs of the province. Without giving the people any notice of what they proposed to do, without agitation, and without previous discussion, they submit a proposition for what they call "proportional representation" to the Nanaimo electors. They ask them to approve of a mode of representation that does not exist anywhere in the British Empire or the United States. Whether the system is good or bad, just or unjust, practicable or impracticable, no one that possessed a particle of common sense would ask a meeting to pronounce upon it off hand. The proposition submitted to the Nanaimo electors besides being strange to them, is an exceedingly absurd one, and one on which an intelligent opinion could not be formed without much study and long inquiry.

In another paragraph the organ asserts that "in order to make it plain to the electors that they are not fit to take a part in the management of affairs of the province, Messrs. Kitchen, Brown, Sword, and the local members held a meeting in Nanaimo on Saturday evening. They had, of course, a set of resolutions out and tried to submit to the assembled electors." This is about as near the truth as the organ usually gets. In point of fact, the Nanaimo meeting was not held by Messrs. Kitchen, Brown, Sword and the local members, but by the Miners' and Mine Laborers' Protective Association, a wholly independent organization. The resolutions were not "cut and dried" by those gentlemen; they were prepared by a committee of the association and submitted to the meeting by the chairman of that committee. The members of the legislature who addressed the assemblage had nothing to do with their drafting any more than the Colonist itself had. They did not even argue in favor of the change of system called for by the resolution quoted by the Colonist, but directed the attention of the meeting to the necessity of securing a fairer representation of the people under the present system than new obtains. Of course the Colonist is quite at liberty to consider itself a government "yellow dog," but it really should learn to restrain its remarkable propensity for barking up the wrong tree. If it regarded the resolution as reprehensible or untimely or in any other way offensive it should have directed its lecture against the Nanaimo workmen who were alone responsible. We dare say the fact that the meeting showed itself unanimously opposed to the government had something to do with the organ's ill-tempered attack on the speakers, as also with the following stupidly false paragraph that appears in its local column:

Victorians who were in Nanaimo Saturday evening and chanced to be present at the political meeting held in the opera house, unite in pronouncing it "stale, flat and unprofitable." The attendance was very small, and no enthusiasm was manifested at any stage of the proceedings.

Victorians who were at the meeting know that the statements made in this paragraph are gross violations of the truth.

WHERE THE DIFFERENCE LIES.

The worthy Colonist, in the exercise of its well-known amiability and kind-heartedness, tenders us some advice in this fashion:

The Times should not take for Gospel all that Mr. Beaven says about Parliamentary usage. It should, now and then, use its own judgment on such matters, and refer to its own experience. Its editor as doubtless has on its shelves the Public Accounts of the Dominion for the year ending June 30, 1893, and he has given its readers information from that document, yet the Dominion Parliament has not yet met. Surely the Colonist has as good a right to see and quote from the Public Accounts of British Columbia before the Legislative Assembly meets, as the editor of the Times has to study and quote from the Public Accounts of the Dominion before they are presented to Parliament. Mr. Davie, as the Times must see, had a perfect right to use the Public Accounts of the Province when he did and as he did.

Following the recommendation so kindly offered, the Times uses its own judgment and consults its own memory and experience. The result is that we find the case of the Dominion Public Accounts volume to be totally different from that of the provincial volume. A few years ago a resolution was formally passed by the Dominion Parliament expressly authorizing the government to publish the Public Accounts and all other departmental reports as soon as they are printed and without waiting for their submission to parliament. No such order was ever passed by the legislative assembly; on the contrary, the rules and practices followed by the assembly forbid the publication of reports before they have formally come before it. Apparently it is necessary to make plain to the obfuscated intellect of the Colonist that the order passed by the Dominion parliament has no application whatever to British Columbia documents. If the Legislative Assembly chooses to follow the example of the Dominion Parliament and authorize the distribution of departmental reports in anticipation of the sitting of the assembly, the Times will offer no objection, but in the meantime there is no doubt that in the absence of such authorization Premier Davie offended against the privileges

of the house when he "pitched" one of these reports and hawked it about on his stumping tour. The same must be said of his use of the minute of council. We may further point out that an express ruling at Ottawa forbids the use of the departmental reports by one set of politicians or newspapers before they are accessible to others, and if the Ottawa example is followed in one respect in British Columbia we hope this fair rule will also be adopted.

THE DELTA PROPOSAL.

When the Government and the city united in guaranteeing the bonds of the Victoria and Sidney railway it was generally understood that the project was to be the first step towards securing better communication with the Mainland. Now the proposal is made that government aid shall be given to what is intended as another link in the chain, namely, a short railway running from near Point Roberts across the Delta to New Westminster. A few days ago a delegation from New Westminster waited upon the premier to lay this proposal before him, and at the interview Mr. Davie expressed himself favorably to it, but suggested that the two cities and the municipalities interested should be asked to formally endorse it through their municipal councils before the government should be called upon to act. Ald. Munn's resolution in this line was "hung up" in the city council until to-morrow, largely as a result of a protest sent in by Mr. Rithet on behalf of the C.P.N. company. It is a little singular, as Ald. Munn pointed out, that this protest should not have been filed at the first stage of the project, namely, when the Sidney guarantee was proposed, instead of its being withheld until the second stage was reached. Mr. Rithet himself favored the Sidney scheme, though he must have known that it was intended as the first link in a new line of communication.

Nobody wishes ill to Mr. Rithet and the C.P.N. company, but the citizens have now to consider whether the interests of that company should be allowed to stand in the way of an improved line of communication with the Mainland, which would undoubtedly be of great advantage to Victoria. They have further to remember the circumstance to which we have alluded, that they have already given encouragement to the initial link in the line, and to consider whether they should now practically abandon the project out of deference to the C.P.N. company's interests. In all this we are assuming that the company is right in fearing injury from the establishment of the proposed new route, but we should suppose that the fear is in reality not well founded. The Sidney route would practically be one for passenger traffic only, and would not interfere with the C.P.N. company's Fraser freight traffic. Then we have to remember that the C.P.N. company has already made arrangements to take the Vancouver traffic into its own hands, so that the C.P.N. company has nothing to dread from the proposed Sidney route on that score. It would, in fact, seem to be the latter company's best move to secure a share in the Sidney scheme, and thus make up for its Vancouver loss, instead of opposing the project. So far, therefore, as the C.P.N. company is concerned, the council has to consider whether the company is not crying out before it is hurt, and whether if the company's fears are well founded that circumstance should be allowed to block a project that promises great advantage to the city.

As to the expediency of the government guaranteeing the bonds of the proposed mainline link, there is an important point to be kept in view. Already the government guarantees and actually pays part of the interest on the Sidney railway bonds and the city the remainder. The government will also guarantee the bonds of the Chilliwack railway, with which the proposed Delta line is to connect. The chances are that if these two short railways are left "with both ends in the air" their earnings will never come up to the level of the interest, which will always have to be met by the guarantors. On the other hand, if they are connected as proposed, there is a chance of earning the interest and will most likely be thus enabled to relieve both the government and the city of the guarantee burden. Having already incurred an obligation, would it not be well to accept a little further risk with the prospect of getting freed from that obligation?

THE HAPPY PARTY.

Dalton McCarthy has not yet become weary of "pouring hot shot" into the Thompson ship. His address at the recent meeting in Milton, Ont., was very emphatic in the way of expressing want of confidence in the Ottawa government, as the following telegraphic summary shows:

Mr. McCarthy said he did not believe the government was going to reform the tariff, and the people would see, in the course of a few weeks, that he was correct. Referring to the Winnipeg board of trade letter to Foster, he said: "This comes from a board of trade composed largely of Tories. You know Winnipeg was a Tory town until that unfortunate 'Yellow Martin' stole in there. (Laughter.) He was installed by the Tories, and he is now going about the country talking about the doctrine of free trade. What does the board of trade say? It is a very funny thing. In the first place, this document never was made public, and why is it all these interviews of the unfortunate farmer, in

which he was baited by Wood and Wallace, are all in public, while the interviews with the manufacturers are all in private? The poor farmer was not through an awful course. He was asked all kinds of questions which these gentlemen have at their fingers' ends, because they have nothing else to do but study the blue book. The farmer cannot expect to look into the matter so closely, because he is not paid \$3000 a year for doing so. Mr. McCarthy read the document, made points and comments upon it and gave a few instances of the injustice from the protective system mentioned by the Winnipeg board. He wound up a clear, logical argument against protection by declaring it the duty of the government to encourage agricultural industries in this country and not hamper them. He taunted the government with cowardice in declining to challenge to open Cardwell and deferring the appointment of a successor to Schultz in Manitoba, and he said they would not dare face the people in a general election until the expiration of the term of parliament compelled them.

Mr. McCarthy may be right in regard to the Thompson government refusing to face the people until compelled to by the expiration of the parliamentary term, but it would not be well to feel too sure about that. The premier and his colleagues may conclude that their chances will grow worse as time goes on and therefore try to save a small remnant of the support now slipping away from them. It is evident that when the election does come on the government will have to reckon with a formidable section of its own party, now grown hostile under Mr. McCarthy's leadership. A noteworthy incident bearing on this matter is reported from West Simcoe, the riding represented by Mr. McCarthy in the House of Commons. At the recent convention of the Conservative party in that riding, a resolution congratulating the Dominion Conservative leaders and endorsing Mr. Meredith was proposed. An amendment to strike out all reference to Sir John Thompson was only lost by 52 to 48, 20 delegates refusing to vote either way. Then several delegates refused to sit in the convention, and made for the door, when the mover, amid much disorder, withdrew the motion and order was restored. Sir John Thompson has not much strength in West Simcoe.

A PHASE OF DAVIEISM.

The public accounts, as brought down to the close of the year 1893, and the reports of the public accounts committee, of which four or five have been printed, furnish a good deal of very interesting reading. Figures are said to be dry and unpalatable to the ordinary individual, and as a rule they are generally "skipped" by newspaper readers, while the government pamphlets, showing the financial condition of the country, are never looked into by anyone save the matter-of-fact politician. But the Hon. Theodore Davie and his brilliant finance minister, the Hon. J. H. Turner, can claim that the public accounts for the years 1892-3 and 1893-4 are as fascinating as any of Jules Verne's romances and that they may be read understandingly and with great profit to the general reader. The pages of the report are spotted all over with "Davieism," which seems to be an "active principle" as well where money is concerned as in the arena of debate or during a personal scuffle.

The two brothers—the provincial health officer and the provincial premier—have dipped down deep into the public money chest. The latter, evidently, is not a politician solely from love of country or for the gratification of personal ambition, but for revenue as well; while the doctor—whose professional services were thrust upon the city and country at a critical period, and who was represented as the only physician in Victoria equal to the emergency—does not appear to have been entirely actuated by love of the people or the highest professional motives. The doctor was paid \$5578 between July, 1892, and December, 1893, a period of 18 months. This handsome fee was a price worth struggling for, particularly during these pinching times, when people refuse to get sick, or being sick, decline to call in the physician. Three thousand dollars of this sum was paid to Dr. Davie by the government of his brother for services as provincial health officer during 1893, after the "crisis" of the midsummer of 1892. The "accounts" do not inform us of the amount of work done for this \$3000, but it may be taken for granted that the salary was earned, and that the premier would not permit it to be paid, especially to a brother, if full value had not been rendered. In addition to this \$3000 the doctor received pay for services during the smallpox scare and for traveling to Ottawa on a combined mission of business and pleasure. All things considered, Dr. Davie has fared sumptuously at the hands of his brother's government.

But while Premier Davie is generous to his relatives, he acts upon the principle that "charity begins at home." During the same period—from July, 1892, to December, 1893, 18 months—the premier received over \$10,000 for salary, travelling expenses, daily allowances, seasonal indemnity, etc. Mr. Davie made a trip to Chicago, New York, Boston and eastern Canadian cities, which cost the province very nearly \$1000. No person knows what his business was. A second trip was made to Ottawa, which may, possibly, have had a remote connection with public affairs, but this New York "blow out" is still a mystery. All that we can be sure about in connection therewith, is the fact that the province "paid the piper" while the premier did the dancing. And so the money goes.

Extravagant in comparatively small things, what can be hoped for in larger things? And if, as appears from the minority report of the public accounts committee, some of these payments have been made illegally, the matter is made a thousand times worse. How long will the public tolerate "Davieism" of this kind?

HERE IS THE PROOF.

The Colonist asks us to produce the resolution which authorizes the publication of the Dominion Public Accounts in advance of the sitting of parliament. We comply, with the greatest of pleasure. On page 92 of the journals of the House of Commons for 1887, this entry appears, under date of May 5:

On motion of Mr. Charlton, seconded by Mr. Mitchell,
Resolved, that the practice now in force, requiring the withholding of blue books and departmental reports till the assembling of parliament, results in the suppression, often for periods of many months, of information relating to public affairs which the public interests require should promptly be made public.

That the blue books and departmental reports for each fiscal or calendar year should in future be made public as soon as practicable after the same are prepared, and that no unnecessary delay should be permitted to interfere with the issuing of the same.

We may surely hope that this is proof enough for our sceptical neighbor. Perhaps it will now be so kind in its turn as to quote any similar rule or resolution adopted by the local legislature under which Premier Davie's premature use of the public accounts on a stumping tour is authorized. Or, failing that, perhaps it will show how an order of the Dominion House of Commons can be made to apply to provincial documents.

THE WINNIPEG MEMORIAL.
Presented to Minister Foster—A Strong Plea for Free Trade.

Last summer Minister of Finance Foster visited the Pacific coast and on his journey thither he received a deputation from the Winnipeg board of trade which presented him with a memorial—a sort of bill of rights, which the Northwest demanded from the Ottawa government. This memorial has just been published for the first time, having been given to the public at the annual meeting of the board last week. The relative positions of the Northwest and Manitoba in respect to the tariff and its burdens, have so much in common, that we think it worth while to reproduce the memorial in full. It is commended to the protectionists in Victoria, and, strange as it may seem, there are still one or two of the pampered gentry still left. The memorial follows:

To the Hon. Geo. E. Foster, M.P., Minister of Finance.
Sir—The council of the board of trade as the result of correspondence with you on the subject of the manner in which the present Canadian customs tariff affects the settlers in Manitoba and the Northwest territories, have prepared and now beg to submit, for the consideration of the government, the following:

STATEMENT.

"The council respectfully submit that the position of Manitoba, as respects the tariff question, is quite different from that of most other parts of Canada, the following being some of the reasons therefor:

- "1. There is in this province a lack of the raw materials required in most manufactured articles.
- "2. The cost of labor for manufacturing is higher here on account of the sparse settlement, and also because the settlers attracted to this province are a class less available for that purpose than in more populated centres.
- "3. The cost of fuel, and of the carriage of raw materials and all exports.
- "4. Manitoba is now, and will be for many years, almost solely an agricultural country, and as such, must come into competition with all other countries producing similar classes of produce. The price to us must be the price at the point of consumption, less the cost of carriage and handling.
- "5. Under these circumstances the prosperity of Manitoba depends upon our producers being able to raise agricultural produce at such cost as will give them a fair margin of profit. To do this, the cost of any article required by settlers must not be enhanced by unnecessary import duties, or the combination of manufacturers.

If the fiscal policy of this country is to be determined on a basis that will secure for the fertile lands of the Prairie Province and Territories (on which the future welfare of the whole Dominion depends), the population which has been predicted for them by every statesman in Canada, by every traveler and delegate who has visited them, and by every intelligent Canadian, proud of the possibilities of his country; if it is to be determined on the lines of giving the greatest good to the greatest number, then there can be no question but that the customs import tariff now imposed on articles absolutely necessary to the settler, must be reduced to the lowest point consistent with the revenue requirements of the Dominion.

The present population of Manitoba is small when compared with the number requisite to settle the whole province, but if the province is to be populated better inducements must be held out to settlers, for it must be constantly kept in view that the incoming of population depends entirely on how the present settlers' interests are considered and conserved. It is a fact that the present conditions are unsatisfactory as to the customs tariff and the railway transportation rates. The customs tariff on the farmers' necessities are far too high, and the freight rates on raw produce are too heavy notwithstanding the recent slight reductions in the latter item, to make settlers content with their lot, and thereby constitute them a drawing power to fill up the province.

The council respectfully submit: That the customs duties on goods coming into Canada should be reduced to the lowest point consistent with revenue tariff. That all specific rates of duty be abolished and that all duties be levied on an ad valorem basis. That the government be empowered, upon evidence given of the existence of a combine to maintain or increase prices, to lower, or abolish, by order-in-council, the import duty on articles affected by such combine.

The council maintain that the increased importation at lower rates of duty than now prevail, would tend rather to increase than diminish the revenue derived by the Dominion; many of the duties now in force are absolutely prohibitive, and therefore no revenue now accrues to the government.

The council submit that manufactures of many lines of staple goods in Canada have formed combines, and cause their prices, not on the cost of manufacture, plus a fair profit, but on the values which similar goods from abroad cost, laid down in Canada, duty paid. This being the case, the consumer pays an excessive price for his goods and the government does not secure a revenue, the manufacturer being the only gainer.

In the following list the council submit some examples where the tariff, in its operation, bears especially severely upon the settlers of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

Lumber—20 per cent.

Cut nails—\$1 per 100 pounds, or equal to 35 per cent. on American value.

Wire nails—\$1.50 per 100 pounds, or equal to 120 per cent. on American value.

Builders' hardware—35 per cent.

Wood screws—2 inches or over, 6c. per pound.

Wood screws—1 and 2 inches, 8c. per pound.

Wood screws—less than one inch, 11c. per pound.

Or equal to, say, 50 per cent.

Pumps—35 per cent.

Building paper—40 cents per 100 pounds, or equal to 25 to 30 per cent.

Tarred felt for building purposes—12c. per pound, or equal to 40 to 50 per cent.

Rope—sisal or Manila—1-1/4 cents per pound, and 10 cents per cwt. to 25 cents per cwt., if allowed to be put at American value. In this article an excessive valuation has, on occasions, been added to American values, so as to bring up the duty to 35 per cent.

Carriage bolts—1c. per pound and 25 per cent., or equal to 50 to 60 per cent.

Iron rivets—1-1/2c. per pound and 30 per cent., or equal to 50 to 60 per cent.

Iron, bar, hand, etc.—\$13 per ton, or equal to about 65 per cent.

Axles and springs, iron and steel—1c. per pound and 30 per cent., or equal to 50 per cent.

Barbed wire—1-1/2c. per pound, or equal to 60 per cent.

The price fixed by the Canadian Barbed Wire Combine for the season of 1893, was \$5 per 100 pounds, at 60 days, F.O.B., Winnipeg. In April, 1893, two Winnipeg wholesale hardware firms began manufacturing in Winnipeg, and the price was at once reduced to \$4 per 100 pounds, four months, or three per cent. off for cash, thus exhibiting the working of the combine.

Mechanics' tools—35 per cent.

Chopping axes—\$2 per dozen and 10 per cent., or equal to about 60 per cent.

Shovels and spades—\$1 per dozen and 25 per cent., or equal to 43 to 60 per cent.

Harvest tools—47 to 83 per cent., as per attached list. (Not printed.)

Binding twine—12-1/2 per cent.

Reduced last year from 25 per cent. 1892, for the year ending June, 1892, paid in duty 60 per cent. of the whole collected in Canada, this province alone contributing \$25,000.

Lubricating oil—petroleum—7-1/2c. per imperial gallon, or equal to 60 per cent. Manitoba paid \$3452 duty on this article in the year ending June, 1893.

Lubricating oil—other—25 per cent. Manitoba paid \$781 duty in 1892.

Agricultural machinery—35 per cent. and in many cases, by a system of arbitrary valuations by the customs department, the amount of duty collected is far in excess of 35 per cent. on the actual values in the United States.

Manitoba paid over \$100,000 duty for the year ending June, 1892, viz:

Mowers \$6,880
Ploughs 9,885
Pills 4,344
Harrows 22,650
Harrows 1,884
Harrows 378
Horse powers 1,808
Portable steam engines 20,888
Other agricultural machinery 9,470

Total \$100,180

Harness and saddlery—35 per cent.

Whips, whiplashes and whiptocks—These have without contrived by the customs officials as subject to the same rate of duty, viz: 50c. per dozen and 30 per cent., thus making the actual duty on 40c. per dozen to 100 per cent.

Horse clothing—woolen—10c. per pound and 25 per cent.

Coal oil—7-1/2c. per imperial gallon, or equal to 85 to 12c. per cent, and in addition 40c. on each barrel. Severe and harassing restrictions and regulations surrounding the importation of coal oil, greatly increase the cost to the consumer, and facilitates the maintaining of a combine of Canadian oil producers.

Manitoba paid \$3715 duty on coal oil barrels in 1892.

Manitoba paid \$26,857 duty on coal oil in 1892.

Rice—A staple article of food not produced in Canada—1-1/4c. per pound, or equal to 60 to 75 per cent.

Candles—paraffin—5c. per pound or

It is not Sawdust

We use in making INDURATED FIBRE WARE. Some people think it is, but they are mistaken. We use nothing but the longest and strongest Wood Fibre, pressed into shape without seam or joint of any kind, and indurate it by a patent process which renders it impervious to heat, cold and liquids. INDURATED FIBRE WARE imparts no taste or smell to its contents, and is the lightest, tightest, sweetest and most durable ware ever made.

Ask for EDDY'S

For that Bad Cough of yours

Allen's Lung Balsam
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
As a Specific and Cure of All Throat and Lung Diseases.

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Candles—paraffin—5c. per pound or

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Candles—tallow—2c. per pound, or equal to 25 per cent.

Dried apples—2c. per pound, or equal to 35 per cent.

Dried currants, prunes, raisins, etc.—1c. per pound, or equal to 25 to 35 per cent.

Raisins—1c. per pound and 10 per cent., or equal to over 50 per cent.

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