

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1895.

A SHALLOW DECEIVER.

We are surprised at the Times. There is an incredulity that indicates, not sharpness or shrewdness, but idiocy or dishonesty. When the Times says that Col. Prior is not a Cabinet Minister "in the ordinary sense of the term," it directly contradicts the Prime Minister of the Dominion, who states distinctly that Mr. Prior is Privy Councillor and Cabinet Minister and has just as much voice in the affairs of the Dominion as he has. If this is not being a Cabinet Minister in the true sense of the words, then not a single member of the Government is a Cabinet Minister.

The Times stupidly and dishonestly accuses Col. Prior of deception in this matter. Nothing could be more frank and open than the course which Colonel Prior pursued. He, at the earliest moment practicable, took not only the members of the Conservative party, but every elector in the Province who reads the Colonist into his confidence. On Tuesday evening he told the Conservative Association, the Macdonald Club and the press all that he knew about his appointment. He held back nothing. He read Sir Mackenzie Bowell's offer and his acceptance of that offer. He had hardly finished reading them when a telegram from the Premier confirming all that he had said in the clearest and most definite manner was placed in his hand. He immediately read that telegram to the meeting, so that on Wednesday morning the citizens of Victoria knew as much about Col. Prior's appointment as Col. Prior did himself.

It is a little remarkable that the Times did not publish one of these documents. In refraining from publishing them and at the same time accusing Col. Prior of deception the Times practises something that looks very like a fraud upon its readers. It not only did not tell them any of the truth but it did its best to lead them to believe what was not true. In order that there shall be no place for deception or falsification on the part of the Times, we reproduce here the telegrams relating to Col. Prior's appointment that were read at Tuesday night's meeting and published in yesterday morning's Colonist.

THE OFFER.

Ottawa, Dec. 14.—Kindly ascertain from Prior if he will accept a controllership with a seat in the cabinet. This would give British Columbia a voice in the council.
(Signed) MACKENZIE BOWELL.

THE ACCEPTANCE.

Dear Sir:—Referring to the telegram you received from Sir Mackenzie Bowell, a copy of which you handed to me, and which reads as follows, namely: "Kindly ascertain from Prior if he will accept a controllership with a seat in the cabinet. This would give British Columbia a voice in the council." After consideration with my colleagues and consultation with some of our principal supporters, I have no hesitation in accepting the position as stated above.
Yours faithfully,
E. G. PRIOR.

CONFIRMATION STRONG.

Montreal, Dec. 17.
Hon. E. G. Prior, Victoria.
Governor Dewdney wires me there is a misunderstanding as to your status in the government. You are Controller of Inland Revenue, Privy Councillor, and a member of the Cabinet, and have just as much voice in the affairs of the Dominion as I have. I would have offered you nothing less.
(Signed) MACKENZIE BOWELL.

The man who, after reading these telegrams, denies that Col. Prior is a Cabinet Minister, must be either a downright fool or impudently dishonest.

The Times publishes some rubbish as to what Controller Wood is reported to have said about Col. Prior's status. Who that has a particle of common sense will pay the slightest attention to what Controller Wood is reported to have said on the subject when he has before him what Mr. Wood's Chief wrote about it over his own signature.

It is abundantly evident that the deception is on the part of the Times and not on that of Col. Prior. But the organ's dishonest trick is too stupid and too shallow to deceive any man of intelligence.

EXPLANATIONS EXPLAINED.

The Toronto Globe's flop on the trade question has been remarked wherever that paper has been read. And so have been its attempts to recover itself. It has in its efforts to get on its feet again floundered and wobbled in a very amusing way. The Toronto Mail and Empire, animadverting on the great variety of views held by Liberals on the trade question goes, on to say:

It was an excellent idea on the part of the Globe to endeavor, in view of the prevailing misconceptions, both in and out of the party—but more in than out—to get order out of chaos by offering an explanation. People know what they are voting for when the proposal is set forth in a lucid manner. A number of persons, among them Mr. Costigan, read the explanation and jumped to the conclusion that it was a confession that protection for Canada is right after all. This explanation of the explanation turns out to be erroneous, and as a consequence our contemporary gives another explanation in explanation of the explanation. As it is not easy to understand the explanation of the explanation the Mail and Empire makes bold to explain it.

We are not concerned about the Mail and Empire's explanation of the series of explanations, for it is evident that explanations in this case make confusion

worse confounded. The truth is the Globe has found out that the free trade cry does not take with the people in any part of the Dominion, and it is trying to drop it and is looking about for another that will take. It is not doing the work either skillfully or gracefully.

FISH HATCHING.

A good many are sceptical as to the success of the artificial propagation of fish. One cause of this scepticism is that when the young fish are left to shift for themselves they are completely lost sight of. No one can tell with any degree of certainty what becomes of them, and it is known that there are thousands of enemies on the watch for them. With regard to land animals, even in a wild state, the success of any means taken to preserve them and to increase their numbers is soon apparent. There are many, sportsmen and others, keenly interested in their condition; they are closely watched, and every change, favorable or unfavorable, is duly noted and published. But it is different with fish. They come and go; sometimes they are what appears to be miraculously abundant and at others, wonderfully scarce, but very little is known as to the causes of either the abundance or the scarcity. It is consequently very difficult to tell whether the means taken to increase the numbers of food fishes have been successful or the reverse. Yet, notwithstanding this uncertainty, pisciculture is continued energetically and extensively in many parts of the world. The efforts of the fish breeders are not directed merely to the restocking of fresh water streams and ponds and lakes but to the keeping up of the supply of fish whose habitat is the waters of the great deep. We are told that the Fishery Board for Scotland from its hatchery established at Dunbar sent out in 1894 twenty-six million and twenty thousand plaice and half a million cod, while in 1895 the figures rose to more than thirty-eight millions and a half of plaice, two million and sixty thousand cod, three million, eight hundred thousand turbot, and one million, fifty thousand individuals of other kinds, making a gross total for the two years of seventy-two millions, seven hundred and eighty-five thousand.

No one, of course, expects that all these fish will arrive at full growth. A very large proportion of them must perish in their infancy. "But it is calculated that the survival of one per cent. of those already liberated to the attainment of the value of sixpence each would mean a gain to the fisheries of about £18,000 or \$90,000; and that the cost of maintaining the hatchery would be covered by the survival of one in a thousand to the attainment of the value of one penny. Regarded from this standpoint it seems scarcely possible that the hatchery can be other than profitable, alike to the fishermen themselves and to those who consume the products of their industry."

British Columbians, who are so deeply interested in the artificial propagation of the salmon, should be encouraged by the figures and the statements of the Fishery Board for Scotland. If the Scotch fishery experts look hopefully on their endeavors to keep up the supply of plaice, codfish and turbot, it is nothing more than reasonable that we in this Province should be sanguine as to results of the efforts that are being made to keep the run of salmon in the Fraser River up to its normal proportions. Although it is impossible to say how many of the fry that are sent down to the sea every year from the hatchery attain maturity, it is evident that there has been no diminution in the number of the fish that make their annual journey up the river. There is, we are told, less disproportion between the runs of a series of years now than there used to be. Some years ago fishermen could, whether in a given year the run of salmon would be large or small. In these days the old-timers are frequently at fault. The year which according to their calculation ought to be a bad year for the fishermen turns out to be a good year. There has been lately to the surprise of the veterans a succession of large runs. Why is this? Those who believe in the efficacy of the hatchery say that the fish which were first hatched in it are now returning to the spawning grounds. This is why there is no apparent diminution in the number of the fish and this is why almost, if not altogether, as many go up the river one year as another. There are some of course who scout this theory and who declare that the hatchery has had nothing whatever to do with the size of the runs. They aver that the salmon in their migration and their reproduction are subject to laws about which little or nothing is known, and that it would be quite as sensible to endeavor by artificial means to increase the volume of water that runs to the sea in the channels of the Fraser, as by such means to increase the number of salmon that visit the river every year. We trust that before very long there will be no uncertainty about the matter and that the efficiency of the hatchery will be proved beyond a doubt.

FOR BRONCHITIS.
GENTLEMEN.—We have used Yellow Oil as a family remedy for Bronchitis with every success. My husband also used it for a stiff finger that he thought he would never be able to use again, but it is now as well as ever through using Haggard's Yellow Oil.
WBS. D. G. SEYMOUR,
Whitehall, P.O., Ont.

PARALLEL CASES.

A great many who talk rashly about the Manitoba school question seem to forget that the minority in that Province hold their rights by precisely the same terms as do the Protestant minority of the Province of Quebec. The Constitution of the Dominion is all that stands between Quebec Protestants and oppression or unfair treatment in the matter of education. This point was well brought out by the Hon. Mr. Foster in his speech at Bracebridge, in the county of North Ontario. He said:

"In one case the schools are Protestant, in the other they are Roman Catholic. The constitution which confers those rights in Quebec was framed by the French Roman Catholic majority as a safeguard, and guarantees separate schools to the minority. The two provinces therefore stand on the same footing regarding the school question, and what would be justice for one should certainly be justice for the other. In both cases a compact has been solemnly entered into, which should be regarded as binding. The institutions and beliefs of one class of the community are as sacred to them as the institutions of any other class, held just as tenaciously, but which circumstances have not yet tended to bring out as prominently as agreed upon. Should these rights in the one instance be ruthlessly and unconstitutionally destroyed, and in the other be zealously preserved? The spirit of justice and fair play which prompts a settlement by the Government in the only right way in Manitoba, would be observed with equal rigidity in the case of Quebec should such a contingency arise. For the sake of the minority in Quebec as well as the minority in Manitoba, and, above all, for the spirit of consideration and fairness which should be paramount in a country composed of diversified races and creeds, let prejudice be set severely aside. A grievance has been declared to exist by the highest court in the Empire. Is the constitution to be maintained or not? Remember the minority in Quebec, and let calm judgment prevail."

These are words of wisdom, and it is not at all surprising that they had an effect favorable to toleration and fair play in North Ontario. If the Confederation is to be kept together the federal compact in every province should be strictly observed. To repudiate it because it was made a long time ago, as some thoughtless people talk of doing, is both dangerous and foolish. A bargain is a bargain whether it is made by a province or an individual, and good faith and honesty require those who make it to live up to it without swerving to one side or to the other.

"THE BALANCE OF POWER."

It is difficult to understand how the President of the United States could talk of the "balance of power" on this continent with a serious countenance. The power of the United States is not threatened and cannot possibly be disturbed by any power or combination of powers in North and South America. Republicanism is as safe from all encroachment from outsiders as it can possibly be. In North America and South America republicanism has nearly the whole field to itself. Canada is the only country in North America under a monarchical form of Government and its inhabitants show no disposition to act adversely to republican institutions in the United States or in any other part of the world. Since the transformation of the Empire of Brazil into a Republic, republicanism in South America is in no danger from monarchical encroachment. If intelligent United States citizens think and say that the political and social condition of Canada compares favorably with the political and social condition of their own country, Canadians surely are not to be condemned for setting their neighbors a good example; and if dispassionate and unprejudiced observers have been forced to the conclusion that the inhabitants of Brazil were happier, freer and more prosperous under an Emperor than they have been under a President, the preponderance of the United States on the continent is not seriously affected by this result. We might go further and say if the corrupt and turbulent republics of South and Central America could by any change in their form of government be transformed into peaceable, law-abiding communities in which men could live in peace and pursue their various avocations unmolested by armed politicians the balance of power in America would not be in the slightest degree disturbed. We venture just to hint that the people of the United States would be in many ways benefited by the change. Never was there a more ridiculous bugbear set up in any country at any time than this balance-of-power phantom with which President Cleveland is trying to scare the people of the United States. The supremacy of the United States on this continent is secure as long as its citizens by the exercise of the civic virtues prove their fitness to maintain it. No outsider can take it from them. If they lose it it will be through their own folly and their own wickedness. Seeking pretexts to pick a quarrel with foreign nations will not aid them in maintaining their supremacy. War by giving opportunities to the host of corruptionists which infest the Republic may do them irreparable injury and can do them very little good. The most dangerous of the enemies of the United States is within itself, and not across the Atlantic or anywhere else. It is the enemy which it is nursing in its bosom, and not any foreign foe that will deprive it of its power, moral and material.

THE LATEST MESSAGE.

The President's message on the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela is a most important document and may lead to momentous results. There have been times when interference with a foreign nation's concerns such as the President of the United States recommends would be regarded as tantamount to a declaration of war and would be soon followed by hostile action. But nations are more peaceable in these days and the President's threatening message may possibly not lead to an interruption of the friendly relations that have so long existed between Great Britain and the United States; but we cannot help thinking that, for a time at any rate, those relations will cease to be friendly, and to use a term that is now current will become "strained." And it seems to us that it will not be at all surprising if before long they shall be strained to the point of rupture and beyond that point.

The difficulty that has arisen between the two great English-speaking powers is not, by any means, complicated. The facts are these. Great Britain has a colony in South America whose western boundary is contentious with the eastern boundary of Venezuela. There has for some time been a dispute between Guiana or rather Great Britain and Venezuela as to the boundary between the colony and the republic. There is a strip of territory which is claimed by both. So far the dispute has been a peaceful one. The Venezuelan Government, it is true, seized some British constables and held them in durance vile for a short time, but it has acknowledged that a mistake was committed and expressed its willingness to make reparation.

During the progress of this boundary dispute the Government of the United States has interposed its good offices and recommended the two countries to refer the matter to arbitration. Great Britain has courteously declined to accept the advice of the United States with regard to territory which she has possessed ever since the conquest of Guiana. But she is willing to submit her claim to part of the disputed territory to arbitration.

Now the President of the United States declares that as Great Britain has not submitted its dispute with Venezuela to arbitration the United States will run the line between British Guiana and Venezuela and will treat Great Britain as an enemy if it exercises acts of ownership over territory which the United States surveying commission decides belongs to Venezuela. This is a singular position for a third party to take, and one which has no interest whatever in the territory in dispute. But the Monroe doctrine comes in here, which is a mere declaration of a President of the United States made seventy years ago, and even that, as Lord Salisbury clearly shows, has no bearing on the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela.

Great Britain, he says, is imposing no "system" upon Venezuela and is not concerning herself in any way with the nature of the political institutions under which the Venezuelans may prefer to live. But the British Empire and the Republic of Venezuela are neighbors, and they have differed for some time past, and continue to differ, as to the line by which their dominions are separated. It is a controversy with which the United States have no apparent practical concern. It is difficult indeed to see how it can materially affect any state or community outside of those primarily interested, except perhaps other parts of Her Majesty's dominions, such as Trinidad. The disputed frontier of Venezuela has nothing to do with any question dealt with by President Monroe. It is not a question of colonization by a European power of any portion of America. It is not a question of imposition on the communities of South America of any system of government devised in Europe. It is simply the determination of the frontier of a British possession which belonged to the throne of England long before the republic of Venezuela came into existence.

It is not hard to see that the United States has really no grounds for interference in this dispute. It has never declared itself the protector of the republics of South and Central America, and its public men distinctly repudiate the obligations which a protectorate carries with it. It considers, however, itself strong enough to enforce its will in this matter. This is the long and the short of the whole matter. The President is acting upon the very ancient maxim that might constitutes right. Besides, his interpretation of the Monroe doctrine is at this moment popular in the United States and a presidential election takes place next year.

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When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became a Girl, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

WEAK AND TIRED.

DEAR SIRS.—I can heartily recommend Miller's Cod Liver Oil Emulsion. For a long time I felt so weak I could hardly keep up. My little thing tiring me out. I took two bottles and the fatigue and tired feeling left me and have never returned.
MRS. E. CHURCHILL,
Springfield, Ont.

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THIS popular and well known Hotel was re-opened on November 15, under the management of Wm. Jensen, its founder, with everything new and bright. It will be conducted as of former years, aiming to make it homelike for guests.

PRESS ENDORSATIONS.

United States Newspapers Commend President Cleveland's Deliverance on the Venezuela Affair.

The N. Y. "World's" the Only Sentencing Deliverance—England Not a Foreign Nation.

New York, Dec. 18.—The editorial comments of most of the leading newspapers throughout the country, quite endorse the President's message irrespective of party politics. The Albany Press and Knickerbocker may be said to fairly reflect the general consensus of expressed opinion among Democratic papers when it says: "President Cleveland has silenced the tongues and closed the mouths of his carping critics with such abruptness that he has left most of them breathless and even gasping. His recommendations have every mark of sincerity. The policy outlined is sufficiently emphatic and the position he takes will receive the backing of every true son of America. 'John Bull' has had the side of his face slapped. If he turns the other side, another and heavier slap will be ready. That is what the message means."

Republican comment is scarcely less enthusiastic. The Buffalo Express, for instance, comments on the message as "bold and patriotic." "At last," the Express says, "the people of the United States will present a solid front with regard to our foreign policy, unbroken by partisan bickerings or jealousies. This is something which has never occurred before in our history as a nation. It is not too much, therefore to say that the message read to the houses of congress yesterday is the most important document which Grover Cleveland ever penned. It will be noticed to European powers that if they trench on the Monroe doctrine they will have to deal, not with a party or faction, but with a whole people."

The New York World is almost alone in assuming a hostile tone with respect to the message. The World says in

part: "President Cleveland's message to Congress, is a serious blunder. It is a blunder because it is based upon a wrong conception, because it is not sustained by international law or usage, and because it places the United States in a false position. The President in his message, like Secretary Olney in his despatches, assumes that the policy of Great Britain in Venezuela involves a menace to this country. Are our peace and safety as a nation, the integrity of our free institutions and the tranquil maintenance of our distinctive form of government threatened by an extension, however, unwarranted and arbitrary, of the English possessions in Venezuela? The serious nature of this 'Jingo' bugaboo is sufficiently indicated by pointing to Canada and to British Columbia on our very borders. England is not a 'foreign nation' in this hemisphere. Great Britain owns more territory on this continent than we do. If she had the hostile intention which the President's words impute, did she need to writ for a boundary dispute in distant Venezuela, with a hybrid race, to assail us or to menace our republican institutions? The assumption is absurd and with it falls the structure of ponderously patriotic rhetoric reared upon it by the President."

IN THE FAMILY.

Mothers, Fathers and Children all speak in praise of Haggard's Pectoral Balsam as a cure for coughs, colds, asthma, bronchitis, sore throat, quinsy and all throat troubles. Price 25c.

BIRTH.

MACBRADY—In this city, on the 17th inst., the wife of D. Macbrady, 231 Cook street, of a son.

JACOBSON—In this city, on the 15th inst., the wife of Capt. V. Jacobson, of a son.

DIED.

FINLAYSON—In this city, on the 17th inst., John Finlayson, a native of Belmar, Ontario, Rosshire, Scotland, late Governor of the Provincial Reformatory, aged 62 years.

(Detroit papers please copy.)

PORTER—On the 17th inst., at the residence of Mr. J. W. Mackay, Cadboro Bay Road, Agnes, relict of the late Joseph Porter, a native of Wigan, Lancashire, England, aged 75 years.

LANG—In this city, on No. 27 Avalon Road, James Bay, on the 12th inst., Kathleen Florence, second daughter of William and Francis Lang, aged 2 years and nine months.

JAMES—In this city, at No. 13 Green street, on the 11th inst., Mary Ellen, only daughter of the late Alfred and the late James, a native of Clackamas County, Oregon, in the 24th year of her age.