

# The Colonist.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1896.

## PROVINCIAL POLITICS.

We wonder if the men who talk so glibly about "provincial politics" attach any definite significance to the words they use. It seems to us almost as absurd to use the term "politics" with reference to the conduct of the affairs of the Province as to use it in connection with the management of a municipality, or a bank, or a large mercantile concern. The work to be done by the Provincial Government is business in the strictest sense of the term, and the less of what is generally termed politics there is mixed up with it the better for the inhabitants of the Province.

The Province, in the matter of politics, has hitherto, in our opinion, been on the right track. The people have chosen their representatives, and the Government has done its work independently of political parties. As far as the work of legislation and administration is concerned, there have been in this Province neither Grit nor Tory—Reformer nor Conservative. Men have been chosen to manage the public affairs of the Province on provincial considerations alone. The people have believed them to be the best men to do the business of the Province and elected them without reference to their political creed—almost, if not altogether, as the directors of banks and joint stock companies are chosen. And it cannot be truthfully denied that the system has worked well. The representatives of the people of the province of British Columbia have compared favorably with the representatives of the people of any province of the Dominion, and the absence of party spirit has been beneficial in the transaction of public business and in the maintenance of harmony and good feeling in the community. It will have to be said, too, that the affairs of the Province have been on the whole wisely and uprightly administered.

The Province is young, it is sparsely peopled, but it has great resources. In doing the business of such a province its governments have pursued the course which business men would have taken in managing their own private concerns under similar circumstances. They looked to the future and expanded the means at their disposal and directed their energies largely in the work of development. They saw that a liberal expenditure was necessary in order to make the resources of the country available, and they spent liberally. In order to do this it was necessary to borrow money. The property was worth improving and every dollar spent in making public improvements was so much added to the capital of the Province. This policy shocked small-minded economists, who believed that expenditure should under no circumstances exceed revenue, and ruin and bankruptcy were confidently predicted. But the Province has not been ruined, and is not by any means likely to become bankrupt. On the contrary it has progressed and is progressing at a rate which has excited the wonder and admiration of the other provinces of the Dominion; and business considerations require it to continue as it began. Development wisely directed is as necessary now as ever it was. Improvements are required and improvements should be made, prudently, it is true; but in this Province at the present stage of its existence prudence means progress.

The first non-political managers of the affairs of the Province saw that the territory under their control was very large and the inhabitants very few. In order to encourage settlement they made the acquisition of land easy. This course was continued for a considerable time, as it gave the government's revenue which they greatly needed, and—as they believed—promoted settlement as well. After a while it was concluded that it was unwise in the Government to sell the public domain in large tracts to men who were not actual settlers. So the Government became more careful in disposing of the public lands, but the change from a business point of view was not altogether a success. The management of the lands of the Province is a matter that requires a wise and a clear view as to what are the true interests of the inhabitants of the Province—present and prospective. But it is a matter that must be regulated on strictly business principles. Politics and politicians should have as little as possible to do with it.

The sale of timber and the preservation of the forests of the Province are matters under the control of the Provincial Government; but hard-headed, intelligent business men can manage this department infinitely better than the politicians. The truth is the average politician is so careless and so short-sighted in matters of this kind that he allows the grossest mismanagement and the most lamentable waste to continue without even a word of remonstrance.

In the opening up of the country the non-political governments of the Province have unostentatiously done a great deal of valuable work, and there is much more to be done. Work of this sort, as it is not calculated to win votes, is likely to be neglected by the mere politicians.

The reader will see for himself as he thinks over the work to be done by the

men who are entrusted with the management of the public affairs of the Province, that it is work that requires business ability for its transaction, and that the less thought or said about politics as politics is generally understood—in connection with it the better for the Province generally. What the Province wants is business and not "politics." Politics require a larger field to work in than a province and a greater variety of subjects to deal with than are to be found in a government of very limited jurisdiction. Let the Dominion have its policies, but business is what British Columbia wants.

## THE TRIUMPH OF RIGHT.

Common sense and common honesty have won a glorious victory in the United States. There was a time when the advocates of a vicious currency system and of repudiation believed that they would carry all before them. And there were many of the upholders of sound money who feared the worst. The crowds who followed Bryan and who believed in Bryan made such a noise and boasted so confidently that many whose faith in the good sense and right principle of the people was not strong feared that the United States would be given over to currency crooks and anarchists. Their fear was contagious, and for a time right-thinking people in all parts of the United States were very nervous indeed. Later they became less apprehensive; still we are sure that the news which yesterday's papers contained was a great relief to very many.

Other French papers express themselves in the same strain. When it is remembered that Mr. Laurier owes his majority to the province of Quebec it may be readily seen how he will fare in that province when its inhabitants are convinced that he has played them false on the school question; and when they see him and his lieutenant, Tarte, denounced from one end of the province to the other as traitors. That Mr. Laurier and Mr. Tarte promised the electors that if he should be returned to power he would restore to the Roman Catholic minority their separate schools is beyond question, and that he condemned the Bowell Bill as a half-hearted measure is equally incontrovertible.

On these promises and assurances he gained the majority that carried him into power and that maintains him there. French-Canadians have no love for double-dealers. When once they are convinced that Mr. Laurier, Mr. Tarte, Mr. Geoffrion and others of the leading Liberals have not kept faith with them they will be indignant and they will make their indignation felt as soon as they have opportunity to do so. Mr. Laurier and his colleagues in the Government are well convinced of this, and all secrets were known to them, but, believe, found that it is fear of incurring the wrath of French-Canadians that is the cause of the delay and hesitation in settling the Manitoba school question.

Laurier Cabinet has capitulated and given up separate schools.

The Liberal party, it states, was put into power last year by the Province of Quebec upon the solemn promise made by Mr. Laurier to settle the separate school question, and that in a more satisfactory manner than the Conservatives with the Bowell bill. All settlement and all compromise which will not give the Catholics of Manitoba their separate schools will not discharge the Liberal party and much less the Hon. Mr. Laurier of the promises made before the elections. We do not blame Mr. Tarte for having changed his political allegiance, but we do deem any change on his part in the school question as treason.

*La Presse* continues that Mr. Tarte more than anybody else stood up for separate schools, and adds:

The Laurier cabinet is not free to settle the school question, it only reached by the will of the electors of the Province of Quebec, who confided in him only after having received a most solemn promise of settlement respecting the right of the Catholic minority. This is not a political question, but the honest carrying out of two bargains; the first being that of the Manitoba Government and British North America in 1870, and the second between Hon. Mr. Laurier and the electors of the Province of Quebec. There may be a difference of opinion on the first; the second rests solely on the word of the Hon. Mr. Laurier.

Our contemporary is loth to believe that "Mr. Laurier, who is an honest man, has failed in all his promises and betrayed his word by giving up the Catholics of Manitoba to the mercy of the fanatics who are opposing them and has accepted a settlement which has taken away from the minority all the rights recognized by the Bowell bill."

Toronto, Nov. 4.—*The Globe* says: "The school settlement, from all that can be learned, will take the form of maintaining the national character of schools, unity of system, and the principle of state-control, while permitting a certain amount of denominational instruction; as Premier Laurier says, will not satisfy everybody. To secularize the schools completely would be to render them unacceptable to a large body of people. As a way out of the difficulty nothing could be fairer than the plan suggested by the Manitoba authorities leaving the matter largely under the control of parents."

## THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Mr. Sifton Submitting to the Brandon Liberals the Terms of Settlement.

Minister Tarte Returning to Winnipeg to confer with the Greenway Government.

WINNIPEG, Nov. 4.—The Tribune publishes a Brandon dispatch which reads:

"Hon. J. I. Tarte is now at Prince Albert, and before going to the coast is expected to run back to the school settlement agreed upon by the two governments, and that he may leave for Ottawa any day this week, when he will be sworn in as minister of the interior."

The paper adds: "Hon. J. I. Tarte is now at Prince Albert, and before going to the coast is expected to run back to the school settlement. It is considered that on Friday a public announcement will be made of the settlement. Until that time the nature of the compromise is being carefully kept a secret and all forecasts are merely guesses."

A prominent French Liberal who was interviewed said that from Mr. Laurier's statement that the school question would be settled in about ten days, it would be evident that their return to Winnipeg has something to do with the final settlement of the school question. He had heard that this was understood when Mr. Tarte left Winnipeg.

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CROW'S NEST PASS RAILWAY.

WINNIPEG, Nov. 4.—(Special)—Collingwood Schreiber, deputy minister of railways and canals, left last night for the West, and it is believed will examine the Crow's Nest Pass and prepare a report for the government on the advisability of building a railway there. His principal mission is to inspect the work done by the C.P.R. between Kamloops and Yale. If his report is satisfactory the government bonds to this work \$79,000, will be paid out. The work was commenced six years ago and is nearly completed.

Winnipeg has been agitated by a series of burglaries lately, chief of which was the clearing out of Andrew's jewelry store. Yesterday a great sensation was created by the arrest of Michael and Anthony Egan members of the well known gang.

Ottawa, Montreal, Barnsfield, Wisconsin, and elsewhere. Nearly all the stolen jewelry was found in their possession.

Robert Moran, a well known young farmer of Holland station, is now on trial here for the murder of his sweetheart, Hannah Hatton. The young girl had been pregnant. On the night of March 30 she went walking with Moran and next morning her body was found on the prairie with her throat cut. Blood stains were found on Moran's clothes.

At Regina, Hon. Mr. Tarte was presented with a civil address. In reply he said that the more he travelled across the prairie the more he appreciated the variety of capabilities it was and one of which no reading of pamphlets could give an idea. It was a land of which they all ought to be proud. He was glad to find that peace and harmony prevailed amongst them. In the East they had little difficulties, rankles and overreachings, but he was glad to find that nothing of the kind existed in the Northwest. In regard to his position as minister of finance he said he did not occupy that position for his party alone, but for the whole Dominion of Canada. (Cheers.) The fate of Pittville Wardle had placed his party in a position which or wrongly he would not say, but they were in to stay as long as they could and as long as he was there it would be not only his duty but his earnest pleasure to attend to the wants and needs of all portions of Canada."

THE "BIG" FOUR.

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"I was sick for three years," says James Simpson, of Newcomb Mills. "I tried many cures and patent cures, and several boxes of a certain cure which has been greatly cracked up, I am afraid to let it lie. Then I tried Dr. Chase's Kidney Liver Pills. Since I have been able to work every day and feel like a man again. Your pills alone cured me at a cost of only 25 cents."

"I have been subject to severe colds every fall and spring," says Miss Hattie Delaney, of 174 Crawford street, Toronto. "I used many cough medicines, but none cured me until at a cost of 25 cents I tried Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine."

"My husband was troubled with the worst kind of piles," writes Mrs. Jane Potts, of Meyersburg. "He was often unable to work. Since using your Chase's Ointment he is completely cured. It is truly worth its weight in gold instead of the price you charge, only 60 cents."

"I bought a box of your Catarrh Cure for 25 cents at Mr. Bond's drug store here," says Harry K. Nichols, 166 Factory street, London, Ont. "I am thankful to say it cured me."

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