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THE VANCOUVER ELECTION.

The result of the bye-election in Vancouver City yesterday is not surprising, except that Mr. Wilson's majority is considerably larger than anybody anticipated. It is evident that the opponents of the McBride government conducted a half-hearted campaign. There can be no doubt that they were somewhat discouraged and heavily handicapped. Influences were brought to bear that were decidedly inimical to the cause of good government. In the first place the C. P. R. newspapers did their utmost to discourage Captain Stuart and his supporters, and it cannot be denied that the effect was far reaching. Then, too, a clique composed of holders of large areas of land, looking for a continuance of the present inequitable system of taxation which relieves them of heavy yet just assessment, were strenuous in their efforts as members of the Vancouver board of trade to prevent the Liberals from nominating a candidate. There was also the trail of the Martin serpent to contend with. It is apparent that Martin is still an important factor among Vancouver Liberals, and it is also noticeable that "Joe" is still a better friend to Dunsmuirism than to the cause of honest Liberalism. Of course the McBrideites took every advantage. They were well organized and ready for the fight before Mr. Wilson's appointment to the attorney-generalship was made public. The Liberals were at a disadvantage on every standpoint.

In our opinion, the crowning mistake of the opponents of McBride lay in the issues that they failed to raise during the contest. They ignored the vital questions of the day for matters of only passing importance. The Fernie recount was made as prominent as any feature in the campaign. Such matters as the annual deficit of half a million dollars; the outrageous maintenance of reserves on crown lands for the benefit of rich speculators and to the detriment of the humble pioneer and prospector; the monstrous system of assessment that allows men like Dunsmuir and other large land holders to pay a merely nominal tax while the mining industry and the struggling merchant and prospector are harassed for every cent that can be extorted; the maladministration of the several public departments; the robbery of the people by preposterous railway subsidies; the abandonment of all public works by order of McBride; the refusal of the administration to assist in the development of new districts on an intelligent and businesslike basis; the wretched condition of the provincial credit at home and abroad—these are a few of the issues that should have been presented to the electors through the press and from the platform, but which were, for the most part, relegated to the background.

The manly and statesmanlike course pursued all through the contest by Mr. Macdonald, the leader of the Opposition, is deserving of the highest tribute, but the hurried nature of the campaign and his eleventh-hour appointment to the leadership of his party minimized his splendid efforts to save the country from the aggregation of chuckle-heads and rascals which now controls the destinies of British Columbia. We know that Mr. Macdonald did raise many burning questions and he has gained golden opinions and unstinted respect for the honesty, steadfastness and high order of statesmanship that he has so far displayed. But what could be expected other than defeat when the candidate and most of his supporters failed to rise to the level of their leader's ideas and ideals?

Premier McBride has little cause to congratulate himself over the result of this election. He may be expected, however, to do considerable bragging about "magnificent manifestation of public confidence," "endorsement by

the common people," "vindication of all his public acts," and other equally insufferable rot. The Dunsmuir and railway press will also dish up its usual "guff." We foresee the smugest of smug editorials in the Colonist, the News-Advertiser, and the Province. It is not too much to expect that the first two will go to the length of pretending to view the result as the direct work of the right hand of providence.

While the result is decidedly disappointing to the friends of good government the cause is not without bright hope. In spite of Mr. Wilson's election, McBride cannot give the country an adequate and stable government, firstly because he is lacking in the necessary mental qualifications and secondly because he has not sufficient follow-up in the legislature. And the chances are that even the support that he now relies on will be denied him in the very near future.

THE LIBERAL LEADER.

J. A. Macdonald, M. L. A. from Rossland and leader of the Liberal party in British Columbia, won golden opinions in the brief campaign in Vancouver City. This was the first appearance of Mr. Macdonald on a political platform since his elevation to his present position as leader of his party. The Vancouver newspapers in respect of political affiliations evince great respect for Mr. Macdonald, and not without good reason. So far his attitude on every public question has been highly commendable. He seems strongly imbued with sound, practical ideas for the amelioration of the body politic, and inspires confidence and respect on all sides. If he only persists in his present policy he is destined to play an important part in the destinies of the province, and gain lasting credit and distinction. There is a magnificent opportunity in British Columbia today for the leader of a political party and it would now seem practically assured that it will fall to Mr. Macdonald's lot to enact that role.

STABLE GOVERNMENT.

The News-Advertiser declares that the re-election of Mr. Wilson will secure the stability of the government. It would be interesting to have the proof which inspires the Vancouver paper to make this extraordinary statement. The general impression among those who are well informed as to the political situation in this province is the very opposite to the contention of the News-Advertiser. No government can be termed stable that has only a party majority of one which may disappear at any moment, and no government can inspire confidence either at home or abroad that is composed of men who are neither able nor willing to give the people an honest and intelligent administration. A combination of unfortunate accidents rather than the popular will of the electors has placed McBride and his incompetent colleagues in office. It is impossible that they should remain in power any considerable length of time, and the sooner they are ousted the better it will be for British Columbia. This province will never have stability in government or in general business conditions until a bolder and more honest man than the McBride crowd are in charge of affairs.

THE MIGHTY TATLOW.

A special dispatch from Victoria this morning corroborates all that The Miner has prophesied concerning the failure of the McBride government to rise equal to the occasion in arranging an adequate policy for the approaching session of the legislative assembly. It will be noticed that Captain Tatlow, minister of finance, hints at little hope for railway construction and evinces a very befogged idea of the need of a vigorous fiscal policy. He would, however, wipe out a deficit of more than half a million dollars by cutting off all temporary assistance and dismissing a few poorly paid officers at inconsequential places. Great is the McBride government and great is Tatlow!

PURCHASING PROSPECTS.

The greatest possibilities in connection with mining investments lie in acquiring prospects which show evidence of good mineralization. It costs money to develop a number of prospects in an effort to find a mine, but the greatest profits of mining come from having made a mine rather than in having purchased one already made. Mines of known value, of measurable ore reserves, cannot be purchased except at a great profit to the owners and some of the bonanzas which have been sold had at the time of sale passed the zenith of their production. Exploration work in virgin ground or in developing prospects partially developed, pursued with skill and intelligence, usually is preferable to expending a fortune in acquiring a big producing mine. In other words, the men who bought the Homestake mine in Dakota, for instance, at the time it was a prospect, made a far greater profit on it than could any one who

might purchase it now; for the reason that its present owners pretty thoroughly know its value and would not sell for a dollar less than their own estimate of its value; whereas at the time of their original purchase its value was undetermined and their principal investment was what they expended in exploratory work to ascertain if they had a mine.

WHITED SEPULCHRES.

It is interesting to see how some of the coast papers are reluctantly beginning to recognize the absolute necessity for the reform of our present fiscal system. The Dunsmuir and railway press take it up about as willingly as they did the Columbia and Western scandal. They would like to avoid any mention of this matter, but as it is to be the chief topic of discussion at the forthcoming session of the legislature, they have no other choice than to face the music.

This same element in British Columbia Journalism has a few more unpleasant doses of a similar nature to swallow in the near future. Of course the Colonist, the News-Advertiser and the Province will "back up" until the last moment, but within less than a year they will be forced to recognize the monstrous inequity that lies in the practice of placing "reserves" on the surface rights of valuable crown lands for the special benefit of speculators and to the exclusion and detriment of the prospector and the pioneer. They will also have to take cognizance of the abominable state of affairs in the lands and works department, and the utter uselessness of the B. C. Agency in London under the present method of operation.

When that time comes it is safe to say that these seditious journals will express no little astonishment and profess to be thoroughly scandalized at the turn that affairs have taken; but it is also safe to say that they will do nothing to remedy matters meanwhile.

TO HELP TRADE.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the C. P. R., in an interview last week, intimated that the policy of Canada should be to discourage imports from abroad and to develop trade within the country.

There will be a difference of opinion in regard to the views expressed by Sir Thomas concerning imports from abroad, but there will be unanimous agreement with his statement as to the desirability of increasing trade within the limits of the Dominion.

That our internal commerce is capable of infinite development, and that the country would be benefited by such expansion, is beyond question. Not only is this true, but it is equally true that no one man is in a position to do more towards facilitating this local development than the president of the Canadian Pacific railway.

Sir Thomas is in a position to give an impetus even to manufacturing industries. At the present time, as pointed out by those forming the joint deputation which asked the Dominion government early in the year for the appointment of a railway commission, rates on manufactured goods sent from Ontario to the West are so much higher than rates on goods sent from points in the United States to the same market, and with the same length of haul, that they practically offset the advantage the protective tariff is supposed to give the Canadian manufacturer.

By all means let us have development of internal commerce; and the surest way to that development is by a reduction in the cost of transportation.

THE ASSOCIATED BOARDS.

The meeting of the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia in Rossland early next month will have an important bearing upon the industrial welfare of this section of the province. As will be seen in another column, the list of questions to be brought up for discussion is both long and varied. It covers subjects of importance from local needs to imperial relations, and the probabilities are that most of them will receive favorable consideration. Perusal of the list shows that there is much pertinence and timeliness to each of the questions raised. The list might have contained references to additional matters of local importance, but it is nevertheless fairly comprehensive and will undoubtedly be productive of much good. The visiting delegates may look forward to a hearty and hospitable reception from the Golden City, and we hope that their brief sojourn here will be as pleasant in every particular.

"C.-B."

It is generally understood that if the Balfour government is defeated in the coming general elections, the next premier would be, not the present leader of the Liberal party, but Earl Spencer. This is pretty rough on Sir Henry a glimpse of a few diamonds, I was re- is familiarly called in England—who has for several years done the drudgery of leadership and received very

little thanks for it. But no doubt the arrangement would be best for the Liberal party, and best also for the country and the empire.

"C.-B." is a Scotchman of respectable talents and good business education, whose father grew rich in retail trade on a large scale. He is respected as an honest, well-meaning politician, but nobody in Britain regards him as a statesman of first-rate ability, and even among Liberals he is looked upon as only a makeshift leader. The party was divided in its allegiance to two men of much larger calibre—Lord Rosebery and Sir William Harcourt; and as the differences between these two could not be reconciled, it was deemed prudent that both of them should relinquish their claims to the leadership in favor of some third man. Campbell-Bannerman was a colorless, good-natured member of the party who had won his way to the front by sheer industry and perseverance; and as he was on good terms with both the factions he was elected as the compromise leader.

"C.-B." has done fairly well; but it is quite evident that he is not big enough or strong enough for the premiership.

Latterly, Sir Henry has given his friends cause to grieve and exposed himself to the ridicule of his opponents by imprudent and rather foolish utterances. Since the exposure of war-office incompetency, he has been attacking the government for its want of energy at the outbreak of the Boer war. But people easily remember how this same "C.-B." denounced the government over three years ago for such energy as it was showing, declaring that it was sending to South Africa an unnecessarily large force to cope with the danger which was looming up there. In an open letter published the other day, Sir Henry denied that there is any good ground for Mr. Chamberlain's statements about the decline in British trade, and asserted that the country was never more prosperous; and yet this same "C.-B." only a few weeks ago, in a public address, protested against any change of fiscal policy which would increase the cost of food, because, he asserted, there are twelve millions of people in Britain who are now on the verge of starvation, and any increase in the cost of living would result in actual starvation to many of them. If it is a fact that nearly a third of the total population of Britain is near the starvation point, it is grim irony to claim that the country is prosperous.

Such inconsistencies as these have shaken the confidence of Liberals in their nominal leader, and convinced them that a less garrulous and more cautious man is needed to lead the embattled Liberal host against the forces of Balfour and his great ally, Chamberlain.

A PROPOSED CLASS CONTEST.

Since the dawn of history men have cleaved to each other, or opposed each other, according as they were or were not descended from a common racial stock or as they were or were not inhabitants of a particular geographical area under the jurisdiction of one government. Within those lines individuals have competed with each other and have co-operated with those of like interests to compete with those of adverse interests. But the class cleavage has been along the lines of industries and not according to the part borne by individuals in conducting those industries. These forms of crystallization having persisted through the ages without conscious effort of any man to promote them, may be called the natural divisions of society. When the propagandists of the international socialists raised their cry of "proletariat unite" it was the first effort of man to override natural law as manifested in the instincts of men's souls and substitute therefor a social cleavage upon the lines of possession and non-possession, of thrift and unthrift, of energy and lassitude, of manual labor and other forms of labor.

Under the title of "The Class Struggle," Jack London, a journalist, author and socialist, presents the social view in the columns of the New York Independent. His opening thesis is as follows: "When a group of individuals is formed wherein the members are bound together by common interests which are peculiarly their interests and not the interests of individuals outside the group, such a group is a class. The owners of capital, with their dependents, form a class of this nature. The working people form a similar class. The interest of the capitalist class is quite contrary to the interest of the laboring class, and vice versa." In this quotation we have omitted words in order to present the proposition in a purely abstract form. Mr. London assumes, with Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Gompers and other labor leaders, that workmen on this continent have ceased to expect to pass from the ranks of workers without capital to that of possessors of capital.

For the fallacies of socialism one must always look not to the argument but to the assumptions on which the argument is founded. It is not true that the possessors and non-possessors of capital correspond to the man-

ual and non-manual workers respectively. It is not true that the fit among the non-possessors of capital can no longer pass freely to the hands of the capitalists in this country. On the contrary, conditions were never so favorable for such passage as now, except in so far as it is hindered by the efforts of the wage earners themselves, who, under bad leadership, consciously strive to prevent the capable among them from such exercise of their capacity as has always been necessary to effect the translation. In 1900 there were in the United States 5,739,657 owners of farms. Every one of these owners is a capitalist. Ninety-nine out of every 100 are manual workers. In 1902 there were 6,666,672 depositors in savings banks in that country, and the average size of their deposits, \$412.53, shows that almost as large a proportion as of the farmers were manual workers. Every one of them is a capitalist. In the cities of 25,000 and over there were 1,027,256 families owning their own home. In the smaller cities the census does not give the number, but the aggregate, if known, would be far larger. They are all of the capitalist class. Every holder of a life insurance policy is a capitalist, interested in the great industries of the country in which his money is invested by the companies which hold it. The stocks and bonds of all industrial establishments which are recognized as substantial are widely distributed in the direct and indirect ownership of manual workers. While the management of the great industries is generally consolidated the ownership is more widely distributed than ever, and the fit manual worker in their employ has five chances to rise to financial independence and social prominence in their employ to one that the equal man of former generations ever had to set up a business of his own. As to the minor industries, which are conducted as they always were, the chances for independence have not been reduced. What barber is there who may not hope to own his own shop?

We have no patience with the philosophy of despair. The world can have only contempt for those who teach that the fit manual worker must always be a "slave" and that therefore he must always rebel. And such doctrines never on earth, in any land, have originated with the workers themselves. They are the product of the unhealthy minds, morbid imaginations and maudlin emotions of men who themselves do no manual work whatever. They rest of the pipe, the gas jet and the beer pot.

THE ROCKEFELLERS' PLANS.

People of the United States may well wonder what limit the Rockefellers have put to their ambition in the way of gaining control of industries and railways in that country. They are now said to have practical control of the steel trust and to be reaching out for the absorption of the copper industry. In the line of railways, they have become dominant in the Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, very largely interested in the Western Union, the New York, New Haven & Hartford, Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, Northern Pacific and Missouri, Kansas & Texas railways, and last year they formed an alliance with George Gould, who controlled the Missouri Pacific, the Denver & Rio Grande and the Wabash railway systems. This alliance they are now said to be utilizing to gain control of the Pennsylvania railway, and their plans also include the New York Central. If all these projects mature to their liking they will be practical emperors of a very fair domain. It may be, though, that their structure will prove somewhat top-heavy.

NOT EVEN "REMOTE."

Some obscure Montreal paper calling itself La Debat recently offered the opinion that Canada should join the United States, on the understanding that the various provinces should be "given the full rights of commonwealths," whatever that may mean. The Chicago Tribune was quite tickled over the suggestion, and the Spokesman-Review finds it worth while to "note what the conditions might be should annexation take place." The Tribune's review of these conditions as summarized by the Spokane paper give quite a fair picture of the Dominion: "Ontario, with 2,500,000 people and large and varied agricultural, mineral and timber resources, would make a first class state at once, and the same may be said of Quebec, with a population of nearly 2,000,000, made up of farmers, lumbermen, salt and fresh water fishermen, sailors and manufacturers. The Maritime provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have a homogenous population of stout and thrifty people to the number of 1,000,000, who would make a strong commonwealth; and Manitoba, with a population of 250,000, and increasing rapidly, would make another. In the opinion of the Tribune, the name of Columbia was accorded to the British province on the Pacific with prophetic vision, and it would make a glorious

capstone to the column of Pacific states. The territories of Athabasca, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta are getting new people, and many of them are Americans. If their population warranted it, they could be admitted as a state at once." It might have occurred to the Tribune that Canadians, having so fine a territory, would naturally be ambitious to make a country of it for themselves. The Spokesman is a degree wiser, for it judges that "the opinion of Le Debat is not that of a majority of people in the Dominion." It is, however, much in error when it speaks of annexation as "a remote possibility," since there is absolutely no sign of its being a possibility of any kind. These little discussions regarding Canada's future in which American papers and politicians indulge are amusing enough to Canadians. They are also so far satisfactory as an indication that Canada's progress is not unnoticed abroad.

THE IRON DUTIES.

Iron manufacturing in Canada seems to have some peculiar circumstances connected with it. The manufacturers complain that Canada is a "dumping ground," particularly for the big steel trust that operates across the line. Of course the complaint is followed by a plea for higher duties to prevent said process of dumping. George E. Drummond, of Montreal, president of the Manufacturers' association, in a recent interview put the iron men's position in this way: "The Canadian market is at present overrun with drummers offering American pig iron at slaughter prices, concessions being readily made for export to Canada. The duty against this iron is \$2.50 a ton, which would be equal to about 17-1/2 per cent. It should not be less than \$3.50 per ton, the American tariff against Canadian pig iron being \$4 a ton. Canadian consumers of pig iron will find the same system of slaughtering goods will inevitably be followed by the American manufacturers in the more highly finished goods, so that all classes of manufacturers and consumers of iron and steel goods in Canada will suffer."

Strangely enough, this same charge of "dumping" is advanced against the Canadian manufacturers themselves. For instance, it was announced lately from Sydney that the Swedish market is to be invaded and large shipments of Canadian pig for Stockholm are being prepared. Sweden is an active iron producer on its own account, and to send iron there looks a good deal like sending coals to Newcastle. Later cables contained a protest from a big producer of pig iron in England demanding "protection against Canadian bounty-fed pig." This Englishman says Canada last year "dumped" almost as much iron in Great Britain as Germany, Holland, Belgium and the United States together. Germany, Holland and Belgium contributed together 78,000, the United States 45,000 tons, while the Canadian offering amounted to 103,000 tons. If the Canadian producer can "dump" his pig iron abroad he ought to be able to hold the home market.

Further interesting evidence is given by Samuel Coulson, of H. R. Ives & Co., the big Montreal foundry firm. His statement in an interview is as follows:

"Mr. Drummond's remarks in so far as they relate to pig iron are misleading. At the outset I may state that in our works we use not less than three thousand tons of pig iron per annum, and naturally buy our iron in the cheapest market. For over two years past we have not been able to purchase a pound of pig iron in the United States; in that time 75 per cent of the pig iron used by us came from England, the rest was Canadian. Recently our American friends have been writing to us to know if we were not able to buy at present prices, their quotations as late as October 29th being as follows: No. 1 soft, \$19.67 per gross ton, f. o. b. cars Montreal, duty paid, terms 30 days; No. 2 foundry, \$19.17; No. 3, \$18.50; No. 4, \$18.17. The foregoing quotations compare with English and Scotch iron now in our yards as follows: No. 1 Summerlee, \$19.50; No. 1 Ayresome, \$19; No. 1 Carnbroe, \$18.45; No. 1 Middleboro', \$18.75; terms four months.

"Taking one with the other, we consider the brands of English and Scotch iron mentioned as being worth fully \$1 per ton more for our purposes than the American brands quoted. Mr. Drummond does not make himself very clear as to whether he is opposed to the preference now being given to England. He also neglected to mention that Canadian manufacturers of pig iron up to the last session of parliament were entitled to and collected bounties amounting to \$3 per ton. I think these bounties are now on a sliding scale, but have yet five or six years to run before they cease. If the quotations for pig iron that we have had from our friends at Sydney this month hold good it will be many a long day before the Americans will be able to sell the same product in Canada."

Asked as to the position of the Dominion Iron and Steel company in the Canadian market, Mr. Coulson said: "Recently the Dominion Iron and Steel company have been quoting prices for pig iron that will give them the Canadian market. These quotations they are willing to guarantee all through 1904. Had they put their pig iron on the Canadian market in the first place at reasonable prices there would have been no foreign iron of any kind imported. The truth is that if it had not been for the British output the manu-

facturers here would pig iron manipulate prices by both the adian smelters." Speaking of the Mr. Coulson said: ers cannot quarrel; it saved us."

MORE O

Senator Hale is the delusion that ally join the Unit shows himself a litous than his fellow dueling in almost u in a public place li senator must be hope ers will enjoy a re- istence when he exp see Canada "becom of the United States surprising that a p of so many years' e misread the signs of appear among close other curiosity in pears in the person son, the famous ed- ville Courier-Journal not far distant," say son, "when Mexico rap for admission States." And then th on to say that Hel "money is God and prophet" was applic States. It costs \$1,0 put a presidential t and that it costs \$100 in the senate. He would come when the would be knocked do bidder. The Colon conclude that Cana if they are ready to sion" into such a de- famy as he describes to the sapient politt that they should lo to come out of Can base their prediction that would be too m for the truth. They Canada may seek a country, and that is gander the thought.

A CAPE E

Cape Colony has ju to which considera tached. It was for members of the leg and the contest for between the British nents. The former w Progressives and the ricaner Bond party in regard to the late wous. It was general the Bondites would of The nominations for council closed with 2 33 seats, and it was the Progressives obta possible number of would number 15 me- bers. The Bond hand, hoped to obta Progressives. As Progressives secured one, the result stand- The Bond, under its worked desperately fo would mean the perpe antagonism in Cape now the most serious in the South African fortune smiled on the ers, Messrs. Merrim would aspire to repr similar to that existi but with Cape Colony then occupied by the ly, as the centre of With the Bond party many years before it regain control of the colony.

The Progressives w under the inspiring a leadership of Dr. Jamc powers of organiz manship unsuspecte The disfranchisem creased their chanc the Progressives we the wobbling attitude of Mugwumps, who themselves on either would probably have government to the have secured the balc the new house of re- Among the progres was Mr. Graham, at Sir Gordon Sprigg's The election was a tive voting.

EDITORIAL

Statistics accumulat York World indicate more destructive to life pugilism. The latter, a more dangerous str- gans, and is more co- ers' cramp.

The declaration of a Granby company is a portance not only to but to the Boundary whole province. In its is a comparatively su- its significance is larg- good ground to expe- prove the harbinger of the mining districts.