

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1899.

THE LATE LOAN.

The government has been pluming itself very much upon what is called the success of the late provincial loan, but they have taken care not to let the public know that it narrowly escaped being a failure. The Finance of July 11 thus speaks of it:

The new issue of British Columbia stock narrowly escaped being a failure. Yesterday was the day for the adjudication, and when the tenders were opened the total was found to be short of the required amount by \$30,450, the total applied for being only \$309,550, as against \$340,000, the sum for which subscriptions were asked. Somebody, however, who was present in the room when the tenders were opened, immediately put in an application for \$40,000 at the minimum price of \$90, and thus saved the situation, the total being thus brought up to \$349,550, or \$9,550 in excess of the required amount. The result, however, cannot be regarded as other than disappointing, and it must be the more so to the agents of the government of British Columbia because of the low price at which the tenders were put in, the highest being \$98 10c. and this for only £100.

The bid which saved the loan was undoubtedly put in by the underwriters—that is by the people who were under an agreement with the province to float the loan. The Colonist has not been disposed to take a critical attitude in respect to this loan, being anxious to say nothing that by any construction could be understood as a reflection upon the financial standing of the province; but the people ought to know that so high an authority as the Finance regards Mr. Cotton's first essay in finance as disappointing, and as having been only saved from being a flat failure by the promptness of the underwriters.

VERY LIKE A CRISIS.

The Columbian is inclined to be very merry because the Colonist speaks of the present political situation as a crisis. A crisis is defined by the dictionaries to be "a point at which a change must come either for the better or worse." The definition suits the present situation as well as it had been made for it, although we frankly concede some difficulty in seeing in what way the change can be for the worse. One of the things to which the expression may be applied, according to the dictionaries, is a ministerial crisis. What are the elements which make up what we regard as a ministerial crisis in this province? Here are the principal factors:

The Premier calls on the Attorney-General to resign.

The Attorney-General refuses to resign.

The Premier says that the Attorney-General (a) neglects his duties; (b) betrays cabinet secrets; (c) publicly misrepresents himself.

The Attorney-General denies the several charges and alleges:

(a) That the Premier never had the support of a majority of the house;

(b) That the Premier is an utter failure in office, and has been removed from one portfolio to another because of incapacity;

(c) That the Premier and Finance Minister have been engaged in a political plot against him;

(d) That the Finance Minister has deliberately falsified the records of the executive council.

These charges and counter-charges have not been made behind closed doors, but have been given the publicity attainable by means of the press. Upon the top of them all comes what would anywhere else in the world be regarded as proof positive of a crisis, namely:

The government party has been convened in extra-session caucus.

Will the Columbian kindly let us know what in its opinion would constitute a ministerial crisis, if these things do not? Perhaps our contemporary would regard nothing as a crisis which fell short of armed revolution. If, for example, Mr. Martin should lie in wait for Mr. Cotton on James Bay bridge and assail him with dynamite bombs, or Mr. Semlin should eject Mr. Martin from office *vi et armis*, the Columbian would think a crisis had arisen, but we should not have suspected that a newspaper printer within full sight of the placid Fraser would insist on conditions of this nature to meet its ideas of a crisis. To most people of ordinary notions a tolerably fair sort of crisis is presented, when a minister defies the Premier, and the party is called together to decide between them.

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

The government and the opposition seem to be thoroughly in accord in regard to the Pacific cable project, which now is certain to be an accomplished fact in a short time. It is a splendid enterprise, from an imperial point of view. We join in the congratulations from both sides of the house upon the completion of negotiations and the settlement of the project upon an equitable basis. Canada's share of the cost is to be the same as that of Great Britain, namely, five-eighths, the remainder being borne by the Australian colonies. The new cable will be an important step towards the consolidation of British power upon the Pacific ocean, and it will be the remotest parts of the Empire together by a line, every part of which will be upon British soil or under the ocean upon which British is supreme. The commercial effects of the enterprise will be excellent, greater we believe, than can be very well prognosticated now. A new and very important step has been

taken towards the development of the commerce of the Pacific ocean, and the full development of that commerce means the inauguration of a new era in the history of the world.

BRITISH COLUMBIA IN LONDON.

The Colonist has been shown a letter from the secretary of a British Columbia mining company, written from London to one of the stockholders here. In it the writer speaks of the slow sale of British Columbia mining stocks, and says that owing to recent legislation and to the bad reputation of the present administration everything relating to this province is "looked at askance." This is very unfortunate, especially because it happens just when British Columbia as a field for investment was rapidly coming into favor. We are sorry to have to say this, because it is the interest and policy of this paper to take an optimistic tone in regard to matters of this kind. But the truth ought to be told, even though it is unpleasant. The people realize the injury that is being wrought by demagogic legislation, the sooner they will take steps to get rid of what has been enacted in this province, and prevent any more of it from being enacted.

Every day evidence multiplies to show that the only true policy to be pursued by the province of British Columbia is a business man's policy. There may come a time when the province can afford to be made the arena in which politicians will scramble for office, but it is yet in the very distant future, and the more distant that future is, the better for us all. It is a melancholy comment upon the condition of what is called public life here that a government caucus is to be held to settle an unseemly squabble, while some of the principal industries of the province are suffering from the errors of the government.

WHAT IS A PREMIER?

When Attorney-General Martin declared that there was no such thing as this country as the office of premier, some people thought he had made a new discovery. Others rushed to the other extreme and proceeded to invest the position with arbitrary and exclusive powers. But Mr. Martin propounded nothing new. The office of premier has parliamentary recognition, but no legal status, except sufficient to enable its incumbent to draw a little more salary than other ministers. The word premier is not to be found in the Constitution Act, nor is there anything synonymous with it. Like ministerial responsibility, the premiership is the product of precedents. What a premier is depends a great deal upon the man himself. The younger Pitt was not only premier in name, but he centred in himself almost exclusive responsibility. Lord Salisbury is premier after the style described by Lord Rosebery in the following extract from the Anglo-Saxon Review:

What is a prime minister? That is a question which it would require a pamphlet to answer, but in a few sentences it may be possible to remove a few halucinations. For the little expresses much to the British mind. To the ordinary apprehension it implies a dictator, the dictator whose power flows from its only limit in the House of Commons. So long as he can weather that stormful and deceptive ocean, he is elsewhere supreme. But the difference is very great. The prime minister, as he is now called, is technically and practically the chairman of an executive committee of the Privy Council, or rather, perhaps, of Privy Counsellors, the influential foreman of an executive jury. His power is mainly personal, the power of individual influence. That influence, whatever it may be, he has to exert in many directions before he can have his way. He has to deal with the Sovereign, with the cabinet, with parliament, and with public opinion, all of them potent factors in their various kinds and degrees. To the popular eye, however, heedless of these restrictions, he represents universal power; he is spoken of as if he had only to lay down his views of policy and adhere to them. That is very far from the case. A first minister has only the influence which the cabinet will give him by his personal arguments, his personal qualities, and his personal weight. But this is not all; all his colleagues must concur, some he may have to cajole—a harassing, laborious task. Nor is it only his colleagues that he has to deal with—he has to masticate their pledges, given before they joined him, he has to blend their public utterances, to fuse as well as may be all this into the policy of the government, for these various records must be reconciled, or glossed, or obliterated. A ministerial liability to many grains of sand requires obviously all the skill and vigilance of the best conceivable engineer. And yet, without the external support of his cabinet, he is disarmed. The resignation of a colleague, however relatively insignificant, is a storm signal.

This ought to be of considerable interest to the government supporters who meet in this city in extra-session caucus to-morrow. At the same time, the definition is not exhaustive. It is to the premier that the crown or its representative looks primarily for advice, and it is he who is held directly and primarily responsible for misfeasance on the part of any member of the ministry. Unquestionably, both by constitutional precedent and the Constitution Act of British Columbia, the Lieutenant-Governor has the right to require any member of the government to resign, but as he cannot do so constitutionally except through his advisers, it follows that such a dismissal, if not satisfactory to the premier, will result immediately in the resignation of the latter and the calling in of a first minister to take the responsibility. For the theory of constitutional government is that there must always be some minister prepared to state and justify to parliament the reasons for any act of prerogative.

The question is sometimes asked: What would happen if Mr. Semlin should resign? The Constitution Act does not say that the resignation of a minister carries with it any conse-

quences. We must have recourse to constitutional precedent to answer this question. It has long been settled that the resignation of a premier carries with it the resignation of the whole cabinet. Mr. Semlin is in no position to accept the post of president of the council, which is an unusual position, yet he would remain premier, and the tenure of office by his cabinet would not thereby be affected. If the Lieutenant-Governor should call upon some one outside of the house to form a government, and that person should undertake to do so, he would not be obliged to accept any of the salaries of office to which the Constitution Act authorizes the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint. He might remain premier without office. The Lieutenant-Governor appoints the provincial secretary, the finance minister, and all the other ministers who hold portfolios, but he exercises this power on the advice of the minister whom he calls upon to form a government, because under the British Constitution he can exercise this power of appointment only through some responsible minister. Hence the office of premier in British Columbia is outside of the Constitution Act entirely, and for the rules applicable to it, for the powers vested in it and the responsibilities attaching to it, we must seek the precedents established in Great Britain and elsewhere in the Empire. According to these precedents, the Lieutenant-Governor, on his return, will deal directly with Mr. Semlin, and if he does not see his way clear to accept that gentleman's advice the whole government must at once go out of office. There can be no latching-up of the government, with Mr. Semlin left out.

COLONEL PRIOR, M. P.

If asked what member of the opposition has advanced the most in a parliamentary sense during the present session, we should unhesitatingly award the honor to Col. Prior, of Victoria. He has taken a foremost part in the debates and has handled several subjects with a great deal of tact and ability. His speech on immigration was a very able and, although he received rather a severe criticism from the Premier for bringing the matter up when he did, the First Minister felt bound to express himself in sympathy with the strong case made out by Col. Prior. He dealt with the question in a masterly fashion and his remarks are likely to receive a great deal of consideration, not only in Canada, but elsewhere. He recognizes that for imperial reasons we must be prepared to treat the Japanese differently to the Chinese, but he does not attempt to disguise his opinion that unrestricted Japanese immigration will be only less objectionable than that of Chinese. His views are not extreme. He acknowledges that at present British Columbia would find it exceedingly difficult to get along without Chinese labor, but he thinks there is abundant of it now in the province. But the object of this reference is not to analyze Col. Prior's views, but to congratulate him upon the way in which he has come to the front during the session, and to congratulate him upon having so able a spokesman in parliament. Col. Prior has secured for himself certain future recognition under any circumstances from the Conservative party.

PROSPECTS OF ATLIN.

Our latest advices are that the prospects of Atlin, from the gold miners' point of view, are proving to be as good as was anticipated, and that from present indications it will take seven figures to express the value of this year's output. The district has had a very unfortunate start. At the very outset, there was a misunderstanding as to whether it was or was not in this province. When this was settled, a good deal of bad judgment was exhibited on the part of the gold commissioner, from which confusion ultimately resulted. Then the Alton Excelsior law came into operation. When spring opened, and people were ready to work, everything was so unsettled that most prospectors found their hands tied. On top of this came the extension of the close season, and the refusal of the government to issue hydraulic leases or grant free mine certificates to corporations intending to engage in placer mining. Any district, but one in which people had great confidence, would have been completely killed by such a series of unfavorable events, but Atlin is coming through it all right, and is demonstrating its right to be regarded as one of the most promising mining districts on the continent. This is a matter for profound satisfaction. The proximity of the district to the sea and the favorable climate would secure it a prospect of a hanging at moderately rich in gold, but it seems likely to be shown to be very rich indeed.

A messenger boys' strike is a novelty; but then this is an age of new things. It is reported that Japan and China have formed an alliance against Russia. Whether this is anything more than an old story revived remains to be proved. We hardly see the force of the reference in the Times to Col Prior and the Darcy Island lepers. Surely, it would be well to remove the unfortunate people to Tracadie, if possible. The best proof possible that the condition of the United States forces in Manila is serious is the strict censorship exercised over the despatches sent out by newspaper correspondents. If Kruger has resigned, the solution of the Transvaal difficulty will be greatly simplified. The courageous old Boer is a hard man to convince, and there is no use to try to frighten him.

The suggestions in Mr. James A. Grant's letter are worthy of serious consideration by the city council. Every place visited by the National Editorial Association of the United States made an effort to entertain them, except Victoria.

The Nelson Economist suspects Mr. Cotton of being on a still hunt for a constituency, because "in Vancouver, where he is best known, it is not likely that he could be returned again."

The air is full of political rumors, but there can be no definite conclusion reached on any point until after the Lieutenant-Governor's return. Everything depends on how he views the crisis.

The Princess of Wales went to the last Derby, and the papers say that she is just as charming and attractive as ever. Next to Her Majesty, the Princess is easily the most popular woman in the world.

The Province says that Mr. Bostock has no intention of representing Vancouver, either at Victoria or Ottawa. We suppose, as between Mr. Bostock and Vancouver, honors are about even in this respect.

The Globe doubts the story of a car-load of newspaper men being robbed of \$2,000, and asks: "Who ever heard of press people having that much money?" Perhaps they figured up the value of their railway passes.

Kipling has twenty-three suits on hand, to stop publishers from printing his works without his permission. Most writers are not troubled in this way. Their difficulty is to get their works printed on any terms.

The Voodoo worshippers among the Southern negroes are creating much anxiety among the Southern whites. The latter are very easily alarmed at anything the former may do, but perhaps they have good reason for it.

A strike for longer hours is something new under the sun, but this is just what has taken place in New York, where the garment makers want to work 59 hours a week instead of 50, as at present. In their case the more work the more pay.

The St. James' Gazette thinks our public men use over strong language in regard to international matters. Perhaps they do from the Old World point of view; but they are small sinners in comparison with the public men of the United States.

Mormonism is said to be spreading at a remarkable rate. It has a foothold in Colorado, Idaho and Arizona, and is making wonderful progress in Mexico. As a rule, the Mormons are said to make excellent citizens, polygamy not reckoned in.

General Anderson, U. S. A., says the greatest statesman in the United States should be sent to the Philippines as governor-general. At present the opportunity for a governor-general to exercise statesmanship in those islands are decidedly circumscribed.

The practice, which the Georgia white people have, of chopping negroes to pieces after having hanged them, and carrying the scraps home in their pockets, is worse than cannibalism. A missionary society for the conversion of Georgia would be a useful organization.

If it would not be considered as a breach of that international courtesy, which we are all so desirous to encourage just now, we would feel disposed to remark that the Seattle Post-Intelligencer has a positive genius for making an ass of itself in the discussion of questions appertaining to Canada.

"Excrecscendo" will find many a sympathizing reader. He was extremely lucky in only having the melancholy wail of the Tees to disturb his rest. There are nights when the tortured air is mangled by three or four steamers with sirens loud enough and horrible enough to frighten the dead.

Very many strikes are reported from the North, and it is now established beyond all reasonable chance of disappointment that the Yukon valley in British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Alaska will be a great and permanent producer of wealth. Under these circumstances it would seem to be wise policy for the people of Victoria to lay their plans for the future accordingly.

The number of murders committed in Seattle during the last ten years is more than the good people of that city care to count. As yet, not a murderer has been hanged, since the citizens on a certain memorable occasion executed summary justice on three of them. There appears to be a prospect of a hanging at last. In 1892 a man named Nordstrom killed a boy. There was never a ghost of a doubt about his guilt but his case has been in the courts ever since. The very latest judgment is that he must be hanged.

It is reported that Japan and Russia are likely to come into collision in Korea. Many people have long looked for this, for such a conflict seemed inevitable. If the two nations must fight, the present is the best time for Japan, because if she waits until the Siberian railway is finished, she will be terribly over-matched. The Japanese are not so eager for war as they were after the defeat of China, but if they conclude that they must fight sooner or later, they will probably do so on the first provocation, provided their new warships are ready.

A calmer tone pervades the despatches about the Alaskan boundary. As we said the other day, every Washington despatch on this subject, of a belligerent character, is promptly contradicted.

The latest advices from Bennett, as given elsewhere in to-day's paper, say that Lieutenant-Governor McInnes was expected out immediately from Atlin, and that unless he changed his plans he would be down on the Tees, due here on Sunday or Monday next. He may, owing to the mixed political situation, take an earlier boat.

The Dominion government is going to send a suction dredger to clean out False creek, and the News-Advertiser hopes that this is only the beginning of a work of dredging and reclamation that will give Vancouver a second harbor. This is as it should be, and it suggests the thought that the government ought to send a similar dredger to Victoria to do work of the same kind here.

The Times has heard about an Eastern railway ticket agent, who tells people that Victoria is a place where there is nothing else but stamps in the streets, where a bicycle cannot be used, and the people are mostly Indians. Our contemporary grows very indignant over the matter. This is a mistake. The poor fellow, whoever he may be, probably found his way to the Southerly reserve and went away thinking that was the city.

Colonist readers, who for years have perused the frequent letters signed W. B., will hear with regret that the writer of them has gone to his long rest. An old newspaperman, he loved the work to the very last. It was only a short time ago that as he handed in one of his letters he said, speaking with great difficulty: "This may be my last, for I feel the end is very near; but if I am spared to write a few more letters, I will try to make them as helpful as possible to those who read them." He kept his promise faithfully.

The Cumberland News takes a novel and interesting view of the difficulties in the cabinet. It says that if some people are given rope enough, they will hang themselves. "No one knew how far he surpassed in brain power Messrs. Cotton and Semlin than Mr. Martin himself," says the News; and it is because he presumed upon this superiority that he has got himself into trouble. Mr. Martin, our contemporary thinks, has proved himself a failure. His legislation is ill-advised, and his conduct in office arbitrary.

MARRIED.

TAYLOR-WILSON—On July 18, at St. John's church, by Rev. Percival Jones, Ephraim Taylor, to Marguerite May Wilson, both of this city.

DIED.

BULL—On the 24th instant, at the residence of Mrs. J. B. Bull, 78 Chatham street, William King Bull, 89, aged 81 years, and a native of England.

LYON—In this city, on the 21st instant, Emily Hendricks, relict of the late Rev. J. B. Lyon, of St. Paul, Minnesota; aged 73 years.

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(Form F.)
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NOTICE.
Lenora Mineral Claim, situate in the Victoria Mining Division of Victoria District. Where located: Mr. Sicker.

Take notice that J. Henrietta McKay, Messrs. Hunter & Oliver, at No. 21 Bastion street, in the City of Victoria, British Columbia, on Monday, the 21st day of August, A.D. 1899, at 11 a.m.

Business: Appointment of directors, allotment of shares and the business of the Company in general. By order.

E. C. TILTON.
GEORGE SHAW.
PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS.

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HARRY SMITH, Agent.


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Dr. Ghase's Ointment is the only guaranteed cure for piles, and has never been known to fail to cure this torturing disease. For sale by all dealers or BDMANSON, BATES & CO., Toronto.



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NO DENTIFRICE EQUALS

Late Advice From

Several Small Flocks of geese were seen during the week of

Public Works Commission Canadian Government for Yukon

Mail advices from D. 11 were received by the Friday was a day of says the Sun. A hard river and a spark of Smith & Hobbs' two used as a carpenter saw for lumber, threatened goodly portion of the o'clock in the morning, drove the fire up the river covering, and had headway when discovered by a small brigade and a small force from the Ladue mill. About noon a small fire broke out in a house, which in a few minutes was a roaring fire. The fire was extinguished by the fire engine which was called in from Hunter. The cabin with its entire contents was destroyed. The fire was caused by a candle which had been left burning. The fire was caused by a candle which had been left burning. The fire was caused by a candle which had been left burning.

Some time after noon a fire broke out in a house, which in a few minutes was a roaring fire. The fire was extinguished by the fire engine which was called in from Hunter. The cabin with its entire contents was destroyed. The fire was caused by a candle which had been left burning. The fire was caused by a candle which had been left burning. The fire was caused by a candle which had been left burning.

Two arrests were made on the hill, and the evidence that one of the men was guilty, but it was only to show a disposition to party.

YUKON PUBLIC
Telegraph Line Will be Open Early in October

Mr. J. B. Charleston, of the new government, from Bennett to Dawson says the Sun. He is Messrs. Tache, government work ahead of them in these gentlemen are con- Charleson's last report, been strung half way of Mile river, and no doubt nearly completed. Mr. Charleson says they were ordinary telegraph instruments, and he only now given regarding it will be followed by more an early date, so as to commence this in the October.

He also comes with able instructions to provisions government wherever into the matter of ro Acting under his instructions will be proposed a plan office, court house, and others of a public also understood that now given regarding it will be followed by more an early date, so as to commence this in the October.

On the way down the Charleson's orders, Mr. wing dam constructed at ins, which gave 12 feet over the difficult spot. Preparations are being worked on. Thirty-mile blast out the obstruction when the depth of water work practicable.

Mr. Charleson, purchasing steamer Strath the Yukon in connection works and telegraph construction.

BIG SALMON DITCH
Jerry Galvin Confirms the Richness of Kettie

Jerry Galvin, who is from country, recently returned. He says upon his seven men at work sluiced creek about four miles to 150 to 200 feet wide. T called Kettie creek and as he came out he met 40 people pushing in. My vices people contemplating tion of the new strike to than 30 days' provisions they will have to prosper if they expect to locate.

The bedrock on Kettie reached at about 100 feet of \$80 per day to the m taken out. The gold is one piece weighing \$24. The discovery party were in last summer, and indication that time brought the March of this year.

This particular locality over last summer by near sand people and has been more thoroughly prospected the upper rivers, with the exception of Thistle and Sol. The benches show excellent with the same wash gravel in the bottom of the gulch is about 35 miles above t up stream from where the the salmon. It enters the from the right-hand side of Mr. Galvin made three n and brought in half a ton is now undergoing a care rate war was begun on