

OLD VOTERS' LISTS.

Elections are supposed to be held for the purpose of ascertaining the will of the people with regard to the government of the country, but this theory has only a slim and unsubstantial foundation in this Canada of ours, since the greatest pains are taken to prevent a free pronouncement of the popular will. Within the last few days three seats in the house of commons have become vacant. Ottawa is left unrepresented by the appointment of Mr. Mackintosh to the governorship of the Northwest, Winnipeg by the retirement of Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, and Southey through the appointment of Mr. Bain to a post office inspectorship. It is fully expected that several other seats will be vacated by members supporting the government, who prefer the substantial comforts of a well paid office to the glorious uncertainties of another election. The situation at once calls to mind the homely old simile of rats deserting a doomed ship. But whether the bye-elections number three or thirty, they will all have to be held on voters' lists that are now over two years old, for the last revision was made in 1891. It will be remembered that in the general elections of 1891 the lists were even more antiquated. There is not an electoral division in Canada where radical changes do not take place in the "de jure" electorate in the course of two years, and no person can say that these changes should not be faithfully reflected in the voters' lists. This result is not attained under the franchise act, because there is no provision for the revision of individual lists, and since a general revision every year would mean an intolerable burden of expense. Winnipeg affords a good illustration of what may occur in any electoral district under the present system. The papers of that city estimate that there are something like 4,000 names of dead men and non-residents on the lists for that city, the actual vote in 1891 having been only 3,747. How great a chance for peroration and other election frauds this state of affairs offers any person can easily see. The government party cannot afford to lose any bye-elections just now, and defeat in Winnipeg would be peculiarly disastrous. There is not one man so ignorant as to believe that the government and its friends will not take advantage of the opportunity thus offered of securing a verdict favorable to themselves. There is very little likelihood of any district giving an unprejudiced verdict under such circumstances as these.

INFORMATION ABROAD.

In a recent issue of the Emigrant, the quarterly journal of the Church Immigration Society, England, appears the following letter from Mr. H. C. Beeton, agent general for this province: Owing to such statements as appeared in the Manchester Sunday Chronicle in May last, very conflicting ideas as to the agricultural capabilities of British Columbia have been promulgated. It may be interesting to your readers to know that within the province there are agricultural and grazing lands sufficient to sustain a population many times greater than it now contains. Not to encroach too much on your space, I will only draw attention to one of the many fertile valleys to be found in British Columbia—viz, that of the Okanagan Valley. The physical aspect of this district may be described as rolling prairie and grass-covered hills, growing various kinds of timber, such as yellow pine, black pine, birch, cottonwood, etc. The Shuswap & Okanagan railway has opened up this portion of the province, which is noted for its excellent high grade flour wheat, forty bushels per acre being the average yield. The wheat growing industry will, I think, be eclipsed by that of hop and fruit growing. The soil in this neighborhood has been found eminently suited to these branches of agriculture. I see that Mr. Eustace A. Smith, agent for Lord Aberdeen, has stated in his returns for the report compiled by the government department of agriculture, that last year he grew 1,100 pounds of hops per acre, and realized 50 cents per pound for the same. His potato crop averaged 12 tons per acre, and he realized \$20 per ton for the same, and so on. The British Columbia Board of Trade report says that "if the available lands in the district only were brought under cultivation, all the provincial requirements could be supplied, and yet have a surplus for a large export." Although in some parts of British Columbia large cattle and horse ranches can be worked profitably, yet as a matter of fact the province is more suitable for small farm holdings. The government have, I see by a local paper, decided to sell shortly by public auction the reserve lands in this district in blocks of 40 acres each. The Shuswap & Okanagan railway connects with a steamboat service on Okanagan lake, which is some eighty miles long. A good wagon road connects Okanagan with Dog lake, where another steamer runs to the Okanagan falls. At or near Vernon is a large flour mill, a fruit cannery and a brewery. The Shuswap & Okanagan railway is now an extension of the Canadian Pacific railway. Practical farmers in this country who are contemplating a move, and are desirous of obtaining better soil, better prices and a better and more certain climate ought to give this part of British Columbia their serious attention. Viewed in the light of the facts concerning the sale of the Vernon "commemoration," the agent general's statements look a little odd. What real inducement would there have been for any English farmer to bid for the lots offered at this "commemoration" sale? What inducement is there for farmers up here to raise wheat, or hops, or anything else,

when the freight rates on the railway are simply prohibitory? What is the government doing to make good this rose-colored picture drawn by the agent general?

THE COLONIST.

It is rather rich to find the Colonist in one column bringing false charges of garbling against the Times and in the next column using the garbling process in the most outrageous manner. It asserts that "the reader who depended on the Times for information on the subject would undoubtedly conclude that the discriminatory rates of duty mentioned were set down in the blue book cited as an authority." Now the reader who depended on the Times for information would not conclude anything of the sort, for he would read the whole of the Times' article and not only the sentence which it suits our dishonest neighbor to separate from the context. Then the Colonist finds that the concluding sentences of the Times' article "are evidently intended to lead the reader to believe that the Tory ministers, and of course the Tory majority in parliament, deliberately imposed high duties on British goods and lower duties on those imported from the United States." This is quite a deliberate lie, for even the Colonist, with all its stupidity, could not misapprehend what the Times said. Let it quote those concluding sentences, and give its readers an opportunity of judging for themselves. Says the Kootenay Star: "The general opinion of those present at the Revelstoke meeting which has since become famous seems to be that the premier meant the yearly sum, and not the \$600,000, could be charged to the Victoria district. Of course we could not publish the whole of Mr. Davie's speech. Our space is too limited for that. This paper is strictly independent, and it would not be in accordance with our views of fair play to allow the impression that our report was a full one to remain uncontradicted. What we wish to emphasize is that it was accurate." If the Star keeps in mind the fact that the yearly sum mentioned by Mr. Davie at Revelstoke included not only interest but sinking fund, it will see that he meant to charge the whole \$600,000 and interest to "Victoria district." In other places he said the whole province should bear the burden of interest and sinking fund. Mr. Davie should say definitely what he means to do.

The Colonist is about the only paper in the west that approves of the tyranny of the New Brunswick bench in the Ellis case. The Vancouver World speaks out boldly as follows: "We out here in British Columbia are not unacquainted with the peccadilloes of judges, and have had at times to say some very hard things of them, much harder than anything Mr. Ellis' pen has ever written. We believe, too, that the strictures had good effect, and that there will be less friction in the future. The press is the sentinel of freedom, and no fears of imprisonment or fine should swerve its members from the clear path of duty. We have as little belief in the divine right of kings as we have in the immunity of any privileged class from attack where it is deserved, and judges, like other people, when they do wrong must expect to be told about it."

The Toronto Empire, following the example of its Montreal Tory colleague, says: "Our British Columbia exchanges are now reflecting a growing opinion among the Victoria sealers that they have good reason not only to be satisfied, but well pleased, with the new conditions affecting their business." In what exchange did the Empire see this reflection? It was certainly not in any Victoria paper, and Victoria is the sealers' headquarters. These attempts on the part of the eastern Tory organs, to put the sealers in a false position are both childish and profligate. They cannot by any possibility do anybody any service.

Winnipeg Free Press: Messrs. Foster and Angers told the British Columbians to go into mixed farming. The advice has a familiar sound here in Manitoba and has some application; but it will do no good to the coast people and will no doubt be recognized with awe. Those who would be personally conducting Mr. Foster should have given him a tip to change his stereotyped answer to demands for tariff reductions, so that when the people of British Columbia asked to have the duty taken off mining machinery he might have avoided making himself ridiculous by telling them to go into mixed farming.

Nanaimo, Nov. 3.—S. M. Robins has not yet returned, and already complications are arising. The steamer Romulus arrived here last night and it is a question when she will be loaded; the timbers having passed a resolution that work must stop until the wage question is settled. All steamers arriving here for coal have a clause inserted in their charter whereby they can claim demurrage, so that unless she is loaded quickly the company are liable for daily demurrage. C. Spencer, son of D. Spencer, of Victoria, is now out of danger. On Halloween he was enjoying himself at a party, and among the games was one of dipping in a tub of water for a coin; young Spencer, in dipping for it succeeded in getting it between his lips, but in getting up accidentally swallowed the quarter, which stuck in his throat. Drs. Davis and McKechnie operated upon him but failed to recover the coin, and it was feared it would cause his death. Yesterday nature solved the problem, with the assistance of the prescription of the doctors. Savage, a local pugilist, had completed arrangements to fight a sailor of the Lottie Walsh for \$50, when the police stepped into the Provincial hotel and put a stop to it. A concert will be given in the Wall-

ace street Methodist church on Monday evening. Another Rugby football club has been started in the city by Austin Gibbs, and is called "The Boys."

Nanaimo, Nov. 4.—Mrs. W. D. Robertson, deputy chief of the Pythian Sisters, instituted a temple of the order last night in Nanaimo. A. Dick, inspector of mines, says a young miner named Robert Gibson, was killed in Union mines on Monday by a fall of top coal.

The steamer Romulus took the rest of the coal on hand at the new Vancouver Coal Company's wharves yesterday, having to go to the Northfield wharf to finish. No one seems to know when Mr. Robins will return. The Nanaimo Rangers Association football club at their meeting appointed the following officers for the season: President, J. Harley; Vice-President, W. O'ride; Secretary, A. Thompson; Treasurer, W. Gray; Captain, P. English; Vice-Captain, J. Gould. The club is now ready to accept a challenge from any association football team in the province.

The tug Daisy arrived here yesterday forenoon, the captain reported having lost a ton of logs which he was taking to Victoria, off the lower end of Gabriola Island. The fear that there will be a strike among the miners here is growing stronger. A small party of miners, owing to the absence of the superintendent.

Vancouver, Nov. 3.—The Pioneer Society of residents who were living here previous to the great fire of 1886, formed last night, and M. A. McLean, Vancouver's first mayor, was elected president; F. X. Martin and D. McRae, vice-presidents; John Rankin, secretary; Thomas McKinnon, treasurer. A constitution similar to that of the Victoria Pioneer Society was adopted.

Vancouver and Westminster Rugby clubs will play here tomorrow. Yesterday afternoon the factory of the British Columbia Tub and Co. was burned. The blaze started among some shavings in the boiler room. Workmen saw the fire and thought they had extinguished it, but when they returned burst forth again. The factory was a large, two-story frame building, and was filled with barrels, box shooks, and other inflammable material. It was soon seen that the building was doomed and efforts were made to save the shingles mill alongside and also the Cambie street bridge. The firemen succeeded in doing this. Insurance on factory, \$27,000. Loss estimated at \$50,000.

The case against Moser, of the Victoria shirt factory, which was tried at Westminster, was further adjourned. The action for trading without a license will be brought to a conclusion with the present case.

A fire occurred at the home of the Rev. Mr. Kelly last night. The Vancouver, Nov. 4.—The Rugby football match between Vancouver and New Westminster was abandoned on account of unfavorable weather.

G. S. McDonald received word yesterday of the death of his father at Lac-des-Quatre, Quebec. Mrs. Webster, wife of Alexander C. Webster, died yesterday.

Wills, a mining expert, who has been examining copper mines on Texada island for Victoria capitalists, returned yesterday with a quantity of ore. Governor Morseby of Westminster has just returned from a lengthy trip to Port Douglas, hunting up Indian witnesses for the assizes.

The change of venue in the case of the lacrosse player, was granted because of a verdict of acquittal was shown at Westminster.

The schooner Salvalor had to unload a portion of her cargo, as she was below the Plimsoll mark. Nearly all the druggists in the city have been summoned before Magistrate McLean, Mellor and Schofield, charged with employing unregistered clerks. This morning Dr. McAlpine was heard this case and decision reserved. It is understood that similar charges will be brought against Victoria and New Westminster druggists.

Vancouver, Nov. 6.—A party of police left Westminster on Sunday evening on the steamer Blonde for Savary Island. The funeral of the victims took place this morning.

The schooner Louis sails this evening for Iquique with lumber from the Hastings mill.

The case against Dr. Rolle came up this morning. A witness swore he had purchased poison at both the defendants' stores from an apprentice without signing the register. The apprentice refused to swear that he sold witness the poison, though admitting the packages looked like those sent out from the store. These charges against J. A. McAlpine are being heard this afternoon.

Sunday's Atlantic express ran into a rock at 7 o'clock last night near Seabird bluff, half a mile from the scene of the wreck. The train was carrying 377 passengers over the bank into the Fraser, taking the express car with it. The baggage car was partially taken off the track. The rest of the train was uninjured. Express Messenger Rankin was slightly hurt. The train was under the management of conductor Bernhard. Peter Rydman was engineer. The track has been cleared. Superintendent Hussey and Deputy Attorney-General Smith are in Westminster preparing the cases for the assizes next Wednesday.

A DRASTIC BILL.

Mr. Hitt Proposes to Handicap the Canadian Road.

Washington, Oct. 27.—Mr. Hitt has presented in the house of representatives a bill to amend the laws regulating intercourse and relations with the British provinces of North America and the Republic of Mexico. The bill has special reference to the transportation of merchandise from point to point in the United States via Canada, and from the seaboard to points in Canada via the United States. It says in its first clause that imported merchandise in bond or duty paid, and products of the United States with the consent of the proper authorities of the Dominion be transported from one port in the United States to another port therein over Canadian territory by such routes and under such rules and regulations as the secretary of the treasury may prescribe; and the merchandise so imported shall upon arrival in the United States be treated in regard to the liability for duty just as if the transportation had taken place within the limits of the United States.

Parliament will meet between Jan. 15 and 25. Judge Scott, of Peel, will resign his seat on the bench on Dec. 1st. Sir David McPherson has gone to Genoa, Italy, where he will spend the winter. Conservatives of North Bruce have nominated John George their candidate for the local legislature.

Word has been received that Herbert Bawley, of Yarker, had been fatally injured by falling from a bridge at Fair Creek, B. C. Mrs. Thompson, relict of the late Thomas Murray Thompson, of Toronto, in his day a well-known railway man, dropped dead on the street.

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At Vienna village Alex. Travers and William Hodgson got into a drunken quarrel, in which Travers received such serious injuries in the abdomen that he died. Hodgson was arrested.

Joseph Halley, who, until lately, had conducted business in Arthur, Ont., died suddenly in a hotel in Ayrton. Investigation showed that he had committed suicide while temporarily insane.

The coroner's jury in the case of the death of Rev. Mr. Botterell, who was killed by a Montreal street car, returned a verdict declaring that the company were criminally responsible for his death.

It is said Mayor O'Keefe of Halifax will bring an action against the Halifax Herald for \$50,000 damages for libel in a statement relative to a contract secured by him for building an addition to the Victoria general hospital.

The department of trade and commerce has issued a circular calling the attention of manufacturers and merchants to the provisions of the Imperial merchandise marks act as the home government is rigidly enforcing the act.

T. R. Wadsworth, aged 60, a wealthy mill proprietor of Weston and director of the Imperial bank, was found dead in his office, having expired suddenly from apoplexy. Deceased was worth upwards of half a million.

In Hamilton Mrs. Gillard, aged 85, mother of W. H. and John Gillard & Co., well-known wholesale grocers, was found dead in bed. A strong odor of gas pervaded the room, and it is believed that the old lady neglected to turn off the gas and was asphyxiated.

Col. Lazier, commandant of the Fifteenth battalion, Belleville, has sent a communication to the government complaining that Gen. Herbert used undue severity in refusing the postponement of the date fixed for the inspection of his battalion after being requested to do so.

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AMERICAN CHANGE.

Saturday's Markets Showed an Encouraging Firmness in Prices.

New York, Nov. 4.—With the exception of Chicago Gas and General Electric, which scored fractional losses at the opening, the market was firm. The strength was the result of the covering of "short" contracts by some of the timid statement would be favorable. Besides these stocks were rather scarce for borrowing purposes and the room traders, ever ready to catch the exclusive eight per cent. bid up prices generally. In the improvement which followed, Chicago Gas, Lackawanna, Sugar, Western Union, New England and the Grangers were most prominent. The gains at this time ranged from 1-4 to 1-8 per cent. For a while the market ruled firm; but the advance in the posted rates of sterling—something extraordinary for a Saturday—gave the bears another chance, and they were not slow to take advantage of it. Chicago Gas was singled out as being the most vulnerable, and in less than an hour it takes to it the stock was forced down 3-8 per cent. The old recovershery story was revived, but it found few believers. Probably the report which had the most effect was the one announcing that the company will be compelled, owing to its contract with the city of Chicago, to reduce its price next. The fact that the company is paying its dividends in scrip instead of cash during the fair year, when an enormous and profitable business was expected, adds not a little to the "bearishness." The general list fell 1-2 to 2-8 per cent. in sympathy. The market closed weak and 1-8 to 1-4 per cent. below yesterday's final figures. The bank statement, which continues to reflect the enormous piling up of capital at this centre, was considered very favorable, but it did not have the slightest influence on the stock market. The banks gained \$6,763,700 in cash, of which \$552,900 were special deposits, and \$6,210,800 legal tenders. Deposits were increased \$14,150,900 and loans paid \$5,058,500. Circulation decreased \$2,000,000. The increase in the reserve was \$5,225,975, and the banks now hold the enormous sum of \$52,013,450 above the 25 per cent. required by law. Closing bids: Atchison, 19 7/8; Burlington and Quincy, 82 1/8; Canada Southern, 51; Canadian Pacific, 73 1/4; Central Pacific, 28; Columbus, Cincinnati and St. Louis, 35 3/4; Delaware and Lackawanna, 17 1/2; Erie, 14 1/4; Wells Fargo, 125; Great Northern, preferred, 107 1/2; Lake Shore, 126 1/2; Louisville and Nashville, 49 1/4; Missouri Pacific, 25 1/2; New York and North Eastern, 32 3/8; Northern Pacific, preferred, 22 1/2; Northwestern, 104 1/4; Oregon Navigation, 25; Oregon Improvement, 10; Pacific Mail, 18 1/4; Rio Grande, 20 1/4; Rock Island, 67 3/4; Southern Pacific, 18 1/2; St. Paul, 64 3/4; Texas Pacific, 7 3/4; Union Pacific, 17 3/4; Western Union, 88. Bar silver, 69 1/4 cents per ounce. Money on call, 1 1/2 to 2; foreign exchange, sterling, 4.82 for 60 days; 4.85 on demand. Union Pacific firsts, of 1893, 102; Central Pacific firsts, of 1893, 102 bid.

CANADIAN DISPATCHES.

The News of Eastern Canada in Short Paragraphs.

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BEAR OF POPULARITY.

Members of the Government Would Find Reproachful Offices Very Much to Be Desired.

The Juggling Over the No. 10. Ottawa, Oct. 29.—The Government has at last made up its mind to appoint C. Mackintosh as Governor of the Northwest. He will be sworn in to-day, and will at once leave home at Regina. When Sir Mackintosh that the order would be passed at the cabinet. Bear in mind that the Government would find reproachful offices very much to be desired.

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Advertisement for Ayer's Sarsaparilla, including text about 'A Little Daughter' and 'Wonderful Cures'.