

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1892.

THE CATTLE QUARANTINE.

The determination of the Dominion Government to extend the cattle quarantine regulations to British Columbia, will add materially to the expenses of every household in this city and in other parts of the province which depend, to a greater or less extent, on the United States for their supply of butchers' meat. If this sacrifice were necessary for the sake of the cattle trade of the Dominion, it would be cheerfully made. But it has not been as yet shown that any such necessity exists. The Premier told the British Columbia representatives that "if Canada were scheduled, it meant a loss of more than a million of dollars annually," but he did not say that the scheduling of Canada depends upon the extension of the quarantine to this province. As every one acquainted with the geography and the trade of the Dominion knows that the fear of spreading infection eastward from British Columbia is a perfectly groundless one, it is hard to believe that the authorities in Great Britain are so wanting in intelligence as to suppose that the unrestricted import of live-stock into this province would have the slightest effect on the cattle trade between Great Britain and Canada.

On the other hand, it is very well known that ranchers in Alberta are most desirous to have the quarantine extended to this province, not to prevent the spread of disease, but in order to get the British Columbia market to themselves. They know well enough that not a single beast is sent east from the Coast, but they also know that the home production of meat is not sufficient for the wants of the people, and that if American cattle were excluded they would have a safe market for a large quantity of their surplus beef.

This, then, is how the matter stands here. If British Columbians really believed that the British authorities made the extension of the quarantine a condition of admitting Canadian cattle into British ports without restriction, they would, with as good a grace as they could, submit to the inconvenience and expense of the quarantine, but if they believed that the Government extended the quarantine to this province to satisfy the urgent demand of the ranchers of Calgary they will look upon the measure as unjust and oppressive. At present the impression prevails that the extension has been made in compliance with the strong and persistent representations of the Calgary men. We trust that when they are better informed as to the true cause of the extension they will change their minds.

THE WORK OF A SNEAK.

It is very unpleasant, indeed, to have a sneak for an opponent. He says things and does things that a manly foe would scorn to stoop to. One of the most contemptible attempts to injure an opponent that we remember to have seen, appears in Friday's News-Advertiser. The Hon. John Robson was invited to attend the Vancouver St. Patrick's Society dinner, on the evening of the 17th. He, as our readers know, sent a telegram regretting his inability to be present—nothing else and nothing more than this. The News-Advertiser in its report of the dinner, instead of simply mentioning this fact as any decent self-respecting journal would, went out of its way to misrepresent both the Hon. Mr. Robson and those who attended the dinner. Its notice of the telegram is in these words: "Hon. Jno. Robson sent a telegram and the expression used that he sympathized with the Irishmen, was considered the joke of the evening." There was no expression of sympathy, therefore there was no "joke." The sentence was a lie concocted by a low-lived vulgar fellow, and was a direct insult to the Society whose banquet the contemptible creature pretended to report. We are a little surprised that the Times, when it saw how this "joke" was concocted, was so devoid of journalistic decency as to give its countenance to this very unprofessional piece of "dirty work."

PROVINCIAL PAUPERISM.

The extravagance and recklessness of successive Quebec Governments have brought that province to the verge of bankruptcy. Mr. Macdonald was raised to power for the special purpose of initiating a policy of retrenchment and economy which would place the finances of the province on a sound footing. Instead of fulfilling his promises he plunged the province more deeply into debt, and now his successor finds it in a most embarrassed condition.

We gather from our Ottawa correspondent's letter that the Quebec Government, instead of depending on their own resources to get out of their difficulties, intend to apply to the Federal Government for assistance. This was what was apprehended all along, and the Conservative politicians and the Conservative journalists were strongly opposed to making the Dominion Treasury the milch cow for extravagant Quebec politicians.

It was seen that it would be impossible to give financial aid to Quebec without extending to the other provinces better terms. This, besides demoralizing the provinces, would put a strain on the Dominion Treasury which it would not be well to bear. It is best, both for the Dominion and for the provinces, that each province should be given to understand that it must rely upon its own resources. Under the constitution each of them gets a subsidy from the Federal Treasury, and the General Government provides for certain services. It should be well understood that this is all that any province can get from the Dominion Treasury, and that if it wastes its money or allows its public men to steal it, it must abide by the consequences.

It is only by adopting such a policy as

this that the Dominion can be kept financially sound, for whenever reckless politicians find that partisanship can be made to do duty for prudence in the administration of the finances of a province, there will be no check on either governmental extravagance or dishonesty. All that a wasteful Provincial Premier will have to do when he is hard pressed for money will be to put pressure upon the Dominion Government, which he supports, to extort from it what terms its position compels it to grant. This, it is said, is what Macdonald proposed to do. He went on spending money lavishly, expecting that, when he plunged the province into difficulties, to get the relief he needed from the Federal Government; and this, it seems, is what the De Boucherville Government proposes to do now. It is to be hoped that the Federal Government will have firmness enough to resist the pressure brought to bear upon it from Quebec. A stop will have to be put to this kind of thing some time, and it can be done easier and with less shock now than later. There are thinking men who believe that the policy of granting subsidies to the provinces at all is a mistake. However that may be, it is easily seen that it is good for neither the Dominion Government nor the provinces to have the financial terms of confederation revised as often as a province, which is strong enough to bring great pressure to bear on the Federal Government, gets into difficulties.

A BENEFICIAL ENTERPRISE.

The projected road through Crow's Nest Pass will be of the greatest advantage to British Columbia. The shortening of the route to the East, which it will cause, will be a very great benefit. The change that will be effected by making the journey to the Atlantic Coast, even one day shorter, will be more beneficial than most people can at present realize, and the opening up of the Kootenay country, and bringing it nearer to the coast, will do an incalculable amount of good to the Province. What is wanted to develop the wonderful riches of that country, is just such a railroad. It will, no doubt, form a trunk line for any number of branches leading to mining camps and mining towns, of more or less importance. The new road will, we are certain, richly reward the enterprise of the Canadian Pacific. If Kootenay turns out to be anything like what it promises to be, and what men of experience who have explored it, believe it to be, the Crow's Nest line will be one of the most profitable sections of the Canadian Pacific's great system. Its construction will, we believe, be the commencement of a new and prosperous era in the history of the mining industry of this Province, as it will make available resources which have as yet been untouched.

THE RAILWAY STRIKE.

The strike of the Canadian Pacific employees has become serious. A strike of railway men is always of importance to the country. They are, in a sense, public servants. The public are benefited when they discharge their duty faithfully and effectively, and they suffer loss and are greatly inconvenienced when the employees of a great railway perform their work badly or cease working altogether.

If the running of the Canadian Pacific trains become, through this strike, irregular, or stopped for a time altogether, it is hard to calculate the injury the stoppage would do to business, not only in Canada, but in the United States. The sufferers would not be the company alone nor the men of capital. They, of course, would be injured, but they can bear the loss they might sustain with comparatively little inconvenience. They would suffer most from the temporary stoppage of traffic would be the small dealers who live from hand to mouth, and the wage-earners, to whom constant employment is a necessity. Even a week's loss of work means to many wage-earners privation and suffering. The wages of a week are needed to supply the earner and those depending on him, with the necessities of life. The loss of a week's wages does not appear much to a rich man, but to the workingman who earns no more than is sufficient to supply himself and his family with food and clothes, the loss will be felt for many a long day after he goes to work again.

These considerations should cause railway men to be slow to strike, and not to resort to that extreme measure until every other means of obtaining redress has been tried and has failed. Their strike is not only injurious to the business by which they gain their livelihood, but it is a misfortune to whole communities, and causes loss and suffering to many with whom the strikers ought to sympathize, and who have done them no harm.

A MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT.

The Bills Nos. 61 and 62, introduced by the Hon. Mr. Turner, yesterday, are probably the most important measures that were ever laid before the Legislative Assembly of this province. They provide for the development of the deep-sea fisheries by encouraging the immigration of fishermen, and by giving to a commercial company, having a capital of five millions of dollars, the land it asks for, to enable it to settle colonists on the sea coast, to furnish them with suitable employment, to provide the fishermen with facilities for marketing their fish, and to establish subsidiary industries. A company which goes energetically to work to promote these objects, cannot fail to do a very large amount of good to this province. There is not an industry in it, or a trading concern, which will not be benefited by its operations.

It is proposed to grant to the Vancouver Island Development Syndicate five hundred thousand acres of land, chiefly on the island. We cannot think of any better use

that the land can be put to. If the company succeeds in carrying out the intentions of its projectors the benefit which the population of the country will derive from the development of the fisheries will be of incalculable greater value than the land. If, on the other hand, the company does not perform the conditions of its bargain the land will still belong to the province, and will be available for any use to which it can be put.

The Crofters' Immigration and the establishment of the Commercial Company are parts of one great scheme. Neither will be of any use without the other. The Crofters without the Company would probably starve or suffer many and great hardships before they could become independent and prosperous, and it would be absurd to attempt to establish a great fishing company before provision had been made to bring into the province a hardy and skilful fishing population. The measures now before the Legislature provide for both these essentials to the successful prosecution of our deep-sea fisheries, and the work will be done without placing any burden upon the people of the province. The Imperial Government advances the money necessary to bring out the crofters and settle them comfortably, and long before the time comes for returning it the province will be recouped both directly and indirectly for what it may have done to settle the immigrants, and develop the deep-sea fisheries. The details of the scheme will, no doubt, be placed before the House, and we are greatly mistaken if even the most timid and cautious of its members will not consider the project most advantageous to the province, and will not give it his cheerful and hearty support.

A NEW PHASE.

The Behring Sea difficulty has, it appears, assumed a new phase. It is reported that Russia has now retired. She objects to the rights and privileges which she conveyed to the United States being submitted to arbitration, and also declares that she is ready to make good the title of that country to all she purchased when she bought Alaska. The American Government does not say a great deal about the protest, although we can easily understand how some Americans will rejoice if Russia takes this stand.

But there is this difficulty to be met: Did Russia when she sold Alaska to the United States, own the sovereignty of any part of the Pacific Ocean? A nation cannot sell what does not belong to it, and if Russia's claim to exercise jurisdiction on the high seas is contrary to the law of nations, it is evident that she could not convey the right to exercise such jurisdiction to the United States. A very awkward fact in connection with this claim is on record. The United States was the first country to question the claim of Russia to the sovereignty of any part of the Pacific Ocean. It was Secretary Adams who, when he made the protest, and the publicists of the United States with one voice declared that Russia's claim was untenable. Great Britain's protest followed, and it did seem singular to see the United States, serving a claim which, when it was made by Russia, was authoritatively pronounced to be absurd. To do our neighbors justice, we should admit that their own exception to Russia's claim was well taken, and we, consequently, have heard very little of late about the claim to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the waters of Behring Sea. The Americans strenuously oppose similar claims made by other nations, and it will be most inconsistent if they again urge a claim which their very best jurists declare to be unsound. Whether backed up by Russia the American Government will retract its steps and re-assess the claim which it has in effect abandoned, remains to be seen.

THE UNITY OF THE EMPIRE.

How to maintain the integrity of the Empire is what the Imperial Government and its supporters are now deeply considering. They see that the Opposition is gaining in strength and they are fully convinced that the granting of Home Rule to Ireland will be the first step, and a very long step, towards the dissolution of the Empire. Professor Dicey, in an article on "The Defence of the Union," in the March number of the Contemporary Review, says:

"Home Rule, if victorious in 1892 by, however slender a majority, would know that the success of their policy, if achieved, will be framed which satisfied English Gladstonians, Irish Nationalists would, we may be sure, accept it. They would do so for a very valid reason; they would know that no better opportunity for effecting the ends they desire would ever present itself. In the attempt to dissolve the Union, the first step they would rightly feel, is everything. The creation of an Irish Parliament claiming a legal right to speak in the name of the Irish people would give the Nationalists, not indeed, all they desire, but the certain means of obtaining it."

The thing to be done, then, is to prevent the Liberals getting a majority at the next general election. There are many, Conservatives as well as Liberals, who are of opinion that the Salisbury Government will be beaten when the appeal is made to the people, whether it takes place this year or next. But the Professor says that there is a great deal of senseless talk indulged in by men of both parties about the general election. This loose talk, the result of loose thinking, he says, doing an infinity of damage to Unionism. "It is," he declares, "based on a whole mass of either disputable or demonstrably false assumptions." He is of opinion that the talkers are very far astray, both as to the result of the election, and what is to take place after

the election. He says—"Whether the Opposition will, at the next general election, obtain a majority at all is a matter of the most doubtful speculation. There is every ground for energy, there is no ground whatever for want of heart or hope on the part of the Unionists." He would have matters so managed that the sole issue at the election would be Union or Disunion. He would have Unionists sink all other questions, and he would not allow the Opposition to raise any side issue. The maintenance of the unity of the Empire is the greatest issue that could be put before the people, and he would have the party of Union use every effort and make every sacrifice to have it put squarely at the polls. He would not have the attention of the electorate distracted by any other question. He believes that if the people of Great Britain are allowed to consider this great question alone, they will decide by a large majority to maintain the Union intact. The Professor would not have the question of Union or Disunion settled in any other way than by a direct appeal to the people on that question alone. If Mr. Gladstone does get a majority and carries a Home Rule measure, he would have the House of Lords refuse to pass it, for the very purpose of giving the people an opportunity of either accepting or rejecting the measure. He would have the principle of the referendum acted upon in England in this matter, and advise the Conservatives to become more moderate than the Liberals.

JEALOUS AND UNREASONABLE.

Some of our neighbors across the line seem to think that if Esquimaux is threatened, the cities of the Sound will be threatened. According to them, Victoria and Esquimaux must remain defenseless forever, because if they are fortified, British ships of war, from the sheltered ports, make a descent on the cities of the Sound, which they suppose will be at the mercy of an enemy. We think that this is a most unreasonable view to take of the matter. Self preservation requires that Esquimaux should be made strong enough to protect the dry dock, the arsenal and the shipping in the harbor, and that Victoria should not be at the mercy of any ship of war that may be sent to attack it. To maintain that the fortifications required to effect this necessary purpose, should not be erected, because their erection may be construed into a menace to Seattle, Tacoma and Port Townsend, is to take a position that is wholly untenable. The cities of the Sound would be quite as open to attack if Esquimaux were unfortified as if it were made as strong as Gibraltar. There is nothing to hinder ships of war, whether British or Russian, or French or Chinese, steaming up the Sound and attacking the forts that may be erected on American territory. If there were strong fortifications on the Sound, those fortifications are just as likely to protect our neighbors as to threaten them. The San Francisco Call says:

"Works built to cover the entrance of the Golden Gate are purely defensive works, involving no menace to any foreign power; whereas a fortification at Esquimaux is nothing but an offensive work, directed to threaten the possessions of a neighboring nation. There is nothing on Vancouver Island, or at Vancouver City—the terminus of the Canadian Pacific—which could be protected by works at Esquimaux. In the event of war all the guns in the world at Esquimaux, if they were not backed by a fleet, could not prevent the capture of Victoria or the occupation of New Westminster. But the harbor of Esquimaux, if properly fortified, could give shelter to a fleet which could ravage the whole of Puget Sound and capture everything in order to facilitate that, and for no other purpose, that England and Canada propose to erect the new forts. The latter are simply and wholly a menace to the United States; they were not put there that they would have no excuse for existence."

The Call ought to know that there is a great deal that needs protection on Vancouver Island and in Vancouver city that could be protected by works at Esquimaux. It is not intended to send the Pacific squadron back to the Atlantic or to China if Esquimaux is fortified. The defence of British Columbia needs both the fleet and the forts, and it is not likely that Great Britain will deliberately consent to leave one of its most important stations in an imperfect state of defence just because there are a few nervous people on the American side of the line. We have seen in the San Francisco papers and in the papers of the cities of the Sound and complaints about the defenceless condition of the United States cities on the Pacific Coast. We were very far from thinking that those complaints were groundless. It seems to us a little inconsistent in our neighbors to reproach their own Government for leaving them at the mercy of the first enemy that may decide to attack them, and then to find fault with the British when they see the folly of leaving their own Coast cities in a similar position. If it is bad policy to leave Seattle defenceless, it must be equally bad policy to leave Victoria open to an enemy. Our neighbors, as soon as their national jealousy is aroused—and it does not take much to stir it up—are very unreasonable.

A CLERICAL ONSLAUGHT.

Jay Gould, who is well known not to be a model of all the Christian graces, or indeed of any of them, lately presented a large sum of money to a church. He was consequently highly lauded for his generosity. But Dr. Rainsford did not join in this laudation. It in fact disgusted him a little, and he was not backward in giving expression to his feelings. The eloquent divine said:

"When I hear of a church strong, numerous, influential, and rich—a body of Christians, men, remarkable for the championing of what they claim to be apostolic Christianity—calling a meeting for the extension of Christ's church in the house of one man who before the people of all these United States has conducted a campaign that is the very opposite of Christianity—a man who has done more to degrade and debauch the morals of business life than any other citizen—when this happens, I say it is time to speak as well as to pray. I state the matter as temperately as I can when I say a mistake has been made which has put tens of thousands of Christian people to the blush; and more, I say it is idle to talk of praying for the advancement of Christ's church if such things are allowed to pass unchallenged, or those who are responsible for them to pass unchallenged."

He evidently did not believe that the Christian Church would be benefited by Jay Gould's ten thousand dollars and he did not like to see Christian men bowing down before a man who was not actuated by Christian principle merely because he had made, by hook and by crook, a big pile of money.

Dr. Rainsford's denunciation moved the Rev. Mr. Jay Gould's pastor and he undertook to make to it this reply: After saying that Gould is "one of the loveliest of men" he continued:

"You ask Dr. Rainsford in my name where the wealthy men of his congregation got their money, and how the men in Wall Street who attend his church came by their money? You ask him that! Did they come by it any more honestly than Mr. Gould, or as honestly as Paul? I say that any of them held up their heads and cast the stone. I am not defending Mr. Gould or Mr. Gould's methods particularly, but I say this: Mr. Gould may be a capitalist, a speculator, but he is not an immoral man, and in Dr. Rainsford's church are peasant smashes beside him. Am I not right?"

The *tu quoque* appeal may be effective, but every one knows that it is not logical. Even a schoolboy will say that "poor's another" is no argument. It is a pity that this clergyman had nothing better to say of Mr. Gould than that there were others as bad as he but not so able. If such an argument were sound it would be easy to justify Satan himself.

A BLIND FOLLOWER.

That \$34,000—it is \$34,000 again—gives the organ of the Opposition a great deal of uneasiness. On Saturday, in a fit of frankness, it took \$19,000 off, but it has evidently repented making that admission and has gone back to its first figure. It finds fault with the Hon. Mr. Turner for not going sufficiently into detail with regard to the loan. But he has done what the Times itself says he ought to have done. He has stated specifically where every dollar of the \$34,000 has gone, and if our contemporary had done itself the justice of making the calculations itself from the information which the Finance Minister gave the House, instead of parroting like repeating the foolish suspicions and the groundless accusations of the leader of the Opposition, it would have seen that every cent was accounted for, and would have gained for itself some credit for fairness and intelligence. Gentlemen quite as capable and quite as honest as the Hon. Mr. Beaver found the data given by Mr. Turner amply sufficient to enable them to make the calculations. The Hon. Mr. Pooley, whose integrity no one questions, and who does not speak at random, said that "the information brought down to the House was complete. Any schoolboy in the country could make out the amount." And Mr. Croft had no difficulty in seeing where the money went.

"He figured out the amount that the province should receive," and found it to agree with the net proceeds of the loan. The truth of the matter is, Mr. Beaver took exception to the wrong figures at the wrong time. Item No. 4 of the estimates, which was taken by the House, had no connection with the floating of the loan. Evidently Mr. Beaver was under the impression that it had, and having made a blunder, he was determined to stick to it, and the Times, as in duty bound, followed its leader.

The detailed expenses of the loan, as presented to the House in an Order in Council, which was amongst the other papers in the voluminous return, brought down by Hon. Mr. Turner before the Budget speech was delivered, were set forth as follows:

Vote: Commission to guarantors, 2 per cent.; Bank of British Columbia for issuing, 2 per cent.; brokers commission for management, 2 per cent.; brokers and bankers commission on stock ordered through them, 2 per cent.; advertising and incidentals, 2 per cent.; Somerset House, commutation of transfer of "where the money went" to a mere matter of calculation. Given the amount of the loan, £200,000, issued at 86, we have the following result:

£200,000 at 86..... £172,000
£ 72,000 at 84..... £59,040
£200,000 at 84..... £160,000
£ 80,000 at 84..... £67,200 (expenses)
£200,000 less \$4,320..... £195,680

Thus, we see, that the net proceeds of the loan would be \$195,680, but the bank's brokerage was not complete, so that the amount of money actually received was, in round numbers, \$202,000. It must be borne in mind, however, that of this \$2 per cent. for expenses a large portion is not on account of the £200,000 loan only, but applies to the whole £700,000 authorized to be borrowed; that is, to the £200,000 and to the \$500,000 for conversion of the old bonds. Some \$7,000 at least of the expenses charged up now to the £200,000 loan will thus be applied; as for example, the 2 per cent. for guarantors will be required for the balance of the loan, that per centage being only paid to insure the success of the first issue and to establish the stock on the market.

Swindle and Attempted Murder. PETERBORO, March 23.—Yesterday Mrs. Robert H. Shepherd committed suicide, by swallowing carbolic acid. She also attempted to force her little boy, aged 20 months, to take the poison. But was prevented by her husband, not, however, before the child's face was terribly burned.

BEE-ROOT SUGAR.

There are some persons in this province who think that its farmers ought to be encouraged to cultivate the beet root for the purpose of establishing the manufacture of beet-root sugar. There are difficulties in the way of carrying this out, the principal one being the high price of labor on this side of the continent. The manufacture of sugar from the beet-root requires cheap labor as a *sine qua non*. Mr. Saunders, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, has been enquiring into this matter, and he says that in Europe—

"Notwithstanding the low wages paid to operatives, the great improvements, which have, of late years, been made in the quality of the beets, and the almost perfect condition to which the process of manufacture has been brought, it is not yet practicable to make beet sugar anywhere at such a price as will enable the operator without a bounty to compete with cane sugar, and in view of the improvements taking place in the quality of the cane and in the process of manufacture of cane sugar there seems to be no prospect of the beet sugar industry ever becoming self-sustaining."

If sugar from beets cannot be manufactured without a bounty, it is worth while to enquire how large that bounty must be. Mr. Saunders calculates that it would take forty large factories to produce all the sugar required by the people of the Dominion. In order that money may not be lost in making this sugar, the factories would have to be subsidised out of the Dominion Treasury to the extent of \$4,000,000. Would it be right to tax the people of the Dominion to this extent in order that they may be able to manufacture their own sugar. We venture to say that the vast majority of them will decide to get their sugar supply from the present sources, rather than increase their taxes so large an amount to produce it at home. There are, indeed, a good many who say that if a business cannot be carried on with out a bounty, it is better for the country that no one should engage in it. The time may come when labor will be as cheap here as it is in Germany, France and Russia, and other countries where beet-root sugar is extensively made, but British Columbians devoutly hope that that day is still very far distant. Cheap sugar is a very good thing, but very few will want it made at home if the main condition of its manufacture is cheap labor.

THE LATE DECISIONS.

The decisions of the Judges in the Green case should be satisfactory to all law-abiding citizens. It is right that men who commit crimes should be punished. The country would soon be in a bad state, if men who were convicted of violating the law could, by taking advantage of some purely technical points in the proceedings before the courts, escape punishment. This is what makes the administration of law a mockery in the United States, and the impunity with which crimes of violence can be committed has the effect of making them of such frequent occurrence. It is a singular fact that in Great Britain, where there are large numbers of very poor and very ignorant people, crime is decreasing, while in the United States, where the people generally are much better off, and where education is more widely diffused, crime is increasing. No doubt, one of the causes of this apparent anomaly, is that in Great Britain the law is much better administered than it is in the United States. The punishment of those who commit or attempt to commit crimes of violence, should be sure and speedy. They should be fairly tried, but when once convicted, the law should allow the guilty man no chance of escaping the penalty he has incurred. It is a reproach as well as a danger to the community, when the man, who ought, in justice, to be undergoing punishment for a crime he has committed, is at large, and as free to engage in business and to associate with his fellow-men as if he had committed no offence against society and the law of the land.

ENFRANCHISED.

In granting the privilege of free men and free women to the Indians of this province, the Government of the Dominion have acted justly and judiciously. The law requires the Indian, man or woman, who wishes to be enfranchised, to make an application to that effect, and if the applicant is found to have conducted himself or herself well for the period specified by law, he or she is declared qualified to hold land in fee simple, and consequently to exercise the privileges of a British subject. The object of the law is evidently to encourage the Indians to abandon the tribal condition, and to become owners of land in severalty. When the Indian becomes an owner of land in his own individual right, he is released from the laws enacted specially for Indians do not apply to him. He is a free man, and has a right to all the powers and privileges of freedom.

We believe that as far as the Indians of this province are concerned, enfranchisement without any action of their own would do them good. If they were all declared, in every respect, free men, whether they desired the change or not, a considerable improvement would soon be seen in their condition. The Indian men and women are not children, and they are, to a greater or less extent, demoralized and their development retarded when they are treated as children.

The best way to educate men, whether copper-colored or white, for independence, is to make them independent. In acquiring the knowledge necessary to use independent property, and in contracting the habits of civilized people, they will certainly make many blunders which will cause suffering; but the discipline will do them good. This is how men of our own race learned to

use freedom, and they are still learning. They were not allowed a period of probation. They gained their powers and privileges, one by one, and commenced using them directly. They abused them and used them clumsily, and suffered the effects of their abuse and unskillfulness. But they improved by degrees. Their political education is not nearly finished yet. But no wise and enlightened statesman talks of taking from them the powers they are still learning to exercise. Political quacks and would-be tyrants attempt now and then to make a retrograde movement but they soon find that they cannot drive men back. The reactionist is therefore what our neighbors characterize as a "back number." Men will go forward and blunder on. Their progress is slow but it is sure.

As it has been with the men of the white races, so will it be with the Indians. If they are not to die out, they must be taught to be self-reliant and self-supporting. By restricting their liberty and doing for them what they ought to do for themselves, the Government demoralizes them—coddles the malices out of them. By leaving them free to fight the battle of life as best they can with out other restraint, or other help than white men get, the Indian's character will be strengthened, his powers developed, and his self-respect increased. The Indians of British Columbia are well able to support themselves, and if the privileges of free men were extended to them they would soon learn to use them for their own benefit and for the benefit of the whole community.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

The Budget Speech showed that the finances of the Dominion are in a healthy condition, and that the financial policy of the Government is sound. There was a considerable surplus last year, but owing to the large reduction of taxation it is not to be expected that the receipts in future will greatly exceed the expenditures. The Government intends to pursue a policy of economy, and we have no doubt that its economy will be judicious and not of the cheese-paring kind.

The Finance Minister was, we see, frank with the House with respect to the recent negotiations for reciprocity with the United States. From what he said, we infer that the Government is ready to enter into reasonable reciprocity with the United States. While this is the case it is not proposed to sacrifice industries and interests which have been built up with such care. In this we are quite sure the great majority of the people of Canada are at one with the Finance Minister. They want reciprocity. They are rather disposed to overvalue than to undervalue the benefits of free trade with the States, but they are, nevertheless, not prepared to sacrifice valuable Canadian interests for the sake of securing it.

But Mr. Foster, when in Washington, found out what many on this side of the line suspected. He was told that any arrangement for reciprocity with the States must be unrestricted, and that it must involve discrimination against Great Britain. This the delegates very properly objected to. The loss of revenue which the admission of the products of the United States, manufactured as well as raw, would occasion, would make reciprocity a necessity, and the Dominion Government, as British subjects, consent to favoring the United States in matters of trade, at the expense of Great Britain. If Canadians would consent to such discrimination, they would incur the contempt of the people of the United States. The Americans are an eminently patriotic people, and would quickly see the inconsistency and the ingratitude of a people living under the protection of Great Britain, and acknowledging her sovereignty, discriminating against her in matters of trade. Canadians would very soon hear, in terms much plainer than pleasant, what the citizens of the United States thought of a people who would act in this way. But the Government and the people of Canada will never incur this reproach. They will, as long as they are connected with Great Britain, be true to their allegiance, in deed as well as in word. The advocates of unrestricted reciprocity have not now even to pretend to believe that unlimited free trade with the United States does not mean—in the first place, discrimination against Great Britain, and, in the second, annexation to the United States.

The Finance Minister appears to have foreshadowed closer trade relations between Great Britain and Canada than those that now exist. He seemed to think that discrimination in favor of Great Britain would be more profitable and more natural than discrimination in favor of the United States. We do not know what reason he had for directing attention to this policy. Much has been said of late about the policy of mutually differential duties, on both sides of the Atlantic, but the proposal does not appear to have been very favorably received in Great Britain by the leading men of either party. It would be a pity if Canadian Conservatives made the same mistake in this matter as the Liberals did with respect to unrestricted reciprocity. This was forgetting that it takes two to make a bargain. The Liberals presented a fine scheme of reciprocity to the people of Canada without knowing how it would be received by the people of the United States. The Conservatives should take care not to make a similar mistake with respect to new trade arrangements with Great Britain. But Mr. Foster is a prudent man, and not likely to commit a blunder of this kind. He, however, may be misunderstood, and sanguine people may draw conclusions from his speech, which his language, carefully considered, does not warrant. The principle which he is reported to have laid down, which is to hold out a helping hand to those who help us, and to repay with interest favors which we have received, will, we are quite sure, be approved by the Canadian people, and acted upon as soon as the occasion offers.

Mr. Laurier
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