

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1895.

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD.

On the morning of the 11th December, 1858, THE COLONIST first saw the light. The sheet was scarcely two hands-breadth in width and being printed on dingy colored paper and having a smudgy face its appearance was scarcely inspiring. But despite its unmet condition it was a sturdy youngster and immediately began to make itself felt and heard far beyond the walls of the poor shack on Wharf street in which it was born. It may be said of the Colonist that it was never "nursed" and that it walked without assistance from the start. Before it was a month old it was found disputing with the wise men. In a year it had gained the first place in Colonial journalism on the British Pacific and was striding on to fortune. Perhaps no newspaper enterprise was ever inaugurated under more auspicious circumstances.

The time was ripe for just the kind of writing that the Colonist supplied—pungent, incisive and bitterly personal. The form of government was unpopular. The Hudson Bay Company's influence was paramount, and whether events justified the feeling or not, the sentiment of the country was opposed to Hudson Bay rule. The Colonist catered to this sentiment and was a financial success from the beginning. Everyone subscribed for it; those to whose views it gave wings to aid it, and those whom it attacked to read what it had to say about them. Mr. DeCosmos, the projector, had certainly made a happy hit, and it was not long before the newspaper had cleared the field of all opponents and stood alone. Originally a semi-weekly publication, in 1860 it was issued five days in each week, and in 1861 it became a daily, printed on "every lawful day."

Thirty-seven years are to humanity more than a generation; and few of those who took part in the editing and printing, or of those who read the first number of THE COLONIST are alive to-day. The handful that remains of those who were in the prime of life in 1858 are now grey and worn, bent with age and full of infirmities. Even its talented originator has gone down under the flow of Time and awaits with clouded intellect the final call. In another decade one may count on the fingers of his two hands those who can then recall THE COLONIST in its childhood.

The ups and downs of Colonial life are many and varied. THE COLONIST has experienced them in every phase and form during its long life. Men—in business, in politics, in the church—have come upon the field of action and have passed off, and their work has been taken up where it was laid down, by the next generation. Writers of prose and poetry often invite us to note the changes which time has wrought by rambling through the churchyard and consulting the inscriptions on the headstones. But to our mind Time's changes are much more vividly shown when one glances through the columns of an old newspaper.

We know of no more forceful lesson than that conveyed by the pages of a journal printed nearly forty years ago. The advertising columns show that there has been an entire change in the personnel of the business community. One or two old signs remain unaltered; but the men of '58 who founded the businesses are gone. The incidents which agitated the town in those days and caused men's veins to course hotly through their veins, seem very commonplace now, and one is tempted to ask, after reading a page or two of burning words, what all the pother was about. Victoria was a small affair in those days. It was a fortified village, a Hudson Bay trading post, when the gold-seekers arrived.

Where Bastion street enters Government street, and where Fort street meets Wharf street stood bastions in which guns were mounted, and the space between was enclosed by palisades twelve feet high. The Governor and a few settlers had their homes outside the palisades, but many of the company's servants resided within the bounds of the fort. The newcomers purchased lots and built for themselves dwellings and places of business outside the fort, and gradually the palisades and bastions disappeared and the site of the fort itself was invaded by the workers in wood and brick and mortar, and buildings rose on all sides.

For several years the streets were quagmires. In the winter months a vehicle could not be drawn through them because of the mud, and it was not until 1863, when Mr. Harris and five Councilmen were elected, that any improvement was noticeable. Since 1862 the growth of the town has been rapid until the present date, when, with a population of some 20,000, Victoria claims and maintains the proud distinction of being the Empire City of the Pacific Province.

Within the covers of the files of the Colonist will be found the history of British Columbia for the past thirty-seven years. We do not think we can be accused of egotism when we say that with the growth of the Province THE COLONIST has kept step; that as the resources of the country were developed and trade and commerce expanded

we have endeavored by a liberal expenditure to utilize the best available facilities for laying before our readers a newspaper of which no provincialist need be ashamed. THE COLONIST has not been the medium through which scandals have reached the public eye; sensationalism has been avoided, and we have abundant reasons for knowing that our efforts to produce a clean periodical—one that no father or husband need hesitate to admit to his family circle—are appreciated. From a diminutive publication of four tiny pages in 1858, THE COLONIST has grown to be a metropolitan journal of eight pages and 48 columns in 1895; and when the improvements which are in contemplation shall have been perfected we hope to attain that standard of excellence which was foreshadowed in the first number, and to continue to deserve and retain the confidence and esteem of our patrons.

WHOSE COURSE IS CROOKED?

The organ of the Opposition, which by the way is not exactly in tune on the Manitoba school question, is virtuously indignant at the way in which supporters of the Government expressed themselves on that question in Antigonish. Mr. Chisholm is reported as saying that "the Government was pledged to remedial legislation and could be relied upon to pass it." The Conservative candidate, no doubt, said what is known to every intelligent man who reads the newspapers. The Government's course is plain and open, to be read at a glance by men of both parties and all creeds. Ever since the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was pronounced and it became the duty of the Government to take action in the matter, its course has been such as to leave no one in doubt as to what its intentions are. It has appealed time and again to the Manitoba Government to redress the grievance of the minority. It has shown clearly that it sincerely desires that Manitoba should settle its own school question. If the Government of that Province fails to take any step towards settling the question it has signified its intention plainly, as the Constitution provides, of submitting the matter to Parliament. This has been known all along by Conservative and Liberal, and this, no doubt, in effect is what Mr. Chisholm said, and is what Ministers in their public utterances have stated over and over again.

Have the Leader of the Opposition and his imitators been frank and candid on this school question? They have not. It is impossible for anyone even to this day to say where they stand. The Leader of the Opposition has resorted to every trick known to politicians to avoid a clear and definite avowal of his intentions on the subject. His language has been such that it has been construed in one way in the Province of Ontario and in quite another way in the Province of Quebec. He has spoken so ambiguously that each of his hearers can say, without being insincere or openly dishonest, that Mr. Laurier takes the same ground that he does. The Quebec sympathizer with the Manitoba minority believes that Mr. Laurier is determined, if he has the chance, to redress the school question in the way that he wants it redressed; and the Ontario enemy of separate schools and opponent of interference with Manitoba maintains that Mr. Laurier takes his view of the matter. Talk of insincerity, duplicity and dissimulation! Mr. Laurier has been skillfully and assiduously practising them all while dealing with the Manitoba school question. If the Times were a sincere believer in non-interference it would have long ago denounced Mr. Laurier and repudiated him as its leader. But there is one principle—if it can be called a principle—which Mr. Laurier and the Times have in common, and that is "Anything to dish the Conservatives; anything to get into power." The Manitoba school question is handled by them both in the way that each considers best calculated to effect that purpose.

PROPERLY SHELVED.

The City Council did the right thing when they shelved the petition of a number of citizens to make the office of Chief of the Fire Department elective. Such a proposal is not only foolish, but mischievous. The Chief of the Fire Brigade must thoroughly understand his business. He must have intelligence, coolness, courage, and the ability to handle men. He must have superadded to skill in extinguishing fires, many of the qualities of a military commander. He should be chosen because he possesses these qualifications and not because he is an electioneering expert. It is quite possible that the very best man attainable for the office could not get a hundred votes and would not try to get them. The ratepayers of this city have the best reason to know that skill in getting votes is not like charity. It does not cover a multitude of sins. They, we are sure, have more sense and more prudence than to trust their property in the most trying of exigencies to a scheming ward politician or to a specious, sporting demagogue. The Chief of the Fire Brigade should be devoted to his work. He should have nothing else to think of. His only aim should be to do his duty as well as it can

be done, and he should be sure of his position as long as he does his work faithfully and well.

It is quite possible that in the effective performance of his duty Chief Deasy has made some enemies, and that these enemies are determined to do him all the harm they can, not because they believe him unfit to perform the duties of his office, but because they dislike him and owe him a grudge. But men actuated by such motives must not be allowed to deprive the city of a capable and zealous officer occupying a position of great responsibility. However fair-minded citizens may feel towards Chief Deasy personally, they will admit that he has proved himself a good officer and that it would be great folly, as well as great injustice, to deprive the city of the skill and the experience he has acquired merely because a few ill-natured busy-bodies have taken a dislike to him. It is very clear that the movement to have the office of the Chief of the Fire Department elective is not grounded on any sound principle.

THE "GLOBE'S" GRAND FLOP.

"Free Trade" has been for some time inscribed on the banner of the Canadian Liberals. Free trade as it is in England has been with more than the usual flourishes declared by Mr. Laurier to be his "ideal." Sir Richard Cartwright, the intellectual leader of the Grits, has been all along an out-and-out free trader. L. H. Davies, the leader of the Maritime Province Liberals, has been enthusiastic in his advocacy of free trade. The active men of the party have opposed the policy of protection with might and main. The Grit journals great and small had fought for free trade and condemned protection in principle and in practice. "Free trade" was at the next general election to be the Grit battle cry. With that cry the people of the Dominion from Cape Breton to Vancouver island were to be roused, and it was to be kept up until the protectionists in every province were snowed under and a free trade Government established.

When Mr. Laurier began his peregrinations his zeal for free trade knew no bounds, but as he journeyed West and back again to the East his advocacy of free trade became less and less fervid, until now he has become luke-warm on the subject. Genuine free traders do not look upon him as an economic Laodicean who, being in their cause neither cold nor hot, they are ready to repudiate.

The reason for his coolness is not far to seek. When Mr. Laurier became a convert to free trade he either forgot or did not know that there are a great many zealous Protectionists in the ranks of the Grit party. These Protectionists were willing enough that Mr. Laurier should be allowed to use the free trade cry for electioneering purposes, but when they found that the party was being committed to a free trade policy, they cried, "Hold! if you want our votes you must stop that," and Mr. Laurier did gradually stop. The Toronto Globe had the same experience as Mr. Laurier, and was brought to its senses by the same means. So convinced is it that it will not do to go to the country with the free trade cry that it has found it necessary in effect to repudiate its own and Mr. Laurier's free trade policy. This is how it flopped in its leading article of the 5th instant:

It may be possible to quote declarations in prose and verse in favor of absolute free trade; but, so far as the next Parliament is concerned, absolute free trade is out of the question; FREE TRADE AS IT IS ENJOINED IS OUT OF THE QUESTION; DIRECT TAXATION IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. These are not the mere opinions of a party journal; they are the facts, which it would be not only foolish but dishonest to ignore. The Government must for some years, as long as it is in existence, consider, derive its main revenue from duties upon imports. When the Liberals come to revise the tariff they will be confronted by two obligations: (1) To burden industry as little as possible. (2) To disturb industry as little as possible.

The Toronto Globe finds itself under the necessity of admitting what the Conservatives have been insisting on ever since Mr. Laurier and the leading Liberal organ began to advocate a policy of free trade for Canada. They have said over and over again that absolute free trade is out of the question; free trade as it is in England is out of the question; direct taxation is out of the question. They have argued, against Mr. Laurier, the Globe and the rest of the Grits, that "these are not the mere opinions of a party journal; they are facts which it is not only foolish but dishonest to ignore." But Mr. Laurier and the Globe were, until they found out their mistake, guilty of this foolishness and this dishonesty. They did their very best to make the people believe that it is possible to establish a policy of free trade in this Dominion. Free trade was not to them a mere theory that might be discussed academically but in no other way, but a question of practical politics—a "burning question"—which Canadians would be asked to vote upon at the earliest moment possible.

The Globe has succeeded in explaining the free trade plank out of the Liberal platform, and it has left it without a distinguishing policy. It has repudiated free trade, and on the Manitoba school question Mr. Laurier and his party are literally nowhere. The Globe's flop is most remarkable, and as indicating the Grit party's change of attitude on the trade question very im-

portant. The unfortunate Grits are once more without a policy. What will they take up next?

A SENSITIVE SENATOR.

Senator Morgan is exceedingly angry because Lord Salisbury and Sir Julian Pauncefote have criticized his public utterances adversely. It is hard to realize that an American public man should be so thin-skinned and so silly. Senator Morgan was one of the Paris Arbitrators. Why he was chosen to fill the position is a mystery to intelligent Americans who know the man. It is, therefore, to be presumed that having heard the whole case and adjudicated upon it what he said on the Behring Sea question would have more weight with the American public than the speeches of Senators who had not studied the subject closely. What then could be more natural than that Sir Julian Pauncefote in what he wrote and said on the subject should pay particular attention to the statements and arguments of the Senator who had been on the Paris Arbitration. This seems to have been the view taken of the matter by the New York Herald, which says:—

It is possible to infer from Senator Morgan's recent comment on the British "Globe's" despatches that he regards the Canadian claims for seizures in Behring Sea as barred by the decision of the Paris Tribunal. They are, of course, not barred. The liability of the United States was expressly affirmed in principle by the arbitrators. The amount to be paid they left to be determined by agreement between Great Britain and the United States or otherwise. Senator Morgan was a member of this tribunal and must know the facts. When he speaks of the principles of the award as being fatal to the claims, he uses language likely to deceive the public, though certainly not intended to deceive. Senator Morgan complains that Sir Julian Pauncefote has criticized his speeches in the Senate on this matter. In the Senator's own phrase, the Ambassador has "arraigned" him for opinions uttered in debate on the floor of the Senate. This he thinks "a piece of presumptuous arrogance on his part."

But is a Senator entitled to immunity from criticism on what he says in public debate? May we not criticize him in the press? And if we may, why may not an Ambassador, writing to the Foreign Minister in London, say what he thinks? May not our Ambassador in London impart to Mr. Olney his views of Lord Salisbury's speeches in the House of Lords? What should we say if Lord Salisbury tried to stop him or called him arrogant? No doubt by this time Senator Morgan has reflected and wishes he had not complained.

The Herald gave Senator Morgan credit for having more good sense and prudence than he possesses. He repeated his complaint in the Senate on Monday, thereby showing that he is one of the class whom experience does not teach.

THE WALLER CASE.

If the British had treated an American citizen as the French Government has treated a United States ex-consul, every newspaper in the States, from Maine to Texas, would contain the fiercest denunciations of England's Government and England's policy. But since it is France that has treated the ex-consul with the greatest injustice, very little is said about the outrage by the tall-talkers and tall-twisters. We allude to the Waller case. Mr. Waller resided in Madagascar. He appears to be an enterprising man and he possessed considerable influence with the Government of the country, for he obtained from it a grant of 225 square miles of land, "especially rich in rubber," in the southern section of the island. The French were opposed to this concession to Waller. They claimed to exercise a protectorate over the country and to direct its dealings with foreigners. The United States never recognized the protectorate. Waller was in consequence particularly obnoxious to the French, both in and out of Madagascar. The concession was made previous to the late invasion of Madagascar by the French. While there that invasion was going on, in February last, it was given out that the French were incensed to the point of violence against Waller, believing that it was his reports that had caused his Government to withdraw its instructions to the American Consul to obtain recognition through the French Resident. It was also related how he had been assaulted and insulted by French soldiers. Finally, on March 24, it was given out that Waller had been sentenced by a French court-martial to twenty years' imprisonment upon the charge of "having conspired with the Hovas against the French authorities."

There are good grounds for concluding that Waller was not treated fairly by the French; that his becoming a large land holder in the country, and not plotting against the French, was his real offence. The United States Government, as was its duty, inquired into the trial of Waller and into the constitution of the court that condemned him. In order to do this it was necessary to examine the records of the trial and a request was made for the papers. This reasonable request was not positively refused, but although a considerable time has elapsed since it was made, the record is not forthcoming. The case was mentioned by the President in his Message in the most temperate terms and the press of the United States appears to regard Waller's condemnation and imprisonment with philosophical indifference. Would this have been the case if an American citizen had been condemned and punished by British authorities in any part

of the world under such suspicious circumstances, and if explanations and papers were purposely kept back? Certainly not. The howlers would long ago have been howling loud enough to be heard from one end of the earth to the other.

RATHER COOL.

The Times, naturally enough, considers Colonel Prior "too sensitive" because he promptly nails the lies that are circulated to injure him personally and politically. It, clumsily attempting to be ironical, says, "Is not Colonel Prior not yet assured that his character as a citizen places him above the faintest suspicion of being capable of committing the indiscretion of signing the anti-Deasy petition, or the still baser acts of a claim jumper?"

Our contemporary well knows that there are many persons in the community who know very little indeed about Col. Prior, and it also knows that there are small-minded, ill-conditioned politicians in the district who industriously spread any evil report about him or any other political opponent with the hope of discrediting him and making him unpopular in the community. The Colonel, therefore, acts wisely in heading off these slanderous scoundrels by meeting such of their lies as get into the newspapers with a prompt and a flat denial. If he allowed the evil-speakers, liars and slanderers to poison the minds of the electors with respect to his character and conduct without check, he would not be doing his duty to either his political friends or himself.

THE CITY MARKETS.

There is a strong probability that householders will pay less for Christmas eggs than ever before. If the weather continues mild merchants believe eggs will drop to 35 cents or even less. The Christmas trade, for which special preparations have been going on for some time, has not much more than begun; but new stocks are being largely received. The butcher shops in particular are keeping extra big stocks. A great deal of hay has been handled during the past week, some a year old very cheaply and the other of the best quality at quotations. In the fruit line the Oregon apples are receiving the most attention. Imports of these have recently been very large but satisfactory, and they have been selling at from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box. Current retail quotations:

Table listing market prices for various goods including Flour, Wheat, Oats, Corn, Potatoes, etc.

THE WOLF DANCE.

Last Saturday the Ohiat Indians finished up the great wolf dance that for five days had been in progress at the village of Numukamis on the Alberni canal. The wolf dance is one of the old relics of barbarism that is gradually dying out among the Coast Indians, and is supposed to be a test through which the young men must pass before they become entitled to be considered warriors. On the opening day a dozen young men having ornamented their heads with wolves ears, worked themselves into a frenzy, as if they were going mad, and then betook themselves to the hills, howling and growling in imitation of wolves. For five days and nights they continued this strange performance, howling around the outskirts of the camp at night. They remained the whole period without food except what they could catch with their bare hands. Naturally they became voraciously hungry with long fasting. On the fourth day they made a descent on the village and the mothers of the village fled, seeking to hide their children from the "wolves," as the frenzied men are called. However, the "wolves" managed to catch five or six youngsters and carried them away captive. A wretched dog that was tied to a house

was seized upon by the "wolves" and a disgusting scene ensued. The so-called wolves actually worried the wretched animal to death, tearing him to pieces with their teeth, and one man ripping out the entrails proceeded to devour them while his companions feasted on the parts of the carcass. Then the "wolves" fled back to the woods and next morning the Indians in the village organized a "wolf" hunt. The hunters were armed with guns and surrounded the "wolves" fired blank cartridges at them as if shooting them down.

The "wolves" were then brought into the village and the medicine man proceeded to doctor them, it being supposed to take two days to drive the wolf nature out. A great dance and jubilation followed the capture of the "wolves," who are now considered persons worthy of the tribe, and a great deal of fuss is made over them by their fellow tribes-people.

WARDNER'S NEW ENTERPRISE.

James F. Wardner, the widely-known Western miner, has among his purchases a gold property at Kennedy, Nev., that has attracted attention for some time," says the San Francisco Call. Mr. Wardner, who is at the Lick house, has lately been able to add materially to the output of auriferous metal from it by a chlorination process, which is being discussed by many mining men. "At his rooms in the Lick Mr. Wardner has an array of bottles containing the tailings and pulp in various degrees of treatment by the process. He is confident he has a fortune in it. 'I am convinced,' he says, 'that in all the mining states of the West and in Mexico and British Columbia, enormous quantities of gold are being daily wasted which might just as well be saved.'"

NORTH ONTARIO CAMPAIGN.

BEAVERTON, Dec. 10.—(Special)—The campaign in North Ontario is becoming very lively. Meetings were held last night here and at Sunderland, Bracebridge and Scott. Hon. Messrs. Foster and Montague addressed separate meetings in the afternoon and spoke together here in the evening. Mr. Foster said he addressed his remarks particularly to the Conservative Patrons, not to the Grits, realizing that the Grits were not in the fight, and he made a strong presentation of the ministerial case. Dr. Montague went up the night following and devoted himself chiefly to the Patron platform, which he declared impracticable, dangerous, and ruinous to the farmers.

Advertisement for Damp Days and PNYN-PECTORAL, including a list of ailments and a large bottle for 25 cents.

Advertisement for S. A. STODDART, WATCHES, located at 68 1/2 Yates St., featuring various watch models and prices.