

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1893.

AN ENEMY OF THE PROVINCE.

The Times, referring to the appeal made by the Colonist for an expression of opinion by the people of this province as to their rights against the Dominion insists that such a policy is an appeal to partisanship and adds: "In the best interests of the province we hope that it will utterly fail." The Colonist was of the opinion that if anything could be clear it was that the demand urged by it is of a non-partisan character. The Times evidently believes otherwise. When a year ago this province devoted a very great deal of space to this question, it was accused by the Times of having stolen its thunder. On more than one occasion our evening contemporary insisted that the Colonist was simply presenting its arguments in different words. If it were true that the Times took such a position as it then claimed, it certainly had not done so since the advent of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to power and must have confined its efforts in that direction to the time when the Conservatives were in office. This being the case, its advocacy of provincial rights, if it ever did advocate them, when it was in opposition and its refusal to advocate them now when its friends are in power at Ottawa show that our contemporary regards matters of this kind as a fit subject for partisan discussion. The Colonist does not so hold and never did so hold. It urged the claims of British Columbia for fair play when the Conservatives were in power and it urges them now.

The Times is at a loss to know how the case of the province can be strengthened by a verdict of the people in favor of Hon. Mr. Turner and his government. This, we are bound to say, is a question that must be met by those who affirm that such a verdict will advance the cause of the province. The history of all popular movements in English speaking countries show the weight that is attached to an expression of public opinion at a general election. The practice is, indeed, to appeal to the people for an expression of their views, even although the subject matter may not be one with which the legislative body elected can specifically deal. There is no other way by which the people of a province can express themselves except at the polls, and it is fitting that when an election is being held they should be asked to indicate by their votes how they feel upon any proposition directly affecting their interests. Such a proposition is the demand for fair play. There is no other way in which the people of British Columbia can show that they believe themselves not to be justly dealt with by the Dominion, no other way in which they can make an emphatic demand for better treatment than that afforded by a provincial election. In a Dominion election partisan questions will necessarily be forced to the front and the people will divide between Liberals and Conservatives, unless, indeed, a new party should be formed—which is quite improbable—to send an independent contingent to parliament. But to expect anything to be accomplished by an independent contingent of six representatives from British Columbia to the House of Commons would be simply ridiculous, unless indeed the division of parties should be very much closer than it usually is in a Canadian house. It is unreasonable to expect British Columbia to sink federal party lines out of sight in federal elections; and if it were not, it would be folly to expect anything to be achieved in the way of an expression of public opinion at a Dominion election on a question of fair play. Under these circumstances, there is no way in which the people can speak excepting at a provincial election. There is no record of Disraeli's having been compelled to give a written pledge of loyalty to his supporters as Mr. Cotton was. The new Disraeli resembles the other only in brass and in a fondness for repeating his own language.

AFRAID TO FACE IT.

The defendant in the case of the Queen vs. Nichol has secured an adjournment of the libel case until the next assizes. The ground upon which the application is made is of such a nature that only one construction can be put upon it, namely that the people behind the defendant fear the political effect of a conviction before the election. They knew perfectly well that they would fall utterly in making out a defence, and in that event, they would be debarré from continuing the villainous attacks upon Mr. Turner and Pooley in which they are now indulging, because the slanders, if repeated after a jury had pronounced upon them and convicted the defendant, could no longer be expected to deceive any one.

The people of British Columbia will know how to value Disraeli's time worth the policy of slanders which is being pursued by the irresponsible writers of the opposition press. An opportunity has been offered one of them to make good his case, and his counsel have bent their whole energy to discovering a means to avoid bringing the case to an issue. We grant freely that in an ordinary prosecution a defendant is justified in interposing anything that will prevent his conviction, but this is not an ordinary prosecution, because it is one wherein the defendant has boasted that he only wanted a chance to show that he is right. He had the chance and he has been forced by the men behind him to allow it to pass unimproved.

It is not to be supposed for an instant that the defendant, Nichol, cuts any figure in this matter. He is being used by a lot of political schemers as a gambit in a game of chess. What becomes of him, his reputation or anything else is of no moment to them. They would sacrifice him to-morrow if it suited

point we would like to be very positive. The government is certainly not on a level with the opposition. It would be a sorry day for the province if a government should ever get on a level with the opposition. If both parties in provincial politics should be policyless and leaderless it would be time for the electors to despair. But this was not just what the News-Advertiser meant. The impression it desired to convey was that the Colonist admitted that in certain of the mainland constituencies the government's chances were not as good as those of its opponents. The Colonist has in its references to the mainland constituencies confined itself to an expression of opinion as to the outlook in those from which it had definite information. For this reason it has said nothing of the outlook in Vancouver, nor in Cariboo, nor in Lillooet, nor any of the Kootenay constituency—excepting Slocan riding—nor any of the Yale constituency, excepting the north riding. Until candidates have been named and the campaign has taken shape in all the mainland ridings it would be quite premature to express opinions as to the result of the elections, and if there is one thing more than another which this paper proposes not to do, it is to deceive its friends by trumped up stories of the prospects of the government in any constituency. To do so would be bad journalism and bad politics.

The mainland constituencies to which the Colonist has hitherto chiefly referred have been those on the lower Fraser where candidates of both parties have been in the field for some time and a great deal of canvassing has been done. To these constituencies the News-Advertiser refers as pocket boroughs, or constituencies in which the voters are few and scattered and believed by the government to be open to inducements. The voters of Dewdney, Chilliwack, New Westminster and the Delta will naturally resent the application of such a stigma to them by the Vancouver paper. Hitherto these constituencies have returned opposition members, and the language which the News-Advertiser has seen fit to apply to them can only be interpreted by supposing it to recognize the hopelessness of the case of the opposition in that portion of the province.

THE NEW DISRAELI.

Mr. Cotton, M.P.P., seems impressed with the idea that the mantle of Disraeli has fallen upon him, and he undertakes in his newspaper to say what would be the opinion of that distinguished deceased statesman in regard to the local government. Speaking for Disraeli, Mr. Cotton says that he would describe it as a government of "blundering and plundering." It is told of Disraeli that he once expressed a regret that he never heard him converse, to which a witty friend replied, "You have only to imagine a mask of brass talking his own words." The resemblance between Mr. Cotton and Disraeli is marked in respect to the brass. It is also marked so far as a monumental admiration of his own language goes, but most people will think that at this point the resemblance ceases. For example, Disraeli was not a coward. When he had anything to say, he said it in the presence of those who might be called upon to answer it. He never sat in his seat in parliament for three months with countless opportunities for making charges against a government and yet waited until the session was ended to accuse them in the columns of a newspaper of plundering, as Mr. Cotton has done. There is no record so far as anyone knows of Disraeli's having worked with an opposition during the day and endeavored to scheme with the government at night to defeat the opposition, as Mr. Cotton did during the session of 1897. There is no record of Mr. Disraeli's having had a pet railway scheme of his own to engineer through parliament and, when he failed, of having opposed every other railway scheme that could be suggested. There is no record of Disraeli's having been compelled to give a written pledge of loyalty to his supporters as Mr. Cotton was. The new Disraeli resembles the other only in brass and in a fondness for repeating his own language.

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ed their purpose to do so. In the meantime he is employed to vilify decent people, and he certainly earns his money. Indeed no money could compensate a man for what he has been hired to do. He must by this time realize that the work cut out for him is of a very low class. For example, he was put up to make an affidavit in regard to Mr. Bullen, foreman of the Grand Jury, which every member of that body declared without a shadow of foundation. The Colonist wishes to be distinctly understood as making no reference whatever to the defendant, Nichol, when it says that the course of the defence in this case has been an exhibition of cowardice that it would be hard to parallel.

MR. BODWELL, COUNSEL.

At the opposition meeting held on Saturday night, Mr. Bodwell in very strong language denounced the local government for having opposed the Corbin railway and given a subsidy to the Canadian road to the Boundary. Mr. Corbin, he said, was prepared to build the road for nothing, but the government prevented him and asked the house to give \$4,000 a mile to another road. This is quite true. The government believed that it was in the interest of British Columbia to subsidize a Canadian road to the Boundary rather than permit a foreign corporation to construct a line to carry the trade of the country to Spokane and elsewhere in the United States. The very great majority of the people of British Columbia will heartily endorse the action of the government in this regard. We affirm that Mr. Bodwell cannot find a business man in Victoria who will hold that it would be better to have a foreign railway take the trade of the Boundary to a foreign city rather than give \$4,000 a mile to secure the building of a Canadian line to bring that trade to a Canadian city.

It is quite intelligible how Mr. Bodwell should take the position he did when he was acting as counsel for Mr. Corbin, with no doubt a very handsome retainer, before the railway committee at Ottawa; but it passes comprehension how he can expect the views which he was then paid for upholding to be accepted by the people of Victoria. The voters of this city will hardly look to the attorney of Mr. D. C. Corbin, of Spokane, for advice on a matter affecting railway connection with Kootenay.

A very violent attack is made in some of the opposition papers against Hon. Mr. Pooley because he is solicitor for the Messrs. Dunsmuir, and one of the papers in support of the opposition, the Kamloops Sentinel, says that in any other country out of British Columbia the paid servant, that is, the retained counsel, of a large corporation would be disqualified from being a member of the government. We suppose that this is simply an exhibition of ignorance on the part of the Sentinel and not a statement made in wilful violation of the truth. The Colonist is not in a position to say whether any of the present federal ministers hold retainers from corporations. Probably they do not directly, but it is not by any means certain that the firms with which they are associated may not do so. If they do, there is nothing wrong in it. The Colonist speaks with definite and positive knowledge when it says it knows that more than one member of the present Dominion cabinet when a member of a local government was in receipt of regular retainers from more than one large corporation, and that more than one member of the same cabinet is now connected with legal firms which carry on their business regularly and take retainers as other lawyers do. In Canada we have no leisure class with sufficient wealth to furnish men for public life, who can on entering it sever their connection with their private business. The vicissitudes of politics are too great to warrant them in so doing, and it is not only not wrong but highly proper and in every way commendable that our public men should retain their business connections after taking office. It makes them in a measure independent, because it leaves them with a means of livelihood at their command and in case they meet with political reverses, as so far from British Columbia being the only province in which a member of the government may be a solicitor for a corporation, it is the only one in which objection is raised to such a state of affairs. If Mr. Pooley holds a permanent retainer from Messrs. Dunsmuir, he is in no different a position than he has been occupied by nearly every prominent lawyer who has ever entered Dominion politics or occupied a seat in any provincial cabinet.

The death of Sir Adolphe Chapleau removes one of the most striking and picturesque figures from the public life of Canada. He was a man of fine presence and great talent. He filled many public positions acceptably, and was popular among a large element of the people of Quebec. He was rather too uncertain a factor in political life to retain the confidence of his associates in any great degree; but he had many friends and his death will be much regretted.

The government candidate in the Northwest riding of Kootenay is Mr. W. White. In his card he states that he will visit all parts of the riding and asks those voters, who may be disposed to vote against him to reserve their judgment until he has had an opportunity of addressing them. The people of the riding will make a great mistake if they send Mr. White back to the legislature. If it could ever be said of a public man that he had utterly lost standing, it can be said of Mr. White; but as the Herald says, it is right for the electors of the riding to look behind Mr. White and see what he represents. If elected Mr. White will come to Victoria pledged to support Mr. J. Martin as premier of a new government. Are the people of Revelstoke prepared to have their representative occupy that position? What is there in

Mr. Martin's record in Manitoba which entitles him to the confidence and support of the people of British Columbia? He got that province into hot water and he would do the same by British Columbia if he had the chance.

Mr. W. C. Wells has issued a card to the electors of the North Riding of East Kootenay. His position may be a very accurately described as an independent candidate. He declares that he is not in "full alliance" with the opposition, and asks a "free indulgence" as to how he shall act towards that party in the future. He declares that he looks for a reconstruction after the general election and wants to be free to act as he likes in such an event. He does not approve of the last loan bill because he does not think it does full justice to the interior, although he says he regards the subsidizing of the Coast-Teslin road as a legitimate business transaction, he doubts the urgency claimed for the southern part of the line. Mr. Wells says that if elected he will demand what fairly belongs to the Interior.

The "Rossland Miner" does not regard Mr. James Martin, who has been nominated there in the opposition interests, as a strong candidate, but says that the government supporters have wisely decided that there is too much at stake to take any chances. Our contemporary is quite right in this. It is never well to underestimate the strength of one's opponents.

The "Province" seems to have arrived at the conclusion that the nomination of Messrs. Turner, McPhillips, Helms and Hall in this city is a proof that Mr. Turner is desirous of introducing party lines into the election contest. If the "Province" has a sane moment between now and the election we hope it will explain what it thinks it meant when it expressed such a view.

The mail arrangements to Glenora are as bad as they can be. Only two mails have been taken up the river since navigation opened. Complaints are many and the local postal authorities are powerless. This is a matter in which the postmaster-general should give the inspector a free hand. There should be a mail up the Stikine on the arrival of every steamer from the South at Wrangell.

Our correspondent "S" omitted to send his name with his letter, and as he speaks of proof of his statements being forthcoming if needed, he will see that it is essential that we should know who he is. Besides this it would be a departure from a salutary rule to print any letter without knowing who the responsible author is.

The Times continues to ask what Mr. Joseph Hunter meant. Mr. Hunter has already explained in the house that he did not mean to impute dishonorable intentions to any member of the government, as the Times now pretends he did.

The Revelstoke Herald sarcastically asks what good there would be in electing Mr. Kellie as a member of any party.

"The pot is ours" exclaims the Province. Soup pot, presumably.

RAILWAY AFFAIRS.

To the Editor: "Reader" in your Sunday's issue cannot expect a reply from me, excepting a passing notice, for the following reasons:

First—He hides his identity behind an assumed name. In the past I have not replied to those writings in that cowardly way.

Second—His insinuations about the Delta N. W. & E. Ry., are untrue.

Third—"Reader," in the last paragraph of his letter, admits having enlisted capital, but fails to say that he got the first payment from the agents of the C. P. R.

Fourth—"Reader" placing his name and profession before the public I will tell him what it will cost the citizens of Victoria for him to get his final payment from the agents of the C. P. R.

R. T. WILLIAMS.

NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.

To the Editor: It is very amusing to contemplate the letter signed "New Zealander," which appeared in your contemporary (The Times) issue of the 11th inst., and were it not such a direct misrepresentation of fact, calculated to give a false impression, mislead people as to the condition of affairs in the southern colony one could afford to let it pass unnoticed. At the present juncture, however, when political discussion is rife and the people of British Columbia are crowded with anti-protection quacks to may do much to affect the destinies of this country, I should, in justice to a large section of the public who know the difference between the two, say a few words in regard to the railways of New Zealand, one who knows the country well, like to refute in toto the statements made by the Times correspondent. He trumps up one of the railways, one of the weakest points in the New Zealand government policy and makes assertions which are absolutely untrue and cannot be authenticated. I should like to show what that branch of advanced legislation as applied to government ownership of the railways has done for New Zealand and people can then judge whether such a condition of things is so highly to be desired or not—whether, in other words, it would suit this country. To commence with, it is a notorious fact that not a single government line (main) benefits town or country, and that the maintenance cost. Moreover, that there is actually an annual loss on the working of the railways to the colony of over \$400,000. What and how does the public receive for this little sum? In contradistinction to this we have the Wellington-Manawatu line (one of the very few private lines) paying dividends whilst the service tendered to the public is in every way admittedly superior to that of the government. To say that New Zealanders are proud of their railway system and therefore satisfied with it, is to offer an insult to their sanity and common sense. The railways there are a perpetual source of public derision, but unfortunately they belong to the government and the whole of the country is a fair exhibit of the whole system is overmanned, probably more so than any other department of the government. The railways are slowly but surely strangling the life of the colony. The narrow gauge is in vogue in New Zealand and the speed of 35 miles per hour is the standard. The writer must dwell in his imagination and he must have been acquainted with himself with the old precedent "far off

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fields look green." The average speed on the North Island lines is about 18 miles per hour, including stoppages, and the South Island about 25 miles per hour. The great difference made in the speed on the southern line is no doubt owing to the colder latitudes, which compel them to move along a little just to keep the circulation up. When did the penny fares that "New Zealander" talks about come in? Surely I have travelled the lines considerably, but never succeeded in striking that "cut" in fares, the usual rate being 5 cents per mile first class. And we are to believe that it was on account of this reduction that the profits on the railways did not reach 5 per cent. Well, well, and so "New Zealander" ignores the fact that cheap traveling begets travel and consequently an increased revenue, then indeed is one of the fundamental principles of railway economy dashed to the ground.

With regard to the beautiful altruistic sentiment (which according to the letter quoted) pervades a government's railway policy as opposed to private corporations, in the noble desire to open up the country and to give employment to settlers without seeking to make profits—I retort rot and bunkum! There has been in New Zealand as much chicane and corruption in allocating and expending the railway grants and in wire pulling in respect to the building of the railway as there is in the private line, as could reasonably be expected from any railway corporation. The service in every way admittedly superior to that of the government. To say that New Zealanders are proud of their railway system and therefore satisfied with it, is to offer an insult to their sanity and common sense. The railways there are a perpetual source of public derision, but unfortunately they belong to the government and the whole of the country is a fair exhibit of the whole system is overmanned, probably more so than any other department of the government. The railways are slowly but surely strangling the life of the colony. The narrow gauge is in vogue in New Zealand and the speed of 35 miles per hour is the standard. The writer must dwell in his imagination and he must have been acquainted with himself with the old precedent "far off

political party is apparent. The people now see by the actual withdrawing of many of the financial investing corporations that men who invest their money want some security for it and as capital is absolutely indispensable in the development of a new country, it must be encouraged and not harassed and openly opposed. Let the people of British Columbia make no mistake, but let them return men who are sincere and have a stake in the country, no political jobbers or men with pretty theories, which they wish to experiment upon, rolled from product of a bold imagination like Bellamy's "Looking Backward." In this world the great fact of selfishness underrides the actions of us all to a greater or less extent, let us consequently not be caught with pretty sounding phrases and mere promises. This is a young country with vast resources, but the local people cannot develop them themselves, they require capital and if they are wise they will offer it every inducement to come and stay.

ANOTHER NEW ZEALANDER.

The Woman Who Had Just Moved. In "The first thing we want to do is to tear down those old curtains those people have made."

Her Husband—It seems you have no reverence for the shades of the departed. Cincinnati Enquirer.

"That clerk always comes to the store on holidays," said one member of the firm.

"Yes," replied the man who had no generous impulses, "he is so much in the habit of loafing here that he doesn't feel comfortable anywhere else."—Washington Star.

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