

THE FORESTRY REPORT

We gave a summary of the report of the Forestry Commission, yesterday. The report, which is a very voluminous document and will be printed for general information, reflects the greatest credit upon the Commissioners, Messrs. F. J. Fulton, A. C. Flumerfelt and A. E. Goodeve. These gentlemen entered upon their labors with the determination to discharge the duty imposed upon them in the most thorough manner possible, and we are confident that the public verdict will be that they have fully succeeded in their effort. The information collected by the Commissioners is exceedingly valuable and cannot fail to be a valuable guide not only to the government in framing a general measure on the subject, but of assistance to the members of the Legislature in reaching a conclusion as to the merits of any proposal in that direction which may be made. The suggestions of the Commissioners, which we gave yesterday, must inevitably carry great weight with them. We feel it is only right to express to the Commissioners, on behalf of the public, the heartfelt appreciation of the spirit in which they approached their exceedingly important task and upon the manner in which they have acquitted themselves of it.

The subject is one that is of such great importance and the desirability of having legislation upon it is passed, of such a character that it will be permanent is so obvious that we are not surprised to know that the Premier and the Chief Commissioner feel uncertain if they ought to endeavor to pass a new law through the House at the next session. The intention originally was to do this, but it was expected that the Commissioners would be able to submit their report much earlier in the year. The magnitude of the subject prevented this. We are sure that it is desirable that the report should be in the hands of members and all others interested in timber a sufficient length of time before any law is passed to enable them to digest it thoroughly. The holders of timber lands not unnaturally desire that the law to govern them should be settled at the earliest possible date, and it might be some assistance on that point by introducing a draft measure, that would embody all the essential features of the new law, and then permit it to lie over for another year in order that its details might be discussed and the fullest possible representations might be made on disputed points.

A NATIONALIST PROGRAMME

Mr. Armand Lavergne, Mr. Bourassa's lieutenant, recently delivered a political address in Toronto, and the Saturday Night of that city thus summarizes his statement of the Nationalist programme:

- 1. Absolute equality of the French and English language, not only in Quebec, but in all the provinces of Canada.
2. No immigration of any kind; the resources of Canada to be developed by and for Canadians.
3. No assistance toward the military or naval enterprises of Great Britain.
4. No partnership with other sections of the British Empire.

It seems difficult to suppose that any one can expect such a platform to be taken seriously by any one, except persons bred in isolation, ignorance and intolerance. The claim for absolute equality of French with English in all parts of Canada is something that only a dreamer or a blatant demagogue would propose. If this idea were acted upon, we would have all the official publications of British Columbia printed in French as well as in English, French made compulsory in our schools or else have two sets of schools in every community, and French made the language of the courts as fully as English now is. This would not only be the case as respects this province, but also as respects all the other provinces of the Dominion, and we only mention British Columbia so as to make the absurdity of the claim manifest at once.

If it were possible for it to be so, we should say that the second plank in this precious platform is even more absurd than the first. It is, however, of considerable interest, because it seems to us to betray the whole secret of the Nationalist movement. Quebec or at least some of the political aspirants in Quebec, realize that the French element of the Dominion is falling rapidly behind the English-speaking element numerically. When Confederation was established the Canadians of French origin formed about one-third of the population of the Dominion, now

they are about one-fifth, and the increase is not by any means keeping pace with the natural increase of the English-speaking plus the immigration. In the course of a very few years the population of French origin will fall below one-sixth of the whole. Mr. Lavergne and his friends think they see in this danger to the influence which Quebec has hitherto had in the councils of the country. We suggest that a far more patriotic course for the Nationalists to adopt would be to devote themselves to efforts that will fit French-Canadians to play their proper part in Canadian progress and development. This they cannot do by isolating them from their fellow citizens of the Dominion, but only by encouraging the closest intercourse between them.

The third and fourth propositions may be considered together. Partnership with other parts of the Empire necessitates common action in respect to imperial defence. How that common action shall be secured is a matter of detail, but the Nationalists should be given to understand, in terms that will admit of no misunderstanding, that there is no part of the English-speaking population that is opposed to the closest partnership between the several parts of the Empire, consistent with local self-government or is so pusillanimous as to refuse to do our share for the protection of British territory and the honor of the British flag.

THE BRITISH ELECTIONS.

Whether or not it is good political tactics for Mr. Balfour to declare that if the Unionists are returned to power they will submit the question of tariff reform to a plebiscite may be no open question, but there can be no doubt that it is a patriotic thing to do, because it will have the effect of concentrating the attention of the electorate upon the constitutional questions involved in the election. We do not think it is to be construed as an admission by Mr. Balfour that the country cannot be carried upon tariff reform as an issue. Three questions have been before the people. One of them is that of protection versus free trade. This while of very great importance is not in any sense of the word a constitutional question, for as we know from experience in this country changes in the fiscal policy may be made from time to time without interfering fundamentally with the government of the country. The other questions, namely the veto power of the Lords and Home Rule, are constitutional. It is to be observed that both parties are agreed that there must be a change in respect to the Lords; the difference between the two changes is as to the nature of the change. In respect to Home Rule during the last few months. A very strong element in the Unionist party has declared itself favorable to the application of the federal system to the United Kingdom, and we venture to express the opinion that, no matter what the outcome of the election may be, a federal plan will be adopted. It is true that there is a great uproar in certain parts of Ireland because of the prospects of a parliament meeting in Dublin to deal with local affairs, but a good deal of that is doubtless chiefly for election purposes. If it is deemed advisable that there shall be local self-government for the three kingdoms and Wales, the majority of the Irish population will not insist upon imposing their views upon the majority, but will submit with what grace they can command to the inevitable.

The general opinion seems to be that everything turns upon the decision of the electorate in respect to the House of Lords. If this shall be favorable to the Ministry, we suppose the first act of the new Parliament will be to pass a measure in line with the Lords' will, give an unwilling assent. We say an unwilling assent, because we do not suppose for a moment that the opposition of the Lords to the government programme is not sincere. Nevertheless it would not lead them to go contrary to the views of the people as expressed at the polls. When the question of Home Rule shall come up in such an event, the resources of British statesmanship will be severely taxed to produce a measure that will be generally acceptable. We venture no guess as to what the outcome will be. There are two matters which the British people must dispose of, namely, the constitution and powers of the Upper Chamber and local self-government. There is not the least use in our shutting our eyes to these issues. No man in England does. We hear persons in Victoria discuss them as though they could be disposed of off-hand, but such people do not keep in touch with the opinions expressed by the leaders on both sides. These questions must be got out of the way by some process of solution. They cannot be simply shelved. The history of the evolution of British institutions suggests that we may not unreasonably expect at this stage a victory for the Conservative element which would mean that these pressing problems would be solved by states-

men who would approach them from a conservative point of view. More than one instance can be cited where great changes, for which the Radical element has agitated, have been brought into effect by Conservative statesmen. A notable case was that of the repeal of the Corn Laws, when the Conservative party under Peel and Wellington yielded to the popular demand, although not without very vigorous protests on the part of the latter, who gave his fellow peers very distinctly to understand that in supporting the anti-Corn Law legislation he was voting against his convictions. We may see something like this in the near future, for in the long run the will of the masses will prevail in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Duncan Ross says that the Liberals of British Columbia must teach Liberalism. They ought to learn it first. President Diaz has begun his eighth term of office. For a gentleman who entered the presidency upon a single-term platform he is holding out pretty well.

A very hopeful sign of the times is a speech delivered by Mr. J. L. Pearson, Liberal member for Gaspé in the Quebec Legislature. He stated that he wishes the government to concentrate all its efforts to improve public instruction, "to assure the province of Quebec the position it ought to hold in the confederation."

Dr. G. R. Dawson has been telling the Toronto Globe some things about railway construction and railways generally on Vancouver Island that are correct, and some that are incorrect. For example, he is incorrect when he says that the E. & N. Railway was built originally to develop the Dunsmuir coal mines, and that it derived the bulk of its business from them. Neither is it correct to say that the Canadian Northern is duplicating the E. & N. The former will not in the least interfere with the latter, and there is abundant room on the Island for the two roads. Dr. Dawson also creates a misapprehension in suggesting that the Canadian Northern is building on Vancouver Island because of the purchase of the Dunsmuir mines. The facts are the other way around.

While there is not the least probability that the King will refuse to assent to any measure Parliament may pass, it is a mistake to say that he has no power to do so. We find ourselves under some temptation to suggest his assent to a bill regularly passed. It is more than two hundred years since such a thing happened. Queen Anne refused her assent to a Militia Bill in the early years of the eighteenth century, and that is the last instance on record. Hence the expression that the Royal veto is as dead as Queen Anne. The constitutional role might lead to a very strange combination of circumstances. For example, it is possible, although of course exceedingly improbable, that a majority in neither chamber might have defeated the bill, but according to constitutional precedent the King, who may reasonably be supposed to have as great an interest in the affairs of the nation and as good opportunities for judging what is best in the public interest, would be unable to offset that one vote by any action on his part. Hence the various danger-heads, who might manage to secure election or be born into a peerage, would have more power, than the wisest sovereign. This is one of the anomalies of the British system of government. If the King should refuse assent to a measure, the Ministry would at once resign and the result would be the formation of a new Ministry and an appeal to the people. It is conceivable that a strong sovereign might be able to carry such a matter through, but he would be taking his crown in his hands if he attempted it.

DIES IN WASHINGTON Founder of Manitoba Agricultural College Falls Exhausted on Street of U. S. Capital WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Found exhausted on the street five weeks ago, Emil Dumais, 72 years old, once war correspondent in India and South Africa for the London Times, died today at a hospital. He kept his identity a secret until the last moments of his life. Dumais was for years interested in agricultural problems, being the founder of the Manitoba Agricultural College. The purpose of his visit to the United States was to study the methods of the Department of Agriculture. He was a graduate of the University of Toronto. His only surviving relative is a sister, Mrs. Aurelia Cartier, wife of a postmaster of Lacaze, Manitoba. She will reach here in a few days to take charge of the body.

Reprieve Does Not Arrive BELLEVILLE, Dec. 1.—The expected reprieve of Robert Parker, under sentence of death for murder, has not arrived, and preparations are going forward in the jail for the erection of the scaffold and the execution of the condemned man on Saturday morning.

WEILER BROS. HOME FURNISHERS SINCE 1862 AT VICTORIA, B. C. A Grand Holiday Exposition

Everybody is preparing for Christmas. That we know, judging from the throngs that are visiting our store daily. We believe that all the Victoria people have come to the conclusion that shopping early is the correct way to get good values in presents for Christmas. Last year we were urging the public to shop early, but it is not necessary this year. Our store is packed daily with people looking for nice presents for Christmas at low prices. You don't have very long to look when you visit this big store. Bargains are staring you in the face every turn you take. All the beautiful gifts that we are receiving daily are on exhibition for you immediately they are received by us, and all marked in good plain figures at prices you don't expect to see. We are giving wonderful values this year in Christmas presents. Give us a call and do your buying where you can get the largest choice and the most reasonable prices. Come early today and see the goods that are all priced at Rock Bottom.



- China Ornaments
China Vases
China Tea Sets
China Dinner Sets
China Chocolate Sets

Dainty Gifts for Ladies Thousands of Suggestions in Our Stock

The question of what to give a lady friend is easily answered by coming to our store. We have the array of presents that you are looking for. It is an easy matter to decide what to buy for a lady friend. Perhaps you have found it a hard task, but perhaps you have neglected giving us a call. Come along today and tonight you will not say, "What can I get for Mrs. or Miss So-and-So?" You will have got it.

- Fancy Plates
Silverware
Silver and Oak Ware
Manicure Sets
Salad Sets
Reading Lamps
Electric Lamps
Brass Goods
Stationery Holders
Writing Sets
Jardiniere
Book Racks
Fern Pots
Kettles and Stands
Reed Chairs
Easy Willow Chairs
Kitchen Cabinets
Reed Rockers
Ottomans
Wicker Cake Curates
Sectional Book Cases
Jardiniere Stands
Medicine Cabinets
Cheval Mirrors
Ladies' Desks
Morris Chairs
Easy Chairs
Couches
Music Cabinets
Magazine Racks
Library Table
Tea Tables
China Cabinets
Bridge Tables
Frame Pictures
Handsome Mirrors
Dressing Tables
Liberty Art Bed Spreads
Liberty Art Table Covers
Cushion Covers
Sofa Cushions
Cushion Tops
Hemstitched Pillow Slips
Hemstitched Towels
Hemstitched Linen Table Cloths
Hemstitched Napkins
Down Quilts
Scotch Bath Blankets
Portiers
Kensington Art Rugs and Squares
Japanese Skirt Boxes
Japanese Shirt Waist Boxes
Japanese Matting Squares
Japanese Yukatori Squares
Camphorwood Trunks
Carpet Sweepers
Hearth Rugs
Table Covers
Bureau Scarfs
Tea Cloths
Tray Cloths
Pillow Slips
Table Linen
Hemstitched Sheets
Art Table Covers
Mexican Drawn Work
D'Oyilles
Satin Marcellus Quilts
Oriental Rugs
Lace Curtains

Gifts That Gentlemen Appreciate

You'll Find the Choosing a Pleasure Here

A man is a difficult being to please. He likes his friends to remember him at Christmas, but he does not appreciate things that are of no use to him. We have the articles that he will appreciate, the articles that will be useful to him, the ones he can use every day, and the very things he would like to have. Let us show you what we have for the men folk.

- Smokers' Cabinets
Smokers' Sets
Shaving Mirrors
Shaving Mugs
Shaving Brushes
Office Desks
Sectional Bookcases
Card Table
Willow Easy Chairs
Foot Rests
Medicine Cabinets
Easy Chairs
Morris Chairs
Couches
Handsome Corkscrews
Manicure Pieces
Liquor Sets
Students' Lamps
Electric Lamps
Photo Frames
Writing Sets
Stationery Holders
Book Racks
Ink Stands
Necktie Holders
Paper Clips
Tobacco Jars
Ash Trays
Cut Glass Decanters
Fireplace Furniture
Cellarettes
Magazine Stands



Drink Pure Water Only The Royal Doulton Stoneware Germproof Filters Purify It for You

A shipment of these filters has just come to hand. They are exactly the same as this illustration. These filters ARE WITHOUT DOUBT THE BEST MADE. We want you to see them—we want to demonstrate them to you. We want to prove to you how simple it is for you to get pure water to drink. By buying one of these filters you will be surprised to see what you have been drinking for years. You will never be without one when you see what the filter contains, after it has purified a gallon of water for you. You value your health, you don't want to take sick, you want to keep well all the time? Well, here is the article to help you. Drink pure water and feel good all the time. Sometimes you don't feel quite up to the mark—you wonder what is the matter. Buy one of these filters—they will tell you. In three sizes.

- 1 gallon \$7.00
2 gallon \$9.00
3 gallon \$12.00

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