

THE CRY OF SECTIONALISM.

In appealing to the voters of British Columbia for an endorsement of its course during the past four years, the ministry of which Hon. Mr. Turner is the leader can have no reason to feel that they will be confronted with any well-grounded charge of sectionalism. It suits the purposes of the opposition press to raise this cry, but when it comes to a matter of proof they are discreetly silent. The consistent effort of the government has been to deal fairly with all parts of the province, and if it has not been successful, the fact has not been demonstrated in the legislature.

The Colonist lays great stress upon the omission of the opposition members to attempt to make good in their places in the house the assertions so freely made in the papers supporting them. We submit this is right. If one turns to the proceedings of the Canadian parliament, he will find that the opposition members of that body invariably attack the government openly and specifically. There is no skulking behind vague insinuations against Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues, while Sir Charles Tupper and his supporters sit in their places or devote tedious hours to pointless debate. The leadership of the opposition campaign is on the floor of parliament, where it ought to be, and the ministry is called to account for definite specific acts, which can be definitely and specifically discussed. So it was when the Liberals were in opposition. The attack was led by the leaders in parliament with the same definiteness as is now practised. The proceedings of every legislature in Canada except that of British Columbia, show that the opposition in the other provinces is open and above board in what it has to allege against the government. If it is asserted that corrupt acts have been done, the nature of the acts is specified. If the point sought to be scored is on the ground of incompetency, the evidence of it is forthcoming, or what the opposition regards as evidence. If sectionalism is the grievance, proof of something that can be called sectional is adduced. The government of this province has a right to similar treatment. When it is accused of being sectional it has a right to have something specified on which its accusers rely to prove their case. British justice requires that men should know of what they are accused.

It is proper that charges of this nature should be brought up in the house, not in the interest of the government only, but even more in the interest of the people. If sectionalism prevails, the voters ought to know it; but the proper and indeed the only fair way to bring it to their attention is by arraigning the government because of it during some of the debates in the course of the session. Nothing of the kind has been done. So far the innumerable speeches of the opposition members, the charge of sectionalism might never have been heard of. Therefore the friends of the government could properly refuse to treat with indifference this alleged reason for a refusal on the part of the voters to renew their confidence in Mr. Turner and his colleagues; but they are prepared to do more than this and to maintain affirmatively that the record of the government shows an entire absence of any desire to advance one section of the province at the expense of another.

In the matter of expenditure there is so little ground for the allegation of sectionalism that the common practice of the opposition has been to say that the government has sought to buy up the several constituencies with their own money. An examination of the details of expenditure will show how careful and successful the effort has been to meet the requirements of all parts of the province, whether for roads, bridges, school-houses, gaols or other public institutions. All parts of the province have been well policed. Order has been maintained in the most remote sections equally well as in the older and more thickly settled districts. In its general policy the government has embraced every portion of the province. What it has done in aid of dyking has been necessarily local, because this is a local matter, just as the expenditure on the parliament buildings has necessarily been local. But both what has been done to provide the province with suitable legislative and departmental accommodation and what has been expended, or what liabilities have been assumed for the immediate benefit of the farmers of the Lower Fraser have been in the interests of the province as a whole. The railway policy of the government has been far from local. It has been planned on the broadest possible lines, and when carried into effect will develop every section of the province. The government cannot be successfully assailed for sectionalism in respect to its expenditures or its general policy.

We are not unmindful of the fact that the opposition press has charged that the government has been sectional in respect to taxation, and the basis of this is the miners' license, which is collected from workers in metalliferous mines and not from those who work in coal mines. This tax is said to be sectional, because the coal mines now worked are all in one part of the province and the greater number of the metalliferous mines are in another. It has further been alleged in the opposition press that the exemption of coal miners from the operation of the law relating to miners' licenses is intended as a special favor to one particular firm. The absurdity of this is shown by the fact that more than one firm is engaged in coal mining and also by the additional fact that workers in coal mines were required to take out a license the burden would fall upon them and not upon their employers. Every one knows why the application of the law governing mining licenses was made general in its application to all persons engaged in work in metalliferous mines. Every one also recognizes that in the course of time laborers in mines will be exempted from its operation. The time does not seem to be ripe for this exemption, because a very large proportion of the class referred to would be exempt from their due contribution to the revenue if they were not required to take out licenses. It has been said that the imposition of a tax upon the output of metalliferous mines and not upon the output of coal mines is sectional, but this is a position that cannot be successfully sustained. The case of coal and that of gold and silver are different. Coal is an article of commerce which meets with competition in which quality, cheapness of production, freight and other considerations play a part. Gold has a stable value and even silver, though it fluctuates, is not sold in a competitive market. Hence an entirely different set of facts must be taken account of in legislating in regard to coal than what must be considered in dealing with the two metals above named. The distinction is not sectional; it is economic.

The government need not fear to challenge its opponents to a discussion of the alleged sectional features of its policy. All it has to ask, and this it may certainly in fairness demand, is that the omission of the opposition members of the legislature during the long session just closed to arraign it for sectionalism, is the best possible proof that the charge is of the flimsiest possible nature.

Coal is king when it comes to naval warfare in these modern days. It is therefore comforting to know that the output of the United Kingdom is 105,000,000 tons every year; that of the United States 171,000,000 and that of the colonies a good round amount. Probably the coal output of the English-speaking countries amounts to 400,000,000 tons a year. France and Germany together produce a little more than one quarter of this amount and the other nations not anywhere in the race. In this connection the acquisition by a British syndicate of the mines of Chang-Si is extremely interesting. With the great coal fields of China and those of the American coast of the Pacific and those of Australia in their hands, and with Japan friendly, the English-speaking nations hold both bowers and the ace in the Pacific ocean.

THE STATE OF EGYPT.
When the British government undertook to bring order out of chaos in Egypt all the world admitted that the task was a herculean one. The country was burdened with debt, the people with taxes. Extensive public works were needed. A large portion of the population was nomadic, and the conditions of the educational system pitiable. The administration of justice was little more than a sham, while the military efficiency of the nation was at the lowest possible ebb. Fifteen years have witnessed a great change, notwithstanding the obstacles thrown in the way of progress, mainly through the jealousy of France. Egyptian bonds, which when Lord Cromer took charge of the country's finances, were quoted at 72, are now worth 100, nevertheless the rate of taxation has decreased 15 per cent. The number of pupils at the public schools has doubled. More than 300,000 of the Bedouin Arabs have been persuaded to become fixed settlers. The army has been rendered efficient. The prestige of Egyptian authority has been extended again over the Soudan. All this has been accomplished under circumstances of exceptional difficulty and notwithstanding the expense attending the campaign for the smashing of the Mahdi's successor.

Commenting upon the progress made, Lord Cromer says that what the country needs is a continuance of "honest, just and orderly administration." For the first time in centuries the fellahs have learned that there is such a thing as justice and that the government is prepared to see it enforced. This makes the masses of the people perfectly content with the present situation, and although the Young-Egyptian party is at times restless, nothing is more certain than that the British occupation will be indefinitely prolonged. Whatever might have been done ten years ago, it is very clear that Great Britain cannot abandon her self-imposed task in Egypt now. She has committed herself to a great work and is in honor bound to carry it through. It is not worth while to discuss what will be the final outcome; for the business now in hand is sufficient to task to the utmost the ability of those in charge. With improving conditions the needs of the people are increasing. To meet these will be no light matter.

Advocates of total abstinence will be glad to learn that the result of a series of experiments tried under the direction of General Wolseley have led the British war office to abandon the use of spirits by troops on the march. The experiments were carefully made, and it was found that, while the battalions to which spirits were served out displayed more dash on the first day of a long march, those that were given only oatmeal, water and other non-intoxicants exhibited by far the greater endurance. General Kitchener has been so much impressed with the wisdom of abandoning the use of spirits that he is conducting the Nile campaign on strictly total abstinence principles. He went so far as to confiscate a large quantity of liquor brought into the Soudan by some enterprising traders, causing the contents of the casks to be spilled upon the ground. The men are found to be able to go longer without water; when they are given no spirits than when they get their daily dram. It is also said that the use of intoxicants on board the vessels of the navy is likely to be discontinued, since under modern conditions of fighting men need to have their wits about them. Hence the practice of serving out spirits before a fight will be dropped.

New York society is being revolutionized. A few years ago Ward McAllister issued his list of the Four Hundred, subsequently revised to One Hundred and Fifty. To have a place on either of the lists Knickerbocker blood was sine qua non. Money was useful, but

it was not enough. When the lists had been printed, all fashionable Gotham indulged in a glow of profound gratification. It had an aristocracy. But alas, it came about that some of the rich people, who had no particular ancestry—they had fathers, grandfathers and that sort of thing, but they were of varied brands and had no place in the Knickerbocker herbook—were granted the entrance into the exclusive circle. Thereupon these rich folk began to set the pace, and it was a killing one. Some of the people whose pedigrees were a good deal longer than their purses dropped out of the race; others kept it up until the sheriff knocked at their doors, and so it has come about that a new aristocracy has arisen, and its only qualification is to have lots of money and to be willing to spend it. Members of the descendants of the Knickerbockers are following the Red Indians whom their ancestors displaced into innocuous disuse. The new aristocracy will "beat the band" when it comes to lavish outlay. Many great fortunes will crumble under the stress of social rivalry.

THE STIKINE ROUTE.
Mr. Neil Keith, of Mackenzie, Mann & Co., is quoted by the Stikine River Journal as saying: "I would like to impress upon the public through the press that the Stikine is a first class winter route. There are so many people who look on the dark side of everything. They come into a new country, expecting to find everything as it is in the old settled countries, which it has taken hundreds of years to accomplish. Last winter we had no information about the Stikine. No one knew the route or its dangerous places. Now these are all known and charted and any one can travel it in perfect safety." Concerning the trail to Lake Teslin, Mr. Keith said: "This trail is in first class condition and every party that reached Telegraph Creek prior to April 15 has pushed right through and up to the time of my leaving no reports of difficulties had been heard."

THE GALACIAN EXPERIMENT.
About a year ago the Colonist expressed its doubts as to the wisdom of the attempts to colonize a portion of the Northwest with Galicians. Fairness compels the acknowledgment that the views then advanced do not seem likely to be borne out by the facts and we make the amend more readily, because it would have been an unfortunate thing if the experiment had ended disastrously. The Galicians appear to have done so well in their new homes that a large number of their compatriots have followed them. They seem likely to become very good settlers, for they are making every effort to master the English language and are earnestly desirous of having schools where their children can be educated as they ought to be to make them fit for freedom and self-government. There is a large surplus population in Galicia, which though only twice as large as Vancouver Island has a population of nearly seven millions. It is so easy to understand that a small area must have developed habits of frugality, which will stand them in good stead in America, where they will compete with people who for the most part do not appreciate the value of small things.

The history of the Galicians is such as to encourage the belief that they will take readily to the responsibility of self-government. They were a part of the original historical inhabitants of Poland, a nation where the principles of democracy were recognized. When Poland was a kingdom, the kingly office was elective, and though it continued in families at times for several generations, the tenure of office was the will of the people. The republic of Cracow was Galician. Realizing, as Canadians do, how much inherited instinct counts for in determining the character of a people, they will be glad to know that these immigrants, who are doing so well and seem likely to prove only the advance guard of a great host, will after a little, fall naturally into our system of government.

The Grand Forks Miner announces that the cry of that neck of the woods will hereafter be "Boundary Creek for the Boundary Creekers." The Miner is a distinguished disciple of the opposition faith. Nearly every Englishman of note who has spoken on the subject has taken the position that the United States must keep the Philippines, when once she has obtained possession of them. The superior speed of the Spanish vessels is causing the United States naval authorities some anxiety. A swift, well-armed, protected cruiser is a better fighting craft than a slow battle ship.

Was there ever a more complete collapse than that of the charge proffered by the Times against the administration of the crown lands department? We withhold comment until the Commissioner has made his report.

The late Spanish minister at Washington, who has been making Canada his headquarters, has gone home in consequence of a very definite official hint that he was wearing his welcome out in this country.

The Vancouver West thinks the Colonist astray in saying that the Aberdeens have not very deeply touched the Canadian heart. This is a matter of opinion, but we may remind our contemporary that it takes more than ability or good intentions to win popularity.

SHAWNIAN METHODISTS.
Their Church Dedicated by the President of the Conference.
Shawnigan, May 24—Sunday, the 22nd inst., was a day of promise and gladness to the newly organized Methodist Society and friends at Shawnigan, it being the occasion of the dedication of their Methodist church, free of debt, the Rev. J. F. Betts, of Victoria Centennial church, president of conference, officiating. Three services were held during the day, a large number of people attending, many of them remaining to all the services.

Rev. Mr. Betts, Rev. G. A. Cropp (the minister in charge of the mission), and Rev. Mr. Stephenson (Presbyterian), took part in the services throughout the day. Rev. Mr. Winstow, superintendent of the mission, did not arrive until the evening, having conducted services elsewhere, and a cordial and delectatory service was deferred till evening.

The sermons in the morning and evening by Mr. Betts were both a treat and eminently appropriate.

Mr. Stephenson preached an appropriate and stirring discourse in the afternoon. Rev. Mr. Winstow, who is about to remove to a new field of labor, performed the pleasing duty of administering baptism to six children at the beginning of the evening service, after which Mr. Betts proceeded to dedicate the building.

Rev. Mr. Cropp, who was esteemed by and very much attached to these people, and is about to remove to another field, addressed the congregation briefly and impressively before the close of services.

The joyfulness of the occasion, however, was checked by the sad intelligence of the death of Elizabeth Sabina, only child of Robert John and Sabina Ann Maploy, of Cobble Hill. A large concourse of deeply sympathizing friends filled the new church on Tuesday when the funeral services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Winstow, assisted by Revs. Mr. Cropp and Mr. Stephenson.

Rev. Mr. Stephenson very kindly gave a grammophone entertainment in the school room on Monday evening, which was highly appreciated. The proceeds were in behalf of the church.

The thanks of the society is extended to all friends in Shawnigan, Duncan, Victoria and elsewhere who have in any way assisted towards providing this neat and suitable place of worship and premises for the use to which it is set apart.

The Star announces that Lieut. Carrington, the naval attaché of the former Spanish legation at Washington, has not left for Europe, but is still in Montreal. Agreeable to a request by the secretary of state, the department of the interior of Canada has granted permission for the passage of a United States exploring party from the vicinity of Pelly and Inuvik to the Yukon by the Dalton trail and Dawson City.

It is currently reported at Madrid that the Spanish government has ordered all Spanish steamers from 1,000 tons up, capable of making a maximum of 12 knots, to be impressed as auxiliary cruisers. The Spanish commissioners at various ports have been instructed to take charge of such steamers whether mail boats or otherwise.

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SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST
Is the Best Family Newspaper in the Province.

MISSIONARY
One of the First to Passes A way to
There died at Quamichan, on Wednesday, the 27th inst., Sister Marie Angeli, C.M. The venerable nun was 71 years of age at the time of her death. She was a native of the Province of Parma, Italy, and came to this country in 1825. She spent her early years in the convent at Quamichan, and was then transferred to the convent at St. Ann's, where she remained until her death. She was a devoted and pious woman, and her death is a great loss to the community.

CELEBRATION
Explanation From the Editor:
The Editor:—As drawn to attention by Mr. Gregory, the following explanation of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers in the Province of British Columbia, is published for the information of the public. The following explanation of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers in the Province of British Columbia, is published for the information of the public. The following explanation of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers in the Province of British Columbia, is published for the information of the public.

At the next meeting of the committee, Mr. Swiney, seconded by Mr. B. W. will be allotted for the militia, provided that \$3,400 by Saturday morning. The first resolution is the liability for any and above the amount finance committee upon contracting the same. Third resolutions place for bringing down the money in the hands of the treasury, who are not to be paid until the amount had been repaid. It was next moved that the funds were not to be paid until the amount had been repaid. It was next moved that the funds were not to be paid until the amount had been repaid.

BEAUMONT
24th May Celebrate
To the Editor:—I am glad to read in the Colonist with regard to the militia, that the view Wednesday to the duty and thirsty and had received the slight relief certainly needed. I am glad to read in the Colonist with regard to the militia, that the view Wednesday to the duty and thirsty and had received the slight relief certainly needed. I am glad to read in the Colonist with regard to the militia, that the view Wednesday to the duty and thirsty and had received the slight relief certainly needed.