The Colonist.

THURSDAY. DECEMBER 15, 1898.

MUNICIPAL REFORM.

We hope the Committee of Fifty will not delay making a report to a citizens' meeting. Already the opinion is expressed freely that, without questioning the good intentions of the gentlemen at the head of the movement, they are likely to fail because the time before the municipal elections is becoming so short that anything like full discussion of reforms that may be suggested will be practically impossible. That point has not yet been reached. There is yet time enough to get a platform before the voters and have it fully threshed out, but the margin to go upon is very narrow. Therefore we urge that another week ought not to be allowed to pass without something definite being presented for consideration. As was said in the Colonist a few days ago, what is wanted is not so much the details of any municipal plan, but its general features, the particulars of which can be determined upon later.

We hope the committee will make a reference, in any report they may submit, to the question of aldermanic qualification. At present an alderman must have real estate from the ward from which he is elected to the assessed value of $500. If in the opinion of the assessor his property is only worth $450, he is disqualified. If a person has $1,000,000 worth of personal property in the city and employs a thousand people in connection with it, he is not qualified to become an alderman. A $500 real estate qualification is an absurdity on the face of it. The idea is not, of course, that to own a piece of land which the assessor thinks is worth $500 gives a man any more intelligence than he would otherwise possess. The notion is that it gives him a fixed interest in the community. It will occur to most people that a person who would be induced to remain in a city because he had $500 of real estate there would hardly be the sort of individual that they would care to trust with the disposal of important interests. Let us take a few illustrations. Take for example the Colonist Printing & Publishing Co. Here is a business concern with a valuable plant and employing a large number of people. If a man should buy all the stock of the company and own the whole business himself, he would not be qualified to be an alderman; but one of his employees, who happened to have a little cottage somewhere in the city would be. Take a merchant, who owns no real estate and yet carries a line of goods worth upwards of $100,000. He cannot be an alderman, but the man who sweeps out his store, if he happens to have a little piece of ground somewhere, can be. People when they employ a lawyer do not go to the assessor's office to see if he has $500 worth of real estate; they do not do so when they want to employ an engineer or a builder or an architect or a person to manage a financial matter for them. Why should they be compelled to do so when they wish to employ a man to be an alderman? Is it not about time to get rid of the grandmotherly notion that people cannot be trusted to manage their own affairs, and that it is necessary for the legislature to tell them what class of people they must select to take office? We have had the system of property qualification in vogue in Victoria ever since it was a city, and if it has any good features, the evidence of the fact is not conspicuously apparent.

THE NATIONALIZATION OF RAILWAYS.

Mr. Powell, M.P, for Westmoreland, N.B., has been lecturing on the nationalization of railways, which he thinks will become a matter of practical politics within a few years. Mr. Powell, it may be mentioned, is a Conservative in politics. The views which he expresses are purely personal. The subject is one of very great interest and also of very great difficulty. The extreme position on it was taken by a New Brunswick legislator some years ago, when he contended that railways ought to be built at the public expense and run at the public expense, and that every one should be allowed to travel or send freight by them without any charge. We do not suppose many people are willing to go to this extreme. The ideal conditions which the promoters of the new idea wish to reach is the public ownership of railways, which shall be so managed that transportation charges will be brought down to a minimum figure; in other words that the transportation charges shall be only large enough to pay expenses and not for the purpose of making a profit.

We have had in Canada an experience in government ownership of railways, in connection with the Intercolonial. It has not been wholly satisfactory, when viewed from the standpoint of receipts and expenditures. The road has not nearly paid its running expenses since it was built, to say nothing of the interest upon its cost. At the same time it has given local freight rates that have been of material assistance to the localities through which it runs. It has been managed with a view to develop local business, and in this way it has been quite successful, so that it cannot be fairly said that on the whole the government ownership of the Intercolonial has been a loss to the Dominion.

An objection frequently urged against the government ownership of railways is that it would place such an enormous patronage in the hands of the administration of the day, that it would become impossible to oust it. This objection could be met by putting the railways under the control of a commission, constituted after the fashion of the Supreme court, the members being removable only by vote of parliament. In this way the railways could be taken out of politics, and this would be a much better arrangement than to disfranchise the employees, as has been suggested.

The matter has only an academic interest at present, for the difficulties in the way of carrying such a policy into effect are simply enormous. It may be well to add, however, that provincial ownership is all but impossible, and is, we think, highly undesirable. We hardly agree with Mr. Powell in thinking that the question will very soon become an acute political one.

AN ABSURD CLAIM.

A very absurd claim is made by some of the friends of the present government. It is said that Mr. Richard Hall, M.P.P., is disqualified by reason of the following circumstances. For some years past the Hon. Mr. McInnes has bought his coal from Mr. Hall, and after he went to Government House to live has arranged with Mr. Hall to continue to supply him. There was no contract of any kind except that when Lieut.-Governor McInnis mentioned the matter to Mr. Hall, the latter said that he would send up coal to Government House whenever it was needed on being telephoned to. The coal was paid for by a treasury check after the bill had been certified to by the private secretary. In other words the Lieut.-Governor bought what coal he required from Mr. Hall and paid him by what amounted to an order on the treasury. The Lieut.-Governor regarded this so purely a personal matter of his own that when recently the government decided to ask for tenders for the supply of coal to all the public buildings, including Government House, he asked that the latter might be excluded, because he had always dealt with Mr. Hall and would like to continue to do so. The government declined to accede to this very reasonable request. Since the election the Lieut.-Governor bought thirteen tons of coal from Mr. Hall, which has been paid for in the ordinary way.

It is trumpery nonsense to say that a transaction of this kind renders a member's seat vacant. If it does, Mr. Turner's seat can be made vacant by one of the clerks in the public departments going to his place of business and buying a rug to put under his desk, provided the rug is paid for by the province. Mr. Cotton's seat is vacant because the government subscribes for the News-Advertiser. If a member of the legislature should own a stationery store and a government clerk should buy a box of pens or a bunch of pencils from one of his clerks for the use of the government, the member would be disqualified. Will any one pretend that any such nonsense as this is the law of British Columbia?

The statute clearly does not apply to such a case, its language referring only to persons who accept office or render service or work under a contract with the government. Mr. Hall has had no contract or agreement, directly or indirectly, with the government for any service or work. The act does not apply to sales of merchandise, and there are good reasons why it should not so apply.

A PRESIDENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT.

President McKinley wants to visit Cuba and the only question as to the right of a president to go outside of the United States is raised. There is no law upon the subject. Our recollection of the matter is that the point was first taken at the time of the opening of what used to be called the European & North American railway, or rather that section of it between St. John, N.B., and Bangor, Maine. President Grant was invited to attend the opening ceremonies, which contemplated that he should meet Lord Dufferin, the Governor-General, at the international boundary, and that the two should go to St. John to be banquetted there, returning to Bangor, where similar festivities would be held. This plan was upset by the question being raised as to who would administer the government of the United States during the President's absence in Canada, and it was found that the constitution does not provide for such a contingency. In order to avoid any difficulty, President Grant decided not to enter Canada, so has car was backed up so as to meet that containing Lord Dufferin just where the boundary line cuts the bridge over the St. Croix river, where the representatives of the two countries shook hands across the line, whereupon Lord Dufferin's car was attached to the presidential train and the two went on to Bangor together. The President is not forbidden to leave the United States by any law. The difficulty arises as to what should be done in case he did leave. It is very clear that now the United States has entered upon a policy of expansion, it will be necessary to contemplate the departure of the President from the continental possessions of the nation. If he could get to Alaska, Cuba or the Philippines or Hawaii without going outside of the jurisdiction of the United States, the constitution might be strained to cover the case, but this is of course impossible. The change which our neighbors will have to make in this particular is the least of those which their entry upon their new policy will call for. The path of imperialism is as different from that of isolation as day is from night, and our neighbors will not be long in finding it out.

Will positively cure sick headache and prevent its return—Carter's Little Liver Pills. This is not talk, but truth. One pill a dose. See advertisement. Small pill, small dose, small price.

A PECULIAR ORGAN.

The Colonist has serious thoughts of getting out an injunction, a royal commission or some sort of Roentgen ray apparatus for the purpose of finding out what publication it is to which the News-Advertiser persistently refers as the Colonist. It is certainly not this paper, for a tolerable familiarity with the editorial utterances of this paper fails to disclose any such statements as are attributed to it in the Vancouver morning organ. Reference has already been made to some of them. One was the statement that the Colonist had spoken of the News-Advertiser and its associate organs as "the hireling press." Another was that the Colonist had declared the dismissal of a road boss to be a violation of the constitution. And there were others. Anent the Alberni election, the organ has evolved a few more things which it alleges the Colonist said. One of them is that the country will be undone unless the government adopts a policy of extravagance and waste. Another is that the government has put a stop to carrying on public works. Another is that the government is guilty of meanness, and this is said to be constantly asserted in the Colonist. Colonist readers will have some difficulty in recalling any such statements in this paper, and will agree with us in saying that if there is any other paper in British Columbia calling itself the Colonist, which says things of this kind, we ought to be told where it is printed.

There is another explanation of these curious things. It is known to all Victorians that the lights burn long at night in the office of the Finance Minister. Now the Finance Minister is editor of the News-Advertiser, and it is not difficult to suppose that occasionally, as he sits in his cosy arm-chair, he falls asleep, in which condition his "coward conscience" asserts itself, and he dreams that his political opponents are saying of the government the things which he knows it merits. Then he awakes, rubs his eyes and dashes off an editorial for his paper based upon his troubled dreams.

The News-Advertiser says that the Colonist was subsidized by the late government to the extent of $2,700 a year. This is not true, and the News-Advertiser knew it was not true when it printed the statement. The Colonist did receive a payment of $2,700 a year, and it has not the least objection to the whole world knowing what it was for. Some time ago the Colonist made a contract with the government to do all its ordinary advertising in Victoria for the sum of $225 per month. This was done for the convenience of both parties to the contract. It saved the Colonist the trouble of keeping an advertising account, and the government the trouble of checking up the amount. If each separate advertisement had been charged for at the rate paid by the Dominion government, the $225 would have been more often exceeded in a month than otherwise. There is nothing unusual in a newspaper making a contract with a customer to do his advertising at a certain rate per month, and if the present government desire to make another arrangement for advertising by the month, instead of by the line, the Colonist will put in a bid. The Colonist also did the binding for the government at a price fixed by contract, and it was fully 50 per cent. less than the government has been in the habit of paying. The Colonist received considerable money in one way and another from the late government, but it defies the News-Advertiser or any one else to point out a dollar of it, for which it did not give valuable consideration from a commercial point of view, or a single dollar paid it for political services.

THE COLONIST'S FORTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY.

To-day the Colonist enters upon the forty-first year of its existence, the first number having seen the light on the 11th day of December, 1858. It was issued from a small frame building on Wharf street, which stood on the spot now occupied by Mr. Theo. Lubbe's warehouse. In size the Colonist was little more than a sheet of ordinary foolscap, and of all the crazy looking specimens of typography it was probably the most remarkable. The type was cast from French matrix that antedated the Reign of Terror, and contained all the accentuated letters and curious genuflexions for which that language is distinguished. The press was as antiquated as the type, and its speed was 150 copies an hour. As the circulation of the paper in 1858 and for some years afterwards did not exceed 300, it took just about two hours to strike off an edition. The paper was issued three times a week at first, the issue being afterwards increased to five times each week, Sunday and Monday being off-days.

The founder and originator of the Colonist was the late Hon. Amor DeCosmos, who was laid away in the cemetery at Ross Bay less than two years ago. Mr. DeCosmos was a forcible writer and very extreme in his views. He originated his paper for the purpose of protesting against a continuance of the crown colony system of government and the undue prominence of the Hudson's Bay company's officials in politics. Victoria contained, according to a police census taken in 1859, a population of 2,021, and as the Colonist's course was popular, it soon had the newspaper field practically to itself. The editor, as we have said, was an extreme man, and he soon locked horns with the colonial government, whose acts were seriously criticized by a correspondent from Yale, who signed himself "Puss-in-the-Corner." The paper was attached by the courts and adjudged to be an illegal publication, because the publisher had never complied with a musty English act which required him to give bonds for good behavior. The editor was enjoined from again printing his paper until satisfactory bonds had been furnished. This was done at a citizens' meeting, and the Colonist was never afterwards molested, although it cut and slashed the government unmercifully.

In 1860 ex-Speaker Higgins, who was the author of the "Puss-in-the-Corner" letter, joined the Colonist as reporter. Mr. DeCosmos made several efforts to enter the colonial legislature, but was foiled on every occasion by the "counting-out" process. At last in 1861 the editor of the Colonist entered parliament, and from that time on for several years the history of the colony was formed and moulded by the Colonist. Mr. DeCosmos took a warm interest in the union of the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, and subsequently in the confederation of the united colonies with Canada. In all these movements the Colonist, although not under Mr. DeCosmos' control after 1866, took an active part, and was an earnest advocate of every change in the form of government until its efforts culminated in the incorporation of the Pacific province with Canada—its most important and greatest work. To show that the power and influence of this journal was as great then as now, this fact may be mentioned: The original terms of union asked for confederation without responsible government. Against this provision the Colonist, then edited by the late Mr. John Robson and owned by Mr. Higgins, protested vigorously. The delegates bearing the terms were despatched to Ottawa, but with them went Mr. H. E. Seelye as special delegate of the Colonist, provided with funds by the proprietor of the paper and charged with the duty of informing the government at Ottawa that no terms would be acceptable to British Columbia that did not confer responsible government on the people. When the delegates returned the amended terms contained a responsible government clause.

After confederation the Colonist did yeoman's service in insisting upon the fulfilment of the obligation which the Dominion government had assumed—to build the Canadian Pacific railway—and after many disappointments the work was begun and carried to a successful finish.

After Mr. DeCosmos came many editors, who have been more or less identified with its progress. The late Hon. Rocke Robertson, who when he died 20 years later was a member of the Supreme court bench, edited the Colonist for a few months. He used to say, after he had risen to position, that the first money he made in the province was in payment of an editorial he contributed to its columns. The late Hon. John Robson was editor from 1869 to 1875, when he accepted office. Afterwards he was premier and died in London. Leonard McClure, who made the longest speech on record and died in 1867; Walford Harries, who died in South Africa in 1871; D. W. Higgins, who for nine years was speaker of the legislature, and now represents Esquimalt, retired in 1886; A. Bell, who afterwards went to California and died there; William Mitchell, who fell down a mining shaft in Cariboo and was killed; J. M. O'Brien, now associated with the editorship of the Vancouver World; and Henry Lawson, who after filling the editorial chair in a very acceptable and able manner, died in harness two years ago.

In October, 1886, the Colonist was purchased from Mr. Higgins by Messrs. W. H. Ellis, A. G. Sargison and W. R. Higgins, the last-named retiring shortly after. In September, 1892, the Colonist Printing & Publishing company was organized, and the property passed into its hands.

The work of the men who have been connected with this paper during these years is not lost. Is it not embalmed in the 40 years' files of the Colonist? and though some of the workers are dead, their work still speaks in the signs of advancement which are everywhere manifest throughout the province, and which may be directly traced to their efforts.

Since confederation the Colonist has kept pace with the progress of the province. It may be fairly claimed of it that, when the relative population of the community in which it is printed is taken into account, the Colonist can claim a place beside any newspaper printed on the continent. Contrasted with the first issue, the paper of to-day shows a marvellous advance, but no greater than that evidenced by the province at large. With the earnest of its future work which its past services give, the Colonist enters upon the fifth decade of its existence as fully determined to do battle for the right as ever, more confident in a glorious future for British Columbia, and asking nothing more than to be able to keep pace with the great province with whose history it has been so closely identified.

We suppose hypnotism will be a nine days' talk in Victoria, and that a great deal of misinformation will be diffused on the subject. About the only contribution which the Colonist desires to make editorially to the discussion is to say that it would be about as well if people, having no knowledge of the art of hypnotism, would refrain from experimenting with it. We are quite prepared to admit that it may become a very useful science, but there are other useful things with which it is not advisable that every one should play with. An old saying is:

"Let children and fools beware of edged tools."

They make one feel as though life was worth living. Take one of Carter's Little Liver Pills after eating; it will relieve dyspepsia, give tone and vigor to the system.

THE GORDON MEMORIAL.

Kitchener has received the $500,0000, which he wanted so as to establish a Gordon memorial college at Khartoum. It took very little time to get the money. It will be exceedingly interesting to watch the manner in which Kitchener will use it.' He is undertaking something which will call for the exercise of exceptionally good judgment. The strength of British influence in the Soudan will depend in a large measure upon how the people regard the initial steps taken towards introducing modern civilized methods. If they think an attempt is to be made to overthrow their religion, they will resent it. If they can be made to identify British civilization with justice, freedom of thought and liberty of action, the great experiment about to be tried will be a success. There is no reason why the conspicuous success of Great Britain in India should not be repeated in the Soudan. The native population have long been strangers to a firm government under which life and property were safe. Never within the memory of man have they been able to make permanent progress. One tide of conquest after another has swept over the land carrying away what little had been built up in the interim. There will be a radical change in this respect. Britain is in the Nile valley to stay. There will be a railway to Khartoum in a very little while. The Uganda railway is being pushed in from the coast of the Indian ocean with gratifying speed. The hardest part of the work has been accomplished and more rapid construction is promised for the future. Already more than three hundred miles have been built. In a short time there will be access to the Soudan from two directions, to be followed up by a third line extending northward from the Cape. This means a radical change. With isolation banished, and, where was once the seat of a cruel tyranny, a centre of enlightenment established, marvellous changes will certainly ensue. Gordon's death was a tragedy of peculiar sadness, but it seemed necessary for the redemption of Africa.

ARCTURUS AND HIS SONS.

Arcturus is a large yellow star in the northern celestial hemisphere. It is the fourth in brightness in all the visible stellar universe.. The name Arcturus means "bear-ward," and the name is applied to the star because of its proximity to the constellation, the Great Bear. To an observer with the naked eye, Arcturus is simply a very bright star. If it has attendant planets, as our sun has, no one has ever seen them. For centuries astronomers supposed that in common with the other so-called fixed stars, it had no motion. In comparatively recent years it has been found to have a motion, which is estimated at about four hundred miles a second, or rather more than twenty times the speed of the earth in its revolution round the sun. Presumably it has its attendant planets. The laws which have led to the formation of the planets of the solar system are doubtless in operation in every part of the universe, and as like causes produce like effects everywhere, we may feel an absolute certainty that all the stars either have or have had their planetary system. This being the case, and astronomy having demonstrated that Arcturus is a very much grander luminary than our sun, the reasonable inference would seem to be that the system of which it is the centre is vaster than the solar system. If this is the case, that splendid sun is flying through space at a speed that is inconceivable. Roughly speaking the speed is two thousand times faster than that of sound. Thus we see that the bright yellow star is coursing through the stellar universe, amid countless stars all in motion, and drawing in its train perhaps a hundred worlds, each greater than ours. Yet it keeps its appointed way, as safely as the chambered nautilus sailing on a sun-kissed sea. When we grasp this thought, we will better understand the question, which the writer of the Book of Job puts into the mouth of the Lord, as he answered Job out of the whirlwind:

"Canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?"

For the purpose of the argument it is immaterial who wrote the Book of Job, or whether it is the product of inspiration or not, or whether the Lord ever spoke to any one, or whether there was any such incident as is related in the book. The point is that a very great many years ago, long before modern astronomers had found it out, some one knew that Arcturus was flying through space with attendant orbs. There is no use in saying that the question above quoted was from a divine source and therefore easily accounted for, because the Creator of the universe must know its nature. Accepting this explanation, we must still remember that the question was addressed to Job, and there would have been no sense in addressing it to Job unless the latter understood what it meant. If the book is simply an ancient poem, the writer must have had knowledge concerning Arcturus. Taken in any light we choose, the same conclusion follows irresistibly, that centuries ago the students of the heavens had acquired knowledge concerning conditions in remote stellar regions. This is the light which modern research casts upon this otherwise unintelligible passage of Holy Writ.

Arcturus and his sons are flying through space not only at an inconceivable velocity, but their motion cannot be explained by reference to the laws of gravity, as expounded by Newton and philosophers since his day. The question propounded to Job seems therefor to be as though it had been thus expressed: "You have mastered many problems. Human wisdom has reached great heights and has probed great depths. It has told you why a stone falls to the ground. It has discovered how the round world revolves and how the seasons follow each other. But what of this mystery? Canst thou by searching find out God? Tell me what it is that guides Arcturus and his attendant worlds." The suggestion is that if Arcturus it is carried along in its terrific flight by the force of gravity, why are not the other members of the stellar universe also similirly affected. The guidance of Arcturus and his sons becomes, therefore, a very difficult problem indeed, and one that rises far above such philosophical demonstrations as the human mind has thus far been capable of grasping. The answer which Job must have made was that not only could he not guide this great orb, but that nothing within the scope of human reasoning or observation can account either for its motion or its course.

Perhaps nothing that can be suggested is more appalling to the human mind than the thought that the bright yellow star in the northern heavens, which from generation to generation beams forth seemingly in identically the same place, is speeding along through space with an attendant galaxy of worlds, peopled for all we know with beings highly endowed with intelligence, moving at a speed of which no imagination can conceive, towards a destination somewhere hidden in the vastness of space, and governed by laws of whose nature we have not the remotest conception. We cannot grasp the thought, try as much as we may, but perhaps we can form some vague conception of its tremendous import. Humanity and all its concerns seems to sink into utter insignificance in comparison. And yet it was of such a universe that the ancient poet thought when he wrote:

"What is man that Thou are mindful of him?"

The thought is that great as is the universe of God, man is infinitely greater; for the Creator of the universe dwells with man. The lesson taught by Arcturus and his sons is that man made in the image of his Creator is the crowning work of creation.

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The Times is engaged in an effort at social reform. The Colonist did the same thing about a year ago with some measure of success. We hope our contemporary will be at least equally successful. There is no doubt altogether too much publicity about certain evils in this community, and it is perfect nonsense for the police to pretend that they cannot bring about a change. The chief of police can inaugurate a reform by speaking a single word. The Colonist is not so absurd as to think it possible to stamp vice out entirely, but neither is it prepared to admit that it is necessary to allow vice to parade itself before he eyes of the public, and those who live by it to become the most conspicuous features in the community. The chief of police can stop this sort of thing in an instant and he knows it. We have laws and they ought to be enforced. If they are not to be enforced let them by repealed. To have laws and not enforce them is worse than to have no laws at all.

AN AWKWARD ARRANGEMENT.

Usually when a treay of peace has been negotiated between the representatives of two nations the end of the dispute has been reached. It is otherwise in regard to the agreement made between the representatives of the United States and Spain. As far as the latter nation is concerned nothing remains to be done but to comply with the treaty, but no one is in a position to proclaim the agreement in effect as respects the United States. It must first be ratified by the senate, and some well-informed people claim that there is danger that it may not be ratified. If the treaty is rejected an anomalous state of things will be created. It would be difficult to define the position in which it would leave the administration. In the case of Great Britain, if parliament should declare against a treaty, the government would at once resign, but the treaty should hold good until it had been formally denounced, as the diplomatic phrase is, and if it was felt that the national honor required the continuing of the treaty in force, the incoming government would not seek to avoid it. In the case of the United States, if the senate should reject the treaty, the whole arrangement would fall to the ground, the administration would be discredited before the country and the world, and would have to pick up the threads of the negotiations as best it could. We do not think there is a record of a case wherein such a humiliation has ever been put upon the representatives of a country, and therefore are wholly at a loss to suggest how the President would act.

These considerations show the great change that has come into the national existence of the United States. They show that some very great alterations must be made in the constitution in order to meet the entirely novel conditions which have arisen, and are likely to arise in the future. The President will hereafter be closely in touch with foreign governments in a variety of ways, and it will certainly be necessary to clothe him with greater powers than he now exercises. The senatorial control of foreign relations will have to be qualified, for it will be impossible for the President to conduct negotiations with foreign powers if he is liable to have his best formed plans upset by a hostile senate. If he cannot pledge his government to anything, how can he ask the representatives of foreign governments to pledge themselves to anything? It will go hard with the people of the United States to consent to any changes in the constitution in the direction indicated. They have been taught to believe that instrument to be the product of almost infallible wisdom. It is undoubtedly a document exhibiting splendid statesmanship. It may be doubted if there is extant any other political composition at all to be compared with it. But it was framed for certain conditions and these have been greatly modified. The wisdom of its framers never foresaw what we see to-day, and consequently never provided for it.

The words of praise bestowed upon Hood's Sarsaparilla by those who have taken it prove the merit of the medicine.

The Columbian devotes a column to elucidating the question, "Are the electors fools?" It is addressed particularly to the Colonist, so we may as well reply. We do not think that any discernable proportion of the electors are fools, as Mr. Attorney-General Martin and his colleagues will shortly find out.

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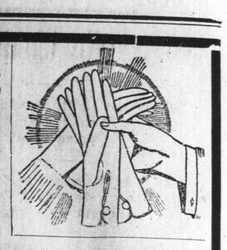

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