

A POLITICAL REVIEW.

The Conditions Which Entered Into the Administration of the Affairs of the Province.

Effect Upon the Development During Recent Years—True Standard of Success.

In reviewing the policy of a government extending over a period of years, we must take into account all the conditions which have effected the country during such time. The success or failure of an administration must be judged not so much according to any fixed standard of policy, but according to the degree of conformity with conditions as they present themselves.

Systems everywhere depend upon the individual character and ability of men entrusted with their carrying out. This has been strikingly illustrated so often in history that examples are unnecessary. If we take, for instance, the relations of France and Great Britain with their American colonies, extending over a period during which New France and New England formed the major divisions of the North American continent, we find that events shaped themselves very largely as the home authorities understood and acted upon colonial needs. Under the enlightened policy of Colbert, New France grew and prospered. When the fatuous influence of Madame Pompadour ruled the French Court, it furnished instead of flourishing. The wise and vigorous policy of Pitt strengthened and extended British power in America, while the "crass" policy of North provided as disastrous as the administration of Pitt had been successful.

The secret of success in every instance was the adaptation of policy to the demands of the times as conditions were developed and were varied.

Coming to British Columbia, the history of the Province since confederation is divided into two distinct periods, the one prior and the other subsequent to the construction of the C.P.R. The former period was governed by conditions materially different from those existing now. Without railway communication progress was necessarily very slow, and Government was confined to a narrow groove. In a long wait for the anticipated new order of things it settled down to one main consideration, viz: the equilibrium of revenue and expenditure. With a limited population and limited trade and industry, revenue depended to a large extent upon Dominion subsidies and land sales. Out of this state of affairs grew the British Columbia land policy, or in other words, the selling of lands in large tracts. For this "evil," the Government as a whole, dating it back to the first, has been roundly condemned by those who are wise in their day and generation, and who talk glibly about what now appears, without consideration of the past.

Doubtless if the government had all these lands now and could sell them to settlers for settlement purposes only the country would be much better off. This is easy to say by men who come here in prosperous latter days and who are oblivious of all that is gone before. When we consider that it took a long time to get the land revenue at a time when it could offer few inducements for settlement, we see that such a policy was unavoidable, there was only one other course to pursue in order to provide necessary revenue, and that was to borrow money. That would have been unwise, even had it been practicable; but it was not, and British Columbia had up to very recently a borrowing status, and the few loans it did effect were obtained at high rates of interest, which stood until very lately a disadvantage to the Province, necessitating the process of conversion, which we have heard so much, in order to obtain a financial rating in the money market. To this conversion and consolidation of our debt is largely due the fact that our securities are second in the colonial list and our 3 per cents have sold at 92.

It may be, that the men who purchased the lands in the early days were speculators, but they were purchasers when there were few settlers and could be but few until railways were built. These lands were sold because revenue producing and have been so ever since. The policy by which this was possible may have been a mistake, but it was one which all Governments had to pursue in British Columbia. It was the policy which the present leader of the Opposition had to pursue when in Government. There are times when Governments, like individuals, have to choose between evils, and the choice in this Province was between selling lands or stagnation. The men who bought did so to hold in order to realize when railways would bring population and capital. It was a speculation founded on strong faith in the future and involved more risk than many would undertake now. For many of the purchasers it proved a long and tedious wait and eventually a terrible disappointment, and it is a question of to-day if the Province did not make a much better bargain than those same speculators. Further than that there is no to-day a member of the Opposition who is or was opposed to the land policy of the Government who has not participated as far as his means would permit, and in many instances much farther, in the opportunities which the policy afforded. We call it "policy," but it was really a necessity.

We are now comparing two eras, that antedating the C.P.R. and the present, which may be designated as the old and the new. In the old regime the main desideratum of government was that of making ends meet while waiting for the era of development to arrive. The two problems which the legislative pioneers of British Columbia had attempted and successfully mastered were confederation and railway negotiations. They paved the way for great things, and until they bore their legitimate fruits the Province, with its limited sources of income, had to rest on its oars. It was obliged to live on its capital in the meantime. That capital was its public lands.

No other province in Canada and perhaps no country in the world, with so many drawbacks, has succeeded so well, and all home is due to those pioneer statesmen that they laid the foundations of a commonwealth so surely and well preserved the balance of revenue and expenditure and kept out of debt. Judged by the standard of practical government, they fully understood the needs and opportunities of their province and adapted their measures to the conditions as they found them and as they were likely to develop.

With the completion of the C. P. R. came what was practically a new era, and a new population with new aims, it is true, somewhat similar that was to make a fortune in a new country, but with a set of ideas moulded

under conditions of old and settled communities. There was at once the comingling of the old and the new, and it would be strange if perfect harmony should prevail and assimilation be complete. The newer and more aggressive element demanded much and the transition was necessarily attended by some conflict of ideas.

Henceforward the policy of the Government was not to be a waiting or inactive one, but one of development in line with the opening up of the country, the result of railway communication, and the present administration, which is the legitimate successor of the Government when in power, is to be judged by the methods pursued in grappling with the problems presenting themselves. If it can be shown that it has failed to comprehend the needs of the country, to understand the altered requirements of a new order of things and to adopt its measures and its methods so as to ensure progress and the development of great natural resources, then it is for the electors to consider whether the reins of power should not be entrusted to another set of men, who, though untried and whose capacity for government is as unknown quantity, promises to do better. If, on the other hand, it is shown that the present Government has kept fully abreast and well in advance of the requirements of the Province, that its administration has been coincident with progress on every hand, that the population has largely increased, that the revenue expanded, the credit of the Province been raised to a high rank compared with that of other provinces and countries, that railway and mining development has been substantial and rapid, that extraordinary educational facilities have been provided, that social and industrial progress has been carefully guarded, that the moral and political tone of the country is pure and healthy, then it is clear that it is worthy of the confidence of the electors, making due allowance for what is human and fallible in all governments, we return it to power.

We have drawn the broad line of demarcation between the old and new regimes in British Columbia at the time of the completion of the C.P.R., and we may, therefore, take 1887 as the starting point of the new era of development in this Province. The Government of the day was confronted with a series of important problems forced on it by conditions somewhat new and yet all the physical difficulties to surmount which a country of vast extent, rugged exterior and rich but vast and widely distributed resources could present, were present. First of all, to use a mining metaphor, it was an extensive claim, very inaccessible, into which the main tunnel of the C.P.R. had been run. There were development works to establish, numerous shafts to sink and many cross cuts and drifts to make. Then there were the social, educational and political needs of a large body of workers to look after, all necessitating much energy, large administrative ability and immense expenditure. It was an undertaking fraught with many difficulties and great responsibilities. The Government had to arrive at a period of stock-taking and general reckoning up when the directorate has to render an account of its stewardship to the stockholders. A balance sheet has now to be presented prior to the election of officers. Have results justified the renewed confidence in and the re-election of the management? That is, we take it, the question now to decide.

Throwing metaphor aside, let us look at the country at that time. Practically speaking, there was no city of Vancouver, or at least not a year or two previous. Burrard Inlet was surrounded by forest. Westminster was a small town. The Westminister district, with the exception of a few settled farms, was populated by struggling settlers and was not yet a city. The glory of Cariboo was departing. Lillooet and Yale had cattle ranches at long intervals, and a few incipient mining camps, rich in prospect but circumscribed by lack of opportunity. Kamloops was the great town of the interior, a trading post. The rich valleys of the Okanagan were yet regions for discovery where but little known and travellers were but little known and were interviewed as one might be returning from the Peace River country. Their possibilities were little understood, or at least by few. At most there was a general notion of their possible importance. The great triangular district of Kootenay was a long land, a wilderness, accessible only over long, circuitous mountain trails and inland water stretches by canoe. It was regarded as a mineralized area of indefinite value, about which some curiosity had been excited owing to the tales of prospectors, but the rich argenteous lodes that have since been disclosed were then not dreamed of.

Going north the great Chilcotin plateau, yet isolated, with its millions of acres of fertile valleys, had only been traversed by explorers seeking gold or a possible railway route. In fact, what was known about the great part of British Columbia at the time to which we refer, was little more than what many years before, through the notes of our knowledge was referable to those of these infrequent travellers. We are speaking now of the ken of the general public, and this will scarcely be denied, and this is the case of the old British Columbia, and to these intrepid pioneers we are indebted for a great deal of our present knowledge. Such a description in outline of a Province might read as a story of long ago, but when applied to a period comprised within a decade, it emphasizes what people engrossed with current events forget about the accomplishments of a few years, what politicians of a day, ephemeral seekers after notoriety, seek to ignore, belauding public issues with the by-play of a single session of Parliament, for that is what it amounts to. If electors were to be deceived by representations such as those gentlemen place before them, they would commit the blunder of general who burned bridges that had safely carried their armies across and then found themselves a prey to the enemy.

"For my monument, look around you," was the simple inscription placed on the commemorative tablet in honor of the architect Wren, whose remains rested beneath the great monumental pile, the creation of his own genius. To note what has been accomplished during the last seven or eight years in British Columbia we have simply to look around us. We are not so foolish as to say that the present Government did all this. Progress in this Province was due to a combination of circumstances, interior as well as external. Governments in these matters are only entitled to credit to the extent to which their efforts contribute to advancement. But as we pointed out in a previous article, results are very largely influenced by the policy of the men in power, whereby opportunities are taken advantage of or disregarded as the case may be.

It is true that British Columbia is to-day suffering a severe depression in common with the world, but that her lot is not so bad as that of many other countries because, as was the case of the Dominion as a

OTTAWA LETTER.

Prorogation Likely to Take Place Before the Meeting of Colonial Delegates.

Opposition Change of Base on Protection—Threatened Scandals Fail to Develop.

(From our own Correspondent.)
OTTAWA, May 12.—The past week has been essentially a quiet one in the House of Commons, and the progress made has been consequently very good.

When the tariff resolutions are disposed of there naturally will begin to be some speculation as to the further duration of the session, and the impression generally prevails that Dominion day will not find Parliament sitting. Indeed, among a large number of the members there is an idea that will take place before the 21st of June.

This is the date on which the conference between the Government and the delegates from the Australian colonies will open in Ottawa. It would be manifestly inconvenient for Parliament to be sitting at the same time as the conference, as the Ministers could not possibly attend to their parliamentary duties and at the same time take part in the deliberations of the conference. It is possible that the delegates may simply meet and adjourn for a few weeks in order that the visitors may be taken to different parts of the country at Ottawa for the dispatch of business; but even this would necessitate the absence of at least some of the Ministers, who would be expected to accompany the delegates in their journeyings, and would make it inconvenient to have everything in session. Taking all into account, it is a strong effort would be made to have prorogation.

REOPENING THE 21ST OF JUNE.
There is really but very much to prevent this, once the tariff is disposed of. The present session was called almost for the express purpose of reviving the tariff, and that accomplished it is not very likely that many other important measures will be proposed. With the exception of the estimates, the ordinary formal business of the House is quite as well advanced as in any previous session. Private legislation is practically all disposed of, and the few left are not likely to provoke much discussion. The French treaty may occupy a day or two, and Mr. Tarte and his clique may waste another day further discussing the Manitoba and Northwest school question, but they have been already so thoroughly thrashed out that they cannot delay the House very much. As to the subsidy for the fast Atlantic service, which was expected to cause a long debate, there is just a possibility that it may not come up at all this year.

THE INSOLVENCY BILL.
Occupied the attention of the Senate committee for a large portion of last week, and the committee has even had two night sessions. The progress made in the consideration of the bill is not, however, very rapid, but it is not likely to be delayed. The bill has been considered, and it will certainly take a couple of weeks more at least before the bill gets back to the Senate, if it will undoubtedly be discussed at length. It is now generally conceded that the bill is a very good one. The most that is expected is that it may pass the Senate and be printed for distribution and consideration during the coming summer by the Board of Trade, Banks, and other interested in it. As the farmers have been placed in the same position as traders, it is also important that time should be given for their views on the matter to be ascertained, and it is not, therefore, at all likely that any serious effort will be made to have the bill become law in the present session.

A curious feature of yesterday's tariff debate was the

CHANGE OF FRONT
made by the opposition with respect to the duties on agricultural implements. Heretofore the opposition has contended that the Canadian manufacturer of agricultural implements in Canada received no such protection, and that the tariff on such goods was made to pay exorbitant prices for their implements in order that the "robbers," as Sir Richard Cartwright, politely styled them, may make exorbitant profits. This was when the duty on agricultural implements was 35 per cent. Yesterday, when the items were under discussion, Sir Richard Cartwright was found, however, earnestly pleading for the placing of a duty on the duty on the fact that he was ruthlessly destroying his own theories, he held that the Government by the rearrangement of the tariff was taxing the manufacturer of agricultural implements more on the raw material he used than he received by way of compensation in the duty on the manufactured article of 20 per cent, to which figure the Government proposed to reduce it. Mr. Wallace, Controller of Customs, pointed out the fallacy of this argument, as far as the

WANT OF PROTECTION
was concerned by giving the actual figures as to the duty on such portions of machines as were imported by manufacturers, and showed that while on a binder costing \$100 the duty on such parts of it as were imported would only amount to \$6.50 the manufacturer received a protection of \$20. The most material point under discussion, however, was that frankly admitted by Mr. McMillan and Mr. Martin, that the farmer did not pay the duty at all, as the Canadian manufacturer sold his machines to the Canadian retailer at \$20, or \$25 less than the price in the United States, and therefore, it was practically the American manufacturer and not the Canadian consumer who paid the duty on such American machines as were imported. This knocks the bottom completely out of the long advanced by the opposition that the Canadian manufacturer took out of the farmer's pocket and put into his own the full amount of the duty. Of course Canada has always held that this theory was ridiculous, as the Canadian article was manufactured in Canada, almost entirely from

CANADIAN RAW MATERIAL,
and that the price was not in any way affected by the rate of duty charged on an imported machine; but it was rather amusing to witness the eleventh hour conversion of some of the leading lights of the opposition, and one could not help remembering that the Ontario elections are very close at hand, and that Sir Oliver Mowat has lately given evidence of his conversion to the principles of protection by placing a bounty on iron ore mined in this Province.

In the early days of the session there was

an impression that this would be a "scandal" session, similar to that of 1891, and there was a good deal of talk about the "exposé" which the opposition intended to make. All this talk is fast dying out. In 1891 the Government, after the death of Sir John Macdonald, was

WEAK AND DEMORALIZED.

The great leader had been suddenly removed and the party stood almost paralyzed and scarcely able to tell from day to day whether it would continue in power or not. Under these circumstances it was not surprising that the public accounts committee was allowed a latitude never before accorded to it and not as it likely to be given to that committee in that year were perfectly scandalous in the manner in which members of the opposition browbeat, threatened, coerced and intimidated helpless witnesses, many of them civil servants, whose evidence was twisted and distorted so as to convey impressions of wrong-doing that did not exist. There is now no doubt that much injustice to individuals was done at that time by the opposition in its attempt to make political capital against the Government. That this attempt failed was amply shown by the by-elections of 1892.

The opposition before this session met made great threats, through its press, as to what mighty things it proposed to do in the way of

UNEARTHING SCANDALS
at the present session, but so far nothing has come of them, nor is it very likely anything will come of them now. While passing a bill permitting the examination of witnesses under oath before committees of the Senate and House of Commons, the Government has been careful that the House itself shall retain control of any investigation into the conduct of the Government that is to be made. As Sir John Thompson put it in the House, with reference to some correspondence published by the Auditor-General in his report, the Government does not propose to allow itself to be tried by any committee of the House. If any charges are to be made against the Government and its policy, they must be made by a member of the House, and he must be prepared to take the full responsibility of the failure to prove those charges.

This has rather taken the wind out of the sails of the "scandal" business, and although the public accounts committee will, no doubt, examine into the payments in connection with the Curran bridge and other matters, it is now apparent that the opposition will not be allowed to go to the extreme lengths which they did in 1891, and that while every opportunity for

FAIR, FULL AND FREE INVESTIGATION
will be given, witnesses will be protected better than they have been in the past. An evidence of this was given in the committee yesterday. Mr. Lister had asked that Mr. D. O'Connor, Q. C., be examined under oath, and the reason given by him for this was that his costs taxed, and that he (Mr. Lister) was of opinion that the charges for professional services were excessive. When Mr. O'Connor was under examination, however, Mr. Lister frankly confessed that it was not Mr. O'Connor's charges that he wanted to know anything about, but that he wanted to find out whether the Government had not used the Exchequer court for paying claims in the hard pan cases, which they did not care to take the responsibility of paying themselves. This style of examination was, however, promptly stopped by Sir Charles Tupper, and Mr. Lister was plainly informed that if he had any charges to make against the Government he must do so in the House and not in the committee.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES.

BROOKLYN, May 17.—Reports presented to-day at the meeting of the committee having charge of the arrangements for the forthcoming Roman Catholic pilgrimage from the United States to Rome and Lourdes indicate that it will be one of the most imposing and representative parties of Roman Catholics that has ever left these shores. Although the work of organizing the pilgrimage has been done mainly by correspondence and little publicity has been sought for the event, applications for membership have been received from nearly every state and territory.

The pilgrimage is under the auspices of the Sisters of the Monastery of the Precious Blood, located in this city, and it will be directed by Rev. Father Porcile, chaplain of the monastery, who is also a director of the arch-confraternity of Lourdes. The pilgrims will leave New York on July 18, and an official intimation has been received from the Vatican that the Holy Father will give them an audience on August 7, and that he will also bless their banners on August 9.

NORWAY'S BIRTHDAY

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., May 17.—Norway's natal day—the Fourth of July of that nationality—was observed here to-day in an imposing manner. The observance dates back to 1814, when a band of sturdy peasants and brave citizens assembled at Eidsvold, and formally threw off their allegiance to Denmark. The constitution adopted at that time is still in force, and is generally satisfactory, being regarded as one of the most liberal in the world. The demonstration to-day was participated in by representative Norwegians from all over the North. Several thousand citizens of that nationality paraded this afternoon with bands and drum corps, and a demonstration which followed in Normanna hall, Governor Nelson, Secretary of State Brown, State Auditor Dierman, Hon. John Lind, Erol. Julius Olsen, of the University of Wisconsin, delivered short addresses. All the speakers treated patriotically the United States, and expressed the sentiment

that a proper respect for their mother country could not interfere with the love they bore for the land of their adoption.

METHODIST CONFERENCE.

Closing Proceedings—Pastoral Address for 1894—Late Rev. Dr. Douglas—Resolutions—Emergency Committee.

VANCOUVER, May 17.—(Special).—The B. C. Conference concluded its labors yesterday. The following is the pastoral address for 1894 read by Rev. S. J. Thompson and adopted:

DEARLY BELOVED BROTHERS:—We greet you in the name of the Lord, praying that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye being rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye may be filled with all the fulness of God. From the various portions of our beautiful Province, the goodly heritage which God has given us, we have come together in annual conference to review the record and our gratitude to the Father of Mercies for having spared all our ministers and laborers throughout the year, for giving the privilege of laboring in the great harvest field, to us so unworthy as we are of it, and for having richly blessed the labors of His servants in the upbuilding of the church and the salvation of souls. We give ourselves afresh to the Master, to spend and be spent for Him and you also who are in Him.

We gratefully recognize the valuable assistance rendered to the deliberative sessions of the conference by the laymen, who more and more are showing their great interest in the progress, prosperity and success of the church. We note with great gratification that there is a net increase in the membership of the church of 181, that notwithstanding hard times the missionary fund has increased by over \$200, and that from every district come tidings of gracious revivals that have quickened the spiritual life of our people and led into clear Christian experience many sinners. True it is now as ever that this "Gospel" is the power of God unto salvation.

We call your attention to the claims of our constitutional funds upon your liberality. Remember the recommendation of Scripture, "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth." Remember also that the weak have claims upon the strong. These different funds of our church, authorized by our general conference, are designed to help the weak, struggling, much discouraged and much enduring men, who are at the forefront of the battle; especially at the forefront regarding the sustentation fund which we have brought to your notice during the year. We very earnestly urge the more general adoption of the weekly offering system in support of the ministry and at least one-tenth of our income to be set aside for the support of the ministry. If this were generally adopted we are persuaded that every claim of God's church upon us would be amply met. We desire also to call your attention to the work of the Columbian Methodist College, located at New Westminster, and which during the past two years has done efficient work in the education of our young people under the religious influence of men and women who have proved themselves not only capable scholars but devoted to the spiritual interests of the students committed to their care. We cordially recommend the institution to your practical support.

In consideration of the near approach of the Provincial elections, and representatives to the Legislature of the Province, we most earnestly entreat you to consider the franchise a most sacred privilege, a duty to be exercised in the fear of God. It has been said that the man who votes to sustain a wrong is helping the devil whether he knows it or not. Be careful in the selection of candidates, be sure to cast your vote on the side of right, sustain men of unblemished character, only men whom the spoils of office cannot buy, men whom the lust of office cannot kill. Finally, brethren, be in earnest, the claims of God and humanity are upon you. Let us devote ourselves with unshaken consecration of all we are and have to God's work, the raising of the fallen, the salvation of the soul until this fair Province shall be one for Christ, Crown and Kingdom. "Be ye steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

A notice of motion was given that the general conference be recommended to stigmatize travelling on transients and steamboats on Sunday as antagonistic to the spirit of holy Christianity, and ask the general conference to amend the discipline so as to require the pledge of abstinence from intoxicants and narcotics from all candidates for membership. The conference denounced in most emphatic terms the use of tobacco, and "smoking" as pernicious and degrading. The Vancouver citizens who extended their courteous hospitality were thanked by resolution.

A RESOLUTION OF REGRET WAS PASSED AT THE

death of Rev. G. Douglas, D.D., of Montreal. The following were elected as an emergency committee: President, Rev. T. W. Hall; secretary, Rev. W. W. Baer; Revs. C. Ladner, Joseph Hall, E. Robson and Joseph Green, together with the chairmen of the various districts.

CHINA CREEK.

CHINA CREEK, May 16.—A dozen or more prospectors are at work on China creek, and many new claims have been recorded. The snow has disappeared except from the highest altitudes. The ledge located by Messrs. Wilkins, Campbell & Co. during the winter shows an immense body of ore. The ledge is upwards of 250 feet wide, and they have been able to trace it for over a mile. Assays made upon this quartz in Victoria and San Francisco give \$35 and \$25 in gold to the ton respectively, besides a considerable quantity of silver. A substantial house is being erected about thirteen miles up the creek from Alberni, which is to be used as a restaurant and boarding house.

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