

The Colonist.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 1896.

Published Every Monday and Thursday
by
The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability.

W. H. ELLIS, Manager. A. G. SARGENT, Secretary.

TERMS:
THE DAILY COLONIST.

Published Every Day except Monday

Per year, postage free to any part of Canada, \$10.00

Per week, if delivered, 20

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST.

Per year, postage free to any part of the Dominion or the United States, \$1.50

Six months, 75

Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly in advance.

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More than one week and not more than one month, 40 cents.

Not more than one week, 30 cents.

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FOULING THEIR OWN NEST.

The Ottawa Journal, though not by any means a partisan paper, condemns, and rightly condemns, the Grit papers that are continually representing Canada as being on the verge of ruin. In every country there are facts which, if taken by themselves, would lead to the conclusion that it is the reverse of prosperous. The Grits will certainly admit that the United States is not in a condition of decay, yet the rural districts of several of the Eastern States have been almost depopulated. Large numbers of farms have been abandoned, and purchasers could not be found for the deserted properties. Foreigners in some cases have been imported to cultivate and occupy the farms which the cultivators of American birth had abandoned. Then there has been distress of the severest kind in Minnesota and Dakota. We have read of farmers in the United States being compelled to kill their working cattle and eat their seed grain and potatoes to keep from starving.

It is well known that the destitution in New York and Chicago and other large American cities is as pitiable and apparently as hopeless as that of the cities of the old world. These and hundreds of other undeniable facts which, if considered alone and without reference to the general condition of the country, would lead to the belief that the United States is on the high road to ruin and that it is a country in which any one who desires to prosper and to live in peace and safety would do well to avoid. But all the world knows that the United States, when regarded as a whole, is a rich and a prosperous country.

Some Grit newspapers, by taking isolated cases and by putting what are admitted to be facts in a false light do their best to make the world believe that Canada is a miserable country, and that it is going behind every year, when the reverse is the fact. We do not believe that there is a country in the world whose inhabitants, taken as a whole, live more comfortably and more happily than do those of this Dominion of Canada. Evidences of prosperity, comfort and industry profitably applied, are to be seen everywhere. The rising generation of Canadians will compare favorably physically and intellectually with the young people of any country on the face of the earth. A better indication of the healthy condition of a country than this could not be asked for. The Grit Canadian pessimists, as the Ottawa Journal shows, do not tell the truth about even the isolated cases which they adduce, and they most carefully refrain from telling all the truth with regard to the whole country. In their case, as in all others, "half the truth is ever the worst of lies." They defame their country even when they tell the truth about part of it—when they from partial premises draw general conclusions.

THE PREMIER'S FITNESS.

A great deal has been said, and that, too, not in the best taste, about the Premier's ability to perform the duties of his position. He has been represented as an old man who has lost his vigor, both of body and mind. Now one of the best tests of strength, both bodily and mental, is ability to address a large public meeting in a building in which it is not easy to speak. Sir Charles Tupper was the other day in Winnipeg put to such a test. If his condition, both of mind and body, is such as some of the Grit papers declare it to be, he would have been utterly broken down before the first half an hour had expired. But

Sir Charles showed no signs of exhaustion after speaking for two hours. This, according to the Nor'-Wester, is how he stood this very severe test.

"Manitobans have heard many objections to Sir Charles Tupper; and many reasons advanced for his unfitness for the position of Premier of the Dominion of Canada. Among them was the statement that with the increase of years he had lost the vigor and energy and the physical and mental ability that were essential requisites for successfully filling so important a position; and the assertion has been made by his political opponents that owing to this fact he had lost his grip, and was no longer able to cope with great undertakings, or to successfully outline plans for his followers, or to control and harmonize discordant elements. Possibly there were some who attended the great meeting in the Bryndon rink last night, who went there impressed with the feeling that perhaps there might be some truth in all this; but we venture to say there were none of all that vast concourse of people, not one individual, whether friend or foe, who came away from the meeting with any such feeling or impression.

A curling rink is not arranged with reference to the science of acoustics, and is perhaps one of the worst constructed buildings possible, in this particular, for a speaker, and when to this was added the noise of rain pattering on the metal roof, at times almost entirely drowning the speaker's voice, and the recollection also that an audience of four thousand people were within the walls of the building, filling every chink and crevice to the most remote corners of it, it will be understood that Sir Charles had no easy task before him, and that the question of the physical endurance necessary on such an occasion was an important consideration. For two hours, however, he held the vast audience, and during that time showed no signs of weariness or fatigue, either in body or in voice, and except when there was an extreme outpour of rain upon the roof was heard distinctly in every part of the building."

FROM ALBERNI.

The latest news from Alberni is good. Before the work of development was commenced those who took an interest in the district did not know what to think. The surface indications were plentiful enough, but no one could tell whether or not they were only surface indications. Many were inclined to believe that the signs of mineral wealth that were visible in so many places were not to be depended upon—did not necessarily warrant the contention that the district is rich in gold. Nothing but development which involved the expenditure of large sums of money could prove this, and who was going to take the risk? Well, enterprising men have taken the risk and the result so far is most encouraging. Development has proved that there is gold below the surface, that the indications are not all deceptive. It is too soon to say much about what has already been achieved, but enough has been found out to show the believers in Alberni that their faith in the capabilities of the district has not been groundless.

HEDGING.

Now that the appeal to the people is at hand the Grits are trying to hedge on the trade question. They no longer demand free trade. They go so far as to declare that free trade as it is in England is not possible in Canada. Some of them are doing their best to explain away their past utterances on the trade question, so as to leave them perfectly meaningless. Their efforts to bamboozle and beg the trade question are, however, defeated by their leader, who in Montreal, said:

"Upon the trade policy I need not tell you that we stand at the very antipodes of the Conservative party. The Conservative party believe in protection, all their hope is in protection. The Liberal party believe in free trade on broad lines, such as exists in Great Britain, and their immediate object is a revenue tariff, a tariff to be derived from customs, but which will levy no duties except for the purposes of revenue. Upon the question of principle there can be no compromise. We stand here against protection, and in favor of a customs tariff based upon the principles of revenue and nothing else."

LAURIER'S POSITION DEFINED.

Those whose interpretation of Mr. Laurier's ambiguous utterances have led them to believe that in no case will he have recourse to remedial legislation will be undeceived if they read carefully the speeches which he delivers in Quebec. In that province he is compelled to a certain extent to be definite. The ground that he has taken before Quebec audiences from the first is that the cause of the Manitoba minority is a righteous cause; that the constitution is on their side, and that the educational rights which they enjoyed previous to the School Act of 1890 should be "restored" to them. He talked a great deal about getting that restoration by conciliatory means, but it has been observed that hitherto he has said very little as to the course he proposes to take if those conciliatory means should prove ineffectual. He has, however, in his late speeches, gone a step further. In one of them he is reported to have said:

"I would have addressed myself to Christian consciences and told them to

give to the minority the privileges of conscience they claimed for themselves; and if the people of Manitoba remained obdurate, there were always in reserve the powers of the constitution to fall back upon."

The words which we have printed in italics are most significant. They show that Mr. Laurier's policy with respect to Manitoba would be identical with that pursued by the present government. He would first ask the Government of Manitoba to do what he considers justice to the Roman Catholic minority—civilly and persuasively. He would send Mr. Mowat to them as an ambassador of peace. If they continued "obdurate" and would hear neither him nor Mr. Mowat he would then resort to remedial legislation or, to use the expression which men of his party have invented and used until it has become threadbare he would "coerce Manitoba." Here we have at last Mr. Laurier's policy on the Manitoba school question. The pressure applied to him in Quebec has forced him at last to be honest and definite.

The people of the Dominion know now what to expect from Mr. Laurier if he is placed in power. He will go as far as the constitution permits to compel the people of Manitoba to do what he regards as justice to the minority. He has not left the people in doubt as to what he considers justice in that case. It is as he said in Montreal a little while ago—the restoration to that minority of their denominational schools.

THE TWO-FACED SHIELD.

The extracts given below represent the inscriptions upon the two-faced trade shield of the Liberal party:

Mr. Laurier
Sir Richard Cartwright
At Quebec, May 1896.
In House of Commons, 1896.

"Sir, the Liberals of Canada are not revolutionists, but reformers. They are reformers of the English school, as the English school is the Liberal party in the Dominion of Canada. They are reformers of the English school, and after very full deliberation they have come to the conclusion that the best and most equitable method for that purpose lies in introducing a system of reciprocity with the United States. It is not merely the policy but the fixed determination of the Liberal party in the Dominion of Canada to overthrow this system at all hazards, and to secure to the people of the Dominion the only really available method which presents itself for that purpose, lies in introducing a system of reciprocity with the United States."

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