

BROKEN UP. A travelling correspondent of the Toronto Telegram, independent, writes from Brockville: "There is one very noticeable fact over the eastern part of the province, and that is that the fiercest opposition to the government is coming from those who voted for the ministerial candidates in the last election. The great majority of those forming the McCarthy committee are men who have been life-long Conservatives. This is an ominous sign for the Tupper-Bowell combination. At a time when the Liberals are more aggressive and confident than they have been in a generation, the political heirs of Sir John Macdonald are being deserted in thousands by those who formed the flower of the chiefest's army." The old party is no doubt suffering severely from defections in the east, but its condition is still worse in the west.

"COCK-AND-BULL." That is a pretty safe conjecture advanced by a correspondent, that an earnest effort will be made during the election campaign to deceive Victoria voters in regard to the British Pacific. From all that is being said by faithful henchmen of the government it is evident that a yarn has already been concocted which is expected to do the desired wool-pulling. It will be well for the people to keep in mind Col. Prior's sneering remark about a "cock-and-bull" story. There is little danger of the deception being accomplished, however. The electors have been already "inflamed" over this affair in the interest of one government, and there is no reason to suppose they are so verdant as to be deceived again. For one thing, they know that the Tupper government will not be in a position to carry out any promise it may make for campaign purposes.

BADLY SCARED. A timid boy going through the woods is apt to see a bear in every blackened stump and find a wildcat's eyes glaring down at him from every tree top. His imagination is sure to be the more lively if at any time he has been genuinely frightened. Mr. Potts' wanderings in the political woods of Yale district seem to have been productive of similar terrors for him. Being young and inexperienced, his nerves were easily set on edge by the evidences—probably startling enough—of Mr. Bostock's growing popularity and Mr. Mara's rapid decline. Thus thrown into a state of panic, it was perhaps natural that he should thereafter see a Bostock subsidy in every bush and Bostock bribes striking him along the road after dark. Mr. Potts has had a bad scare, and no mistake. It was hardly fair of the Conservative association to send so young and so tender a political organizer abroad; there were plenty of tougher specimens to be found hanging on to the skirts of the party.

TAX ON IMPROVEMENTS. It is easy for shallow-pated individuals to howl "obstructionist" at those who are faithfully endeavoring to do their duty to the public, whether at Ottawa or in Victoria, but for the howl to prove convincing it must needs have some justification. The government howl over the so-called Ottawa obstruction will fall dead on all but jackass ears, and the cry raised against Aldermen Marchant and Macmillan will not have any greater effect. Sensible people who look into the matter will be apt to conclude that those aldermen were right in protesting against an arbitrary change of procedure for which no good reason was given. They were also quite right in insisting that the rate of taxation on improvements should be kept as low as possible consistent with the actual needs of the expenditure. To do that it was necessary to ascertain the amount needed before the rate was fixed. In support of this proposition Mayor Beaven himself can be called to witness. At a public meeting on the evening of January 3, 1893, when he was appealing to the people for re-election, the mayor spoke as follows: "Mayor Beaven, continuing, said there was one subject that he would like to refer to. It was a matter that he had given a great deal of attention during the quarter of a century that he had been in public life. It was the tax improvements. It was a matter of regret to him that he had been mayor of Victoria for a year and had been unable to abolish the tax on improvements. He had advocated this in the legislature and had tried to incorporate it in the Municipal Act. 'But could you believe it,' said the speaker, 'I could not get two members to think that way.' It was not fair that a man who erected a fine building should be taxed, while his neighbor who does not improve his property is not taxed. The value of property is increased by men who have enterprise enough to erect buildings and whose enterprise is taxed. Down towards James Bay bridge there is property just the same as it was when he arrived in Victoria thirty years ago. It was then worth £1 an acre; now they value it at so much a foot. The owners of the property have done nothing to increase the value. All has been done by the men who have enterprise enough to erect buildings and improve the city. He advocated the change years ago, but he could not get anyone to support him. He was clear to see the change that had come over the citizens, a large majority of whom are now in favor of abolishing the tax on improvements altogether. He could not say that the council were to blame for not making this change; they had done what the act gave them power to do, namely, assess improvements at half their value. This was a step in the

right direction, and it is only by steps that you can get people to walk. When it came to levying the rate, the council were of opinion that the tax on improvements could not be reduced as much as they would have liked, but then this had been an exceptional year. If the tax cannot be abolished it should be reduced to almost nothing." If it was right that the tax on improvements should be kept as low as possible in 1893, it is surely right that the same principle should be carried out in 1896. How can this be done if the limit of the expenditure calling for such tax is not first fixed?

THOSE ASSURANCES. No man of intelligence need be told that there is a difference between a cabinet minister, who presides over a department, receives a salary of \$7000 a year and reports direct to the Governor-General, and a controller who is head of a sub-department, receives only \$5000 a year and reports to his superior officer, the minister of trade and commerce. Nobody, but an "untutored Siwash" could believe that if the controllers were of equal rank with the cabinet ministers, Sir Charles Tupper would deem it necessary to "give assurances to Hon. Messrs. Wood and Prior that at the coming session, should the party be in office, a bill will be introduced abolishing the controllerships and restoring the name of ministers." (See Colonist's Ottawa correspondence of Saturday last.) Is Sir Charles Tupper "densely ignorant" or "shamelessly untruthful and dishonest"? Or is he a "Smart Alec," knowing well how to bait a hook for sneezers?

THE RUSH FOR OFFICE. John S. McDougall, who represented Pictou, N.S., in the late parliament, has been made commissioner of customs at Ottawa. Mr. McKay, an ex-member for Hamilton, has been appointed inspector of customs for Western Ontario. Mr. Jones, ex-member for Gaspe, has been appointed agent of the marine department, while J. H. Metcalfe, who represented Kingston, has been given the wardenship of Kingston penitentiary. Mr. McLeod, one of the ex-members for St. John, N.B., goes on the New Brunswick bench, and Mr. Masson, of North Grey, has taken re-election in a county court judgeship. Messrs. Boyle, of Monck and Patterson, of Colchester, N.S., have been given offices and Mr. Temple, of York, N. B., goes into the senate. All these were supporters of the coercion bill, and there is not one of them, with the exception of Mr. Jones, who would have dared to vote for that bill if he had intended to go back for re-election. The electors will quickly see in this wholesale stampede of ex-M.P.'s a sure indication that these gentlemen have no expectation of the government's return to power, whatever pretensions to confidence Sir Charles Tupper may put forward.

SIR OLIVER MOWAT. Government supporters naturally carry at Sir Oliver Mowat's joining Mr. Laurier as leader of the Ontario Liberals. The alliance is a little too formidable to leave much chance of comfort for the Tupperites, and they may be excused if they engage in a desperate search for submeas. The fact that Sir Oliver's aid will very much improve the already bright prospects of Liberalism cannot be obscured by any fanciful criticisms. Much allowance is due, however, to a party "in extremis," especially when its difficulties are constantly increasing.

THE NEW LEADER. Sir Charles Tupper's manifesto is a much weaker affair than most people expected from the new leader, though it was well known that he could have practically nothing new to say, there was a general expectation that he would repeat the old things with something of spirit and vim. Instead of this he has sent forth a wishy-washy document, which is plainly the production of an already disheartened leader. It is an evidence of Sir Charles' power of discernment that he should so clearly foresee defeat, but there must be a mighty change in the man since he cannot, as of old, play the game of bluff straight through. At a time when his followers were most pliantly in "need of an outside supply of fire," the leader treats them to a cold douche—not that he intended to do so, but because he could not do better. Those who take the trouble to read the manifesto fully will observe that the great N. P. is no longer depended on as a rallying cry, "closer trade relations with the Empire" being introduced as a variation. The utterances of Mr. Chamberlain and other statesmen of the mother country have made it plain that such closer trade relations will not march with the protectionist system. Canada cannot keep up the protection wall and secure an arrangement for "mutual concessions" from Great Britain, and Sir Charles Tupper well knows that the Red Parlor masters of the government will not consent to any such arrangement.

THE COLONEL'S BILL. Col. Prior's friends are decidedly indiscreet in further calling public attention to his attempt to make a change in the Victoria polling sub-divisions. A good many people have heard the boasts openly made by some of the Colonel's "workers," that the proposed legislation would give them an advantage and throw the work of the Liberals into confusion. How could it do that and at the same time be fair to the electors? But there is the further advantage and fact that the bill as Sir Mackenzie-Bowell received it from Col. Prior and introduced it in the senate would not have given the relief to voters which is said to be necessary. That bill, as everybody knows, provided that No. 11 district, embracing Esquimalt and Victoria West, should be divided up into five small polling districts, while No. 10, the largest of the sub-divisions, was to be left as it is. The bill, as it was introduced from Col. Prior's hands, has been reprinted in the Times, and we now give a short quotation from the senate debate to throw a little more light on this wonderful measure. After Senator McInnes had pointed out that No. 10 was a larger sub-division than No. 11, the debate proceeded:

Sir Mackenzie-Bowell—Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that polling division number eleven was partly within the city limits? Hon. Mr. McInnes—Yes, and so is number ten. Sir Mackenzie-Bowell—Well, that is quite different from the information I got from my colleague, the Hon. Mr. Prior. Hon. Mr. Macdonald—The two divisions are half in the country and half in the town. Sir Mackenzie-Bowell—I might inform the house that I made special inquiry as to number ten before introducing the bill, and I was told that it was within the city limits, and the other was on the outside, and I suggested the propriety of giving to the returning officer the same power in number ten, and also in number four (which has about 850 votes) that we were giving with regard to number eleven. Why should Col. Prior not have adopted Sir Mackenzie-Bowell's suggestion, if he was really anxious to facilitate voting? Why should he have been so determined to confine the proposed improvement to the Esquimalt and Victoria West district? It is true that he afterwards consented to include No. 10, but that was only after Senator McInnes had offered his suggestion. Will Mr. McPhillips or any other legal light kindly explain to the public how Col. Prior could have made voting easier by giving No. 11 district five polling stations and leaving all the others as they are?

In the days when the Toronto Mail was independent it paid this very just tribute to the character of Sir Charles Tupper: "Of the system which Mr. Blake deplores Sir Charles Tupper has notoriously been the chief agent; all that is worst in it and has tended most to debase the national character is familiarly connected with his name, which may be said to be a household word of corruption. Nor has he, like his late chief, succeeded in convincing the people that except when he is doing the dirty work of a political party his hands

are clean, or that if he governed the nation, its honor, while it might be in danger from such exposures as that of the Pacific railway scandal, would be secure against a deeper stain. His name is at this moment unpleasantly connected with a suspicious commercial affair in England, and if the sentence of the arbitrators in the Oudeenot contract cases next month should be against the Dominion another sinister transaction will be recalled to mind. . . . It is too evident what sort of scene would be opened by his accession to power. He is the Prince of Political Cracksmen, no doubt, but we cannot afford to purchase ability even of so rare a kind at such a price as that of continued and increased demoralization. . . . The appointment of such a man as the head of the state would be not merely the inauguration of violence and corruption unredeemed by any true wisdom or statesmanship; it would be the signal for a disruption of the community and for a moral civil war."

find that over 25 per cent. of our revenue is expended on this branch of the public service. The defalcations of Prevost, Falding and Warwick cost the province \$54,272.34, and no doubt as much more indirectly. These, and many other similar cases the public will not care are the natural outcome of administrative rottenness. The spring being foul the stream cannot possibly be pure. . . . Civil government, salaries, 1894-5, \$61,753.03, 11.42 per cent. of revenue, \$540,898.18. In 1894-5, \$145,990.19, 18.24 per cent. of revenue, \$896,025.58, showing an increase of revenue of only 65 per cent. increase of salaries, 335 per cent. If other proof of wrongful expenditure were required we have it in the foregoing; also that it is a large factor of political corruption.

Education, 1886-7, \$90,489.21; 1893-5, \$180,073.25, 21.21 per cent. of revenue, \$19,235 per capita. The large increase in expenditure in this branch of the public service is due more to political artifice than exigency. In country districts where there are few settlers a school is of all things most desired; it means money, expended in the building and in keeping it up, also by the teacher. As a factor of sensation or coercion its potency leaves nothing to be desired. Roads, streets, bridges and wharves, \$425,629.24, 47.50 per cent. of revenue, 1894-5. A careful examination of this account will convince the most sceptical that occupying the public is carried on systematically by political bosses, who, nearly unrestrained, expend the greater part of this money. These men are too lazy to work; their ideas of moment are somewhat indefinite; they scruple not in trading on necessity of the poorer class for the sake of gaining their object, bias, honest suffrage and defeat honest election. Miscellaneous, 1894-5, \$119,918.47, 13.38 per cent. of revenue. In this account there is scope for bribery and artifice and unjustifiable expenditure of public money.

The balance sheet for the year ending 30th June, 1895, shows liabilities, \$4,400,688.84, \$66.20 per capita; assets, \$3,075,010.96, \$31.92 per capita. Unfortunately, a large portion of the assets may be set down as all but useless. Net expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1895, \$1,906,324.99, \$19.42 per capita; revenue, 1895, \$896,025.58, \$9.42 per capita.

In view of the foregoing, which expresses only a small portion of the wrongdoing, there can hardly be any question as to who are British Columbia's enemies. Year after year expenditure has gone up by bounds, with a corresponding increase of public burdens, which will eventually fall on owners and toil of the land. The ministerial cry, echoed by subordinates, cabals, etc., who reap the spoil, is: "The money is expended in opening up the country." What are the facts? Every branch of the public service has been prostituted more or less, honest election, rendered all but impossible, consequently most pernicious class legislation is doing incalculable injury to the province. We have no more flagrant examples of this in the subsidies, grants and guarantees given in aid of different railways.

CAUSE AND EFFECT. To the Editor: The generally expressed views of the citizens are indicative, we have indisputable proof that there are very few except government employes and expectants who are not dissatisfied with the existing Dominion regime. British Columbia was sold in confederation for a mess of pottage and a song, which for years past has been a sad lamentation. Why? The province was saddled with an unwelcome constitution, the prime cause of her present deplorable condition. Under powers vested in the Dominion government sections of the British North America Act 1867, British Columbia is most unmercifully robbed and impoverished, and without any redress or the slightest prospect of betterment. I will deal specially with this obnoxious and oppressive act anon.

At present British Columbia's representation in the senate and Dominion parliament would be likened to a large money grant, a very large slice of province and people are made to suffer through representatives of the cabal (not of the people) being elected by gross bribery and corruption. The late bye-election, resulting in the return of L. L. Col, and the equally notorious, and illegitimate, manner of the present assembly illustrates to what extent our finances, the Dominion government will go to procure the return of one of their supporters and the provincial government the return of one of their cabals. These dual combines reek with maladministration under certain conditions, and intrigue, their juntas conspiring to retain power in open defiance of the people's wish and the public welfare. The public moneys are at their command to expend at their sweet will, bribing and demoralizing our people. This, with the nearly autocratic government, patronage, the source of the stream of rottenness which destroys all it comes in contact with, makes the ramifications of political iniquity so wide-spread that every branch of the public service is more or less seriously affected. It may safely be said that for many years past honest administration has been an unknown quantity. "Support us, we'll screen you," and vice versa. British Columbia has done its level best to outvie its erstwhile neighbor, the Dominion, in this respect.

I opine no unbiased person will count that our judiciary is not materially affected from the fact that political trickery is considered rather than jurisprudence; also that promotion is not a question of merit or skill in the science of law, but of political blattier. Under the present regime a non-supporter may be a leader at the bar and of known probity, but it will avail him not in taking silk or to a seat on the bench. Can we expect other than that the taint will permeate the minor branches and affect prejudicially the administration of public justice? Is it not a fact that illiterate and men of known bad character have been made justices of the peace solely in consideration of political services? Is it not a matter of notoriety that penal offences have been committed by public officials holding high office with impunity? Such being the case, can we expect other than increase in our calendar of crime and a corresponding drain on the public purse? Economic discipline and crime are wedded to the profession, welcomed like flowers in May.

Administration of justice (salaries) and administration of justice (other than salaries) cost the province for the year ending 30th June, 1895, \$202,419.58, 22.29 per cent. of the net revenue. To this add \$32,000 paid in salaries to the chief justice, four puisne and four county court judges by the Dominion government with money abstracted from cost of court houses, then the cost of keeping up repairs, etc. We

ing away produce. It has monopolized all the land worth having, keeping out hundreds of settlers, through most onerous terms and excessive charges on land and carriage. Other evils are innumerable that could not be produced, and the fact that the injury done in putting the railway, the injury done in putting the bridge across Victoria's water harbor was pure vandalism. . . . Such an outrage attempted in China and its took in erection, but they are poor heathens?

The next ministerial outrage of the kind was the establishing of Dominions now the city of Vancouver, as present terminus of the C. P. R. The administrative junta for divers reasons (some of which are well known) gave the Canadian "Mole" the townsite of Granville and 6000 acres of land. This gross outrage on the body politic was worked under the Lieut.-Gov. in Council subjecting the stalking horse of much wrong done, perpetrated with impunity. The minister has been sacrificed. The Dominion, in pursuance of this landgrab (?), has been teaching in the Fraser river with mattresses filled with brush and sunk with stone, an irretrievable fact. The money thus spent would, if expended under similar direction, have rendered this grand scheme navigable for the largest vessel afloat at low water. The cause of the trouble on the Fraser is artificial, not natural obstructions; the remedy is obvious; reverse this, remove the cause and nature will do the rest. But this was too easy; the appropriations could not be squandered on government supporters. Further, free navigation of the Fraser would affect the profits of the C. P. R.; Destroy the Fraser railway.

I will digress for a few lines. Victorians have very large interests on the Fraser, yet beyond some treading on this subject from time to time nothing would greatly advance shipping interests, open up lucrative employment for our artisans, and fit out vessels to make the route a profitable one for the country from the seaboard and reduce immigration, also safe and profitable investment for capital. Last, but not least, it would supply cheap water carriage. It would affect adversely the wildcat railway schemes of would-be philanthropists. We must expect some sacrifice.

The Shuswap & Okanagan Railway Guarantee Act, 1890, is a glaring example of corrupt legislation. The ministerial cry and key note of justification to stop opposition is: "We do this to open up the country." Pending the convenience of the C. P. R. this scheme held fire, but when this company was ready the Dominion government, ex-gratia, granted the subsidy. Length of railway, 51 miles; subsidy, \$3200 per mile, \$163,200. On the strength of this the Shuswap & Okanagan Railway Guarantee Act, 1890, was passed, guaranteeing interest at 10 per cent. per annum on the Shuswap & Okanagan Company's bonds of \$1,249,763, or \$49,980.52 per year for 25 years. From Jan. 1st, 1892, to June 30th, 1895, interest and sundry commissions in the sum of \$177,968.28 were paid. The railway was passed over to the C. P. R., the company paying for 37 months amounted to \$320,000. To this add the subsidy, then deducted from this the amount paid for interest, etc., which leaves a balance of \$17,211.60 and should the receipts for the 37 months of the gross earnings for the half year ending 31st December, 1895, realize no more than the first half of the year there would be a shortage of \$4445.80 to pay the half year's interest. The receipts for 1894-95 were over 60 per cent. less than in 1893-94. If we take the average of the 37 months for the 20 years to run before the termination of the guarantee, the province will receive \$207,632.04, but it will have to pay \$299,610.40 for 20 years' interest. Without making any allowance for interest or compound interest on accumulations, the loss will be \$791,978.36, over \$99,500 per annum of an increase of public burden. To sum up this contract on the body politic: A subsidy is given out of money abstracted from this province which enables the Shuswap & Okanagan Railway Company to get a charter to plunder the province in building a railway costing \$24,515 per mile. It enables Hon. Mr. Vernon to realize very large profits in divers ways. When completed it was handed over to the Dominion government, i. e., the C. P. R., but the body politic British Columbia is compelled to pay the piper. This railway may be more or less useful to those on its line of traffic, but to the province generally it is all but useless. The scheme bears beyond all question or doubt evidence of collusion between the Dominion and provincial juntas.

H. J. ROBERTSON. May 5, 1896.

Michael Adams B. P. for Northumbria and Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder and Cure.

It does not seem to matter whether one looks for good results from that wonderful medicine, Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder, they are to be found. Every one in his own province, and every member of the common knows Michael Adams, the popular member for Northumbria, N. B. When he says of the world, as he had done over his own signature, that Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder is productive of most satisfactory results for cold in the head and other catarrhal troubles, they know it means much. The medicine is one prepared of peculiar virtues and is proved to effect a cure. One short puff of the breath through the blower supplied with each bottle of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder diffuses this powder over the surface of the nasal passages, over the surface of the throat, it relieves in ten minutes and permanently cures catarrh, hay fever, colds, headache, sore throat, influenza and deafness. 60 cents. For sale by Dean & Hiscock's Hall & Co.

Garden tools at cut prices at Short's Hardware store, 57 Johnson street.

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CONGRESS. Report that a Small Prisonment Will be Former's Sent.

New York, May 6.—F. M. the Transvaal next Saturday with the signature of congress to a petition of John Hays Hammond, who said in order to obtain redress from the Boer government dealt with fairly and nothing will be gained by the English officials. . . . One great work in the name of the popular movement, but has, been Cecil Rhodes and Jameson's "British possessions" which is the only one fully cognizant with Cecil Rhodes, Lionel Leonard and George Americans, when they knowledge of the real of the Boer government, and refused to join it. New York, May 8.—S. J. treader, an American who returned from Johannesburg, Rhodes' house for the mover Boers. I was present under the British flag, I should march into town was captured, a plan now enjoying the name of the "Rhodesian" followed by a silence of Then Hammond arose for all the wealth this not if you were to make sure rather would it be a trigger to shoot down I cannot and will not revolutionary intrigue. . . . To take up arms under the name of the Boer government, who believe in revolt by oppression but who believe in the rape of territory. You can see the Boer reformers, some were Britons, were that needed Hammond. After they realized that Cecil Rhodes would be refused to be put off, they were out to a programme of conquest, invaded the Transvaal, influenced by Hammond and the raid failed. "Rhodes and Jameson" protection of the British whose agents they were and the other made to pay the penalty.

London, May 6.—The British Chartersed Co. is confirmed. The factors of that organization, John Diggers' News say to state that the reformers will all fine and imprisonment. The sentence of banishment will be served in the "Pall Mall Gazette." The British Chartered Co. has decided to make a new organization of Cecil Rhodes.

Kamloops Sentinel writing (and very much like Mr. Ashcroft) Journal that the Dominion minister of justice, Mr. Mara, member for a bill having sub-divisional divisions in the electoral divisions in the electoral divisions. Kootenay and Cariboo division where he held his office in the electoral divisions, with the position, with the means of obstruction. . . . A more complete than that could be expected than that could be expected. It was Mr. Winnipeg, who first proposed the subject of the condition franchise should be Vile-Cariboo. . . . There were some consistent voters' list and a constitution which was not asked for. . . . He was not asked for. . . . He was not asked for. . . . He was not asked for.

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