

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1891.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

It will be observed that the principal, in fact almost the only, charge brought against the Corporation by the gentlemen who petitioned the Provincial Government for a Royal Commission to enquire into its affairs, is "excessive expenditure." This charge is grave enough and broad enough, but it is one that, in the opinion of every manly person, can be brought against every government in existence. The complaint is general that governments spend too much money, and that they do not spend it judiciously. Some of the charges refer to the Corporation's financial management. This, no doubt, needs reform. The Royal Commission will, it is expected, do its work effectively and impartially. We trust that the Corporation, as well as the citizens, will benefit by its labors. A thorough examination into the city's affairs should, and we believe will, be as satisfactory to the City Council as to the citizens generally. If, as we hope and believe, the examination will result in nothing more serious than a finding that the City Council, not only without any fraudulent intention, but with a desire to give the citizens the improvements and the conveniences they need, have expended more money than was prudent, and have spent on one service moneys that ought to have been spent on another, the mistakes and mismanagement, though culpable, are not irreparable. It will be satisfactory for the citizens to know that the men with whom they have entrusted the management of the city's affairs have done nothing worse than to have committed errors of judgment. The voice of suspicion and malignity will be silenced, and the reforms needed can be instituted without opposition or ill-feeling of any kind. If, on the other hand, it is found that wrong has been done, and that some of the servants of the citizens have not been faithful to their trust,—have taken advantage of their positions to enrich themselves at the expense of their fellow citizens,—the discovery, though unexpected and painful, will be for the general good. In either case, the labors of the Royal Commission will have done good, and the money required to pay its expenses will not be wasted. As our readers see, the Commission has been asked for by a considerable number of respectable and influential citizens, who have a large interest in the prosperity of the city, and the Government being invested with the power, could do no less than accede to their request. The enquiry can do no harm, and it may do a great deal of good.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION.

The elevation of the widows of two eminent commoners to the peerage is a recognition, as far as it goes, on the part of the British government of the rights of women. Sir John Macdonald and the Right Hon. William Henry Smith spent a great part of their lives in the service of their country. They occupied posts of honor and of great responsibility. They performed the duties of those posts acceptably to the great majority of the people whom they served. The wife of a busy man, who does her duty faithfully,—who is really and truly her husband's helpmate—is entitled to a share both of the wealth that he accumulates and the honors that he earns.

It is impossible to overestimate the value of a good wife's help. Her influence may not be readily perceived in the brilliant successes of a great man's career, but it is always felt and often nobly acknowledged. The wife who has stood by her husband's side during a long period of public service and has done her part in helping him to do the very important work that was entrusted to him, well deserves the nation's gratitude. Making peevish of the widows of the late Premier of the Dominion and of the late leader of the British House of Commons is therefore nothing more than a national as well as a graceful acknowledgment of the value and the importance of wifely duties well performed, and every good wife in the Empire should consider herself a participant in the honor.

DOING RIGHT.

It is encouraging to see that the Government is going on with the work of reform. The Civil Service Commission has been appointed. It is composed of men who are both able and upright. They will, no doubt, do their work in such a way that they will be a terror to evil doers and a praise to those who do well. If they fearlessly and thoroughly perform their duties they will convince the members of the Civil Service, from the highest to the lowest, that what is required of them is the strictest integrity, and that the Government will not overlook any act that has the appearance of dishonesty. The people must be sure that their servants are faithful, and that they cannot be paid to betray any trust that may be confided in them. The Commission will, no doubt, make the standard of integrity in the service high, and devise such a system that any departure from it must be quickly discovered and promptly punished.

PETITION GOVERNMENT.

Some of the men of Kansas are getting tired of petition government. It is altogether too strict to please them. The ladies are determined to do what they believe to be right, regardless of the consequences to themselves and others. "Do right, though the Heavens should fall," appears to have been the motto of the Lady Mayores of Kiowa. Mrs. Paxton was mayoress in her own right. A little less than a year ago she was elected to the position by a large majority. The men of the town looked upon it as rather a good joke, and had a woman at the head of its affairs. They were not, however, long of that opinion. Many things which men officials had tolerated and considered necessary this lady mayoress could not abide, and regarded as not only unnecessary, but harmful. Kiowa, when she was elected, was frequented by oilmen. The cowboys, as is well known, are just a little too fond of whiskey. In order to make the town of Kiowa pleasant to them and to get their trade, the men of the town took care that the cowboys should get all the liquor they could pay for. This vexed the righteous soul of the lady mayoress, and she decided that the saloons must go, and, with the aid of the police, she cleared them out. After a while the cowboys who visited the town did business found that they could not get whiskey for either love or money, and they transferred their custom to a town where the authorities are not so scrupulous as they were in Kiowa. When the men saw trade leaving their town they began to enquire whether or not the lady mayoress could lawfully put down the saloons with a strong hand. They found out that she could not, as there was no civic law giving her the power to close places where liquor was sold. When this discovery was made the men of the town convened a public meeting at which it was agreed to call upon the lady mayoress, who had exceeded her authority, to resign. It is said that Mr. Paxton, her husband, was the leader of this insurrection, and that he was appointed chairman of the committee to wait upon the lady mayoress. He did the work manfully, but we are not told how he was received, or what answer was given to the requisition he presented. Our informant merely says that since then Mr. Paxton has taken his meals at a restaurant. This, most likely, nothing more than a coarse, ill-natured, masculine pleasure. It may, however, be safely predicted, that the next Mayor of Kiowa will not be a woman.

VICTORIA'S CENSUS.

The Vancouver Advertiser is proving itself to be the most malignant and the most persistent enemy of Victoria. It never loses an opportunity to say a spiteful and ill-natured thing of it, and appearances indicate that it regards the dispersal of this city as part of its regular business. The result of the census which the Corporation has called to be taken of the city's population is gall and wormwood to our contemporary. It seems to believe that Victorians should look upon the official census as infallible, and that to question its accuracy is little better than flat blasphemy. It says: "We can scarcely credit the despatches sent out from Victoria, that the people of the capital of the province seriously believe that the census recently taken by order of the City Council will be adopted by either the Government or the people of the Dominion as a correct statement of the population, in place of the returns shown in the census compiled by the agents of the Dominion Government. The most careful enquiry fails to show that there is any reason to believe that the census was not taken as carefully and accurately in Victoria as in any other town in British Columbia."

CHANGED TIMES.

The agitation in Ireland has assumed a very singular aspect. The agitators are at war with each other, and Mr. Balfour is obliged to employ his policemen to protect one set of agitators from the vengeance of the followers of another set. Matters have come to a singular pass in Ireland when O'Brien and Healy need police protection from the violence of the partisans of the Parnellite faction. Below is an extract from a telegram from Ireland, dated late as last Tuesday. Mr. O'Brien was in Kilkenny on that day to attend a county convention. He was received at the station by cheers from some and by groans from others. The telegram continues:

"A strong police escort was drawn in front of the station, and as soon as Mr. O'Brien had taken his place in the car, which the committee had provided for his use, the officers formed in a square about it, and the procession to the town hall began. As the policemen and the carriage moved slowly along, the enthusiastic cheers of Mr. O'Brien's admirers were met, and sometimes drowned, by the hisses and derisive jeers of those in the crowd who insisted on looking upon the occupant of the carriage as one of the enemies of their dead leader. Presently the sinister cry of 'Murderer' was heard, and until the arrival of the procession at its destination this epithet freely divided the honors of the occasion with the applause and hisses."

A CANADIAN STATESMAN.

Sir Charles Tupper has made his mark in England. It is often said of Canadian public men that they do well enough here in a rule, rough and democratic colony, but if they were in the larger and more cultivated field of the Mother Country they would shine with a much diminished light. Some eminent Canadians have been in England and won golden opinions of the people there. Among these is Sir Charles Tupper. He has been now some time in Great Britain, and people there have had opportunities of seeing what manner of man he is and how he compares with eminent public men in Great Britain. How he has stood the severest test is seen by the following estimate of him which has been made by the London Standard. Commenting upon an article contributed to the Nineteenth Century, by the High Commissioner, the Standard says:

"As a Canadian statesman, Sir Charles Tupper speaks with unquestionable authority while in the discharge of the trust reposed in him by the people of the Dominion as High Commissioner in Great Britain. He has resided long enough amongst us to earn respect and affection of Englishmen. Whatever may be held amiss in the fiscal system of the Empire, there has been reciprocity in genius. If Great Britain, in the first instance, lent to Ottawa, in the person of Lord Dufferin, a master of graceful speech, Canada has requited the service by sending as her representative in London one of the few great orators of our time."

THE CHECK OF PUBLICITY.

There are some persons in Canada who believe that too much fuss and scandal has been made about the Tarte scandals and other cases of official corruption. They say that the amount of money which the people have lost is comparatively small, and the number of persons implicated very few. They cannot see that there is a great deal to cry out about, and they believe that both from a national and a party point of view, the scandal agitation is unwise and injurious. These persons do not seem to understand that it is impossible to keep people from talking and writing about offences committed by men in the public service, and they realize still less that it is a good thing that they should talk. If it were possible to rob the people without being disgraced, and if it were considered dilatory both to the country and the party in power to proclaim the offences after they were discovered, how would the people be served? The check of publicity is the most effective one that the people have to secure honest and faithful service. The policy of concealment and palliation and whitewash as it is unwise. But luckily it cannot, in a free country, be pursued. Crimes against the people will be discovered sooner or later, and the criminals covered with the odium they have deservedly incurred. When the discovery is made all those who, from one motive or another, had tried to hide the offences of the wrong-doer, will be regarded as participators in their crimes. The public will come to the conclusion that the actual offenders who have

RIOTING IN CHINA.

The Government of China is pursuing a peculiar course with respect to the rioters who have taken the lives and destroyed the property of Europeans. The representatives of foreign powers protest against these acts of lawless violence the Ministers of State declare their inability to keep order in the large towns. They confess that the Government is weak, and they declare that China is on the brink of a revolution. "If we proceed against these rioters," they say, "the revolution will be precipitated and anarchy will ensue. The foreigners resident in the country then will be in a far worse condition than they are now. They will be completely at the mercy of the mob, which is under some restraint as long as the Government possesses authority. If the foreign powers undertake to punish the offenders, and compel the cities in which the acts of violence have been committed to make reparation, they will only succeed in bringing the Emperor's Government into contempt, and in strengthening the hands of the men who are disaffected and preparing to break out into open rebellion."

THE CHECK OF PUBLICITY.

It is very likely that the course which this writer advises is the right one. Forbearance does not seem to be understood by Eastern races. If a power does not take instant revenge for an injury that has been done to it, its hesitation is attributed to fear. It has been found that prompt measures, if they do seem to be harsh, are always best with them. It must not be thought that the Chinese Government has been an altogether indifferent and inactive spectator of the riots that have taken place in the cities under its jurisdiction. It has issued a proclamation of remonstrance, and it has punished a few obscure rioters. The proclamation shows that the Chinese Government has some appreciation of the benign nature of the Chris-

IT WILL NOT DO.

Mr. Erastus Wiman is credited with saying that the annexation of Canada to the United States is "unnecessary, undesirable and impossible." It is just possible that Mr. Wiman, when he said this, was sincere, but every Canadian who has been at all observant, knows that Mr. Wiman has done more than any one man on this continent, not excepting his valued co-laborer, Mr. Goldwin Smith, to lead the people of Canada to believe that annexation is inevitable. Before he took an active part in Canadian politics, nothing was heard in the Dominion of union with the United States. There may have been an annexationist here and there in the different provinces, but he took very good care to keep his convictions and aspirations to himself. Since Mr. Wiman has become a Canadian politician, the annexationists have increased in number and they have become bold and outspoken. There are, indeed, men who believe that Mr. Wiman's policy of unrestricted reciprocity, or as it was called at first, commercial union, is nothing more than annexation behind a mask. As there are some men in the world who will not wear a mask, and others who, though willing enough to wear it, do not know how to keep it on, it is not surprising that some of Mr. Wiman's disciples should come out in their true colors and openly and directly advocate what Mr. Wiman's policy was calculated to accomplish indirectly and by ways that are dark. It is, we must confess, singular that so able and clear-headed a man as Mr. Wiman is, could not see what must be the result of his policy if he should succeed in establishing it. Mr. Blake saw what he was driving at, and so did Mr. Farrer. Both these gentlemen led the cat out of the bag. Mr. Blake, openly and advisedly, in his now famous letter, published a day after the fair, and Mr. Farrer, in a letter not intended for the public eye, but which, by one of those accidents which even the cleverest man cannot foresee or guard against, fell into the hands of his opponents, who proclaimed its contents, not from the hotbeds, but from what in these days answers the same purpose—the public platform. It is, too, a little surprising, that after the creature has been suffered to escape, Mr. Wiman now vainly tries either to deny its existence or to conceal its true nature. But the effort is vain. Every one who has a head on his shoulders knows what Mr. Erastus Wiman is driving at, and he will find it hard to convince the world that he is not aware of the tendency and the object of his own teachings.

CHILL.

Matters appear to be proceeding quietly and prosperously in Chill. The Provisional Government, or Junta as it is called, seems to have no ambition except to restore to the people their constitutional powers and privileges. The elections have been held and everything has gone off regularly and peaceably. The opposing parties seem to have been the Liberals and the Clericals. The Liberals have gained a majority in both the Senate and the House of Deputies. The election for President is now going on. The President, as in the United States, is not elected by a direct vote of the people, but by electors sent by the different provinces to choose a President. The election of these electors is going on now, and if the elections for the popular branch of the Legislature are to be taken as an indication of the result of the Presidential contest, the Liberal candidate will be successful. The excitement of the revolutionary struggle has, to all appearance, subsided. The victorious party, since the suicide of Balmaceda, has acted with moderation. The policy of vengeance, which was popular at the close of the war, has been abandoned and none but men who, during the struggle, had committed atrocious crimes, have anything to fear. The legal tribunals of the country have been re-established, and not even these men are punished without being fairly tried and legally convicted. The relations of the new Governments with foreign nations are friendly and even cordial. The United States is, to some extent, an exception. Its representative, Mr. Egan, did not, during the civil war, pursue a very judicious course, and it would appear that he has not acted very wisely since the Parliamentary party came into power. It is not likely, however, that any misunderstanding that may exist just now will last very long, for it is the policy of the United States Government to be on good terms with the South American Republics.

FROM THE LOCAL.

The Kailor... The men engaged in the property... The steamer Pacific... A large and important... U.S. Consul... Tickets for Sore... Judgment by Judge... Matters appear to be proceeding... Fawcett... Mr. John F. Har...