

The Colonist.

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1899.

HIS RULING PASSION.

Every one who knows the political history of Mr. Joseph Martin will admit that he is vindictive. His greatest admirers, and we assume that even he has admirers, will not deny this. When he left Manitoba for the unhappy province upon which he has inflicted himself, his one political desire was to pay off Mr. Mr. Sifton for having got the best of him in the political arena. He is relentless in his hostility to individuals and localities. This makes him formidable when he first takes power, but it also is a source of weakness. Such a man cannot hold the confidence and support of a community for any great length of time.

At present Mr. Martin's pet aversion is Victoria. He cannot forgive this city for having refused to elect a representative to support him. He realizes that he has not impressed himself upon the people here as he expected to, and that he is losing ground at a rapid rate among those who were at one time disposed to accept him as a leader. He knows enough about politics to feel sure that if an election were held in this city tomorrow, he would find difficulty in getting a candidate to espouse his cause, not to say in electing one. He has therefore made up his mind to antagonize this city in every way, doubtless reasoning thus: There is nothing to be gained by treating Victoria decently, while if I vex and harass that city in every way, may strengthen myself with those people on the Mainland, who have been anti-Victoria in the past. This explains Mr. Martin's declared wish that all future meetings of the government should be held in Vancouver. It explains his practically making Vancouver the headquarters of his department. It explains the ostentatious way in which he says and does things that he knows will be offensive to Victoria.

Mr. Martin will learn before long that he is making a great blunder. There is little or no feeling of hostility in this city to Vancouver, and he will not be able to excite any by the course he is taking. Our people have too much sense. They know that he is seeking to foster sectionalism for political purposes, and will not play his game for him. While recognizing the reasonable pride of the Vancouver people in the growth and prospect of their city and their confidence in its future, the citizens of the capital do not attribute to their neighbors any complicity in Mr. Martin's anti-Victoria crusade, and they will not respond, as he fondly hopes they will, by an attack upon their sister city. But the Attorney-General's blunder is of greater magnitude than this. He supposes that there exists throughout the province a feeling in sympathy with his enmity to this city. But it does not exist and there are the best of reasons why it should not exist. When Victoria by reason of its comparatively large population and influence was dominant in provincial politics, the policy of the government was for the promotion of undertakings calculated to develop the Mainland. Every enterprise designed to advance the material prosperity of every part of the province received the hearty support of Victoria's public men. In all parts of the province there is abundant evidence of the energy of Victoria's capitalists. If the time should ever come, when the people of the province will be called upon to express themselves upon a policy aimed at the beheading of Victoria, the people of this city can await the verdict with much confidence. They have no desire to see sectionalism aroused. They will oppose any attempt to arouse it with all their power; but they will not fear at any time to permit the people of the whole province to pronounce upon the claims of this city to fair and decent treatment from the government of the day.

CANADIAN TIMBER.

The London Times has a very interesting article upon the relations of Canada and the United States, in the course of which stress is laid upon the commanding position of the Dominion so far as the supply of northern woods is concerned. The available forests are found in Siberia, Scandinavia and Canada. Of these the former cannot for the present at least be taken into account, for a reason already given in these columns, namely, that the rivers flowing out of these forests run into the Arctic ocean, and therefore cannot be utilized for transportation purposes. Norway and Sweden, with all the effort put forth to prevent the depletion of the supply, are unable to do more than meet the demands of the German markets. This leaves Canada without a rival for the supply of the world. We quote the language of the Times, which after speaking of Russia, Sweden, Norway and Germany, says: "All other nations requiring timber of the sorts grown in the Northern Hemisphere must look to Canada for their supply." The Times estimates the timber area of Canada, not including British Columbia, as 2,000,000 square miles, over which more or less merchantable timber is found. To this it adds the area west of the Rocky mountains, extending from the International boundary to the Arctic circle. It is possible, of course, to speak of the timbered area of the Dominion only in general terms, because only an approximate estimate of its area can be made with the information now available. Experience in the forests of New Brunswick shows that under a judicious system of cutting and proper protection from fire, there is no such thing as exhaustion. This remark will hardly apply

to the Douglas fir forests of this Coast, because the time required for the production of the giant trees makes the re-creation of a forest once exhausted practically impossible; but it holds good of other timber even in British Columbia, and of almost all timber east of the mountains. The vast forest-clad region around Hudson's Bay may become, under a judicious system of forestry, a permanent source of supply.

The Times thinks that this commanding position of Canada in regard to such an important article of commerce is likely to have a potent influence towards bringing about a satisfactory agreement between the Dominion and the United States. If it does not have this effect, it is likely to lead to the investment of large amounts of capital in this country for the manufacture of such articles as require a cheap and abundant supply of lumber and the Times points out that the existence in our timber lands of rivers furnishing water-power in unlimited amount may prove an important factor in assuring success.

"Free logs for free lumber" is the cry of the Canadian lumber provinces," says the Times, and it adds: "The principle of fair exchange which it embodies would be wisely applied to the whole negotiation." Canada happens to possess certain supplies of raw material which are necessary to American industries. If America desires free access to these supplies, the price to be paid as between two protectionist countries is clearly a free field in the manufactured articles for Canadian competition. Otherwise the Canadian authorities will have obvious difficulty in resisting the pressure put upon them at home to keep the raw material in Canada and force the American manufacturers to establish their factories in Canada for the benefit of Canadian labor.

THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

We are glad to learn that the government is taking a reasonable view of the question raised by the passage of the eight-hour law last session and will permit its provisions to remain unenforced until an opportunity has been offered to ascertain the wishes of the communities most directly concerned. The information in the possession of the Colonist to the effect that the enforcement of the law would work a very great hardship, not only to the mine owners but to the miners. It is certainly very desirable that nothing should be done to interfere with the growing mining industry of British Columbia, which though full of promise for the future is not in such a condition yet that the cost of operating the miners can be increased upwards of fifteen per cent. without seriously affecting them.

THE FISHERIES REGULATIONS.

The fisheries regulations, printed elsewhere in to-day's paper, provide that each boat must have one licensed fisherman on board and one boat-puller. The former must be a British subject, but the latter need not be. Indians are not required to register, but any boat except those manned by Indians without a licensed fisherman and puller will be confiscated on sight. The date of registration is June 30. A letter from Sir Louis Davies to the Salmon Packers' Association says that offices for registration will be opened at New Westminster, Vancouver and Nanaimo. The omission of Victoria must surely be the result of an oversight, for it cannot be intended to deprive the large number of fishermen resident in Victoria of the opportunity of registering at home. The representatives of this city, to the attention of which this matter has been brought, will, we doubtless see that the mistake—if it is a mistake—is promptly remedied.

THE UPPER NILE.

There will be considerable disappointment in Great Britain and elsewhere over Sir W. E. Garstin's report on the Upper Nile valley. It is summed up in this sentence: "The possession of the Sudan beyond Khartoum can for the present be of no practical value to any power, and affords no field for the investment of capital." There is a redeeming feature in the case, namely that the capabilities even of a British unscrupulous party of states to form an opinion on such a subject from the limited opportunities at his disposal since the battle of Omdurman are not such as to render his views final. We have learned in Canada to put little value upon first impressions of a country. Do we not know that the hasty generalizations of a British commissioner convinced the Imperial government that the region between the Columbia river and the Straits of Juan de Fuca was not worth an effort to secure it? Is it not of record that Congressman Bouton, speaking in the congress of the United States as one who knew said: "It is well known that north of the Strait of Juan de Fuca all is darkness and desolation." Do not those Canadians who have reached middle life remember when they were told that all the great prairie region was a waste that would never be peopled? Have we not heard British Columbia described as a sea of mountains? Is it not only recently that we became aware that there is a vast region of great value around Hudson's Bay? In view of these and other instances of mistaken first impressions, which could be easily cited, we are not disposed to receive Sir W. E. Garstin's views on the Upper Nile valley as conclusive.

He mentions some matters that are interesting. For example he found Bah-el-Jebel obstructed for 160 miles above the Bah-el-Ghazal by vegetable growth so dense as to completely obstruct navigation. The first named river is the Nile proper, the latter being recognized as a tributary stream. It is

closed to navigation for 80 miles by the same sort of growth. The volume of water is ample, but no steamer can penetrate the "sudd." There are many miles of malarious marsh in the valley of the White Nile, and it lies at so low an elevation relative to the river that its drainage would seem to be possible only to a limited degree. The Blue Nile, which flows from the east, runs through a more promising country, where there is a large area fit for cultivation and much more that can be profitably irrigated. In all parts of the country population is scarce. The rule of the Khalifa and the Mahdi, following upon years of slave-traders' war, has prevented the inhabitants from increasing. What the country needs is rest and good government, rather than capital and commercial enterprise just now, for with these population will rapidly increase and the people will soon be in a position to furnish business for peaceful traders. There is a good deal of valuable timber including ebony, in the forests along the Blue Nile. The country on both branches of the river above Khartoum is described as very unhealthy, and it is said to be "morally impossible for Europeans to live upon either river."

PASSING COMMENT.

The Province says the Colonist will probably object that the holding of a session of the government in Vancouver is unconstitutional because no precedent can be cited from New Brunswick of an executive session being held out of the capital. It so happens that several precedents can be cited from New Brunswick of the kind mentioned. In fact no one in New Brunswick thinks it unreasonable that the cabinet should meet occasionally at places other than the capital. But no instance can be cited where the de facto leader of a New Brunswick government ever expressed a wish that all future meetings should be held elsewhere than at the capital.

On several occasions recently contemporaries have sneered at the references in these columns to New Brunswick political precedents. It so happens that the little province down by the sea has during the century and upwards of its history had been the scene of several acute political crises, and that any one who has familiarized himself with them can hardly fail to have a fair grounding in constitutional law. In no part of Canada was the struggle for responsible government more prolonged or more ably contested, and by the way there is no more useful book on the subject than "Fenety's Political Notes and Observations" wherein the oldest newspaper man now living in Canada sets out his recollections of this stirring period. Mr. Fenety is 87 years old, and though in retirement, contributes occasionally to the press.

The Province affects not to understand what the Colonist meant by saying that the issue so far as the Yukon administration is concerned is not whether Sir Hibbert Tupper can prefer and prove special charges but the fact that profound dissatisfaction existed all last year and no attempt was made to find out the cause of it. It seems to us that the point is clear enough. Suppose Sir Hibbert had never made his speech, suppose he had never intimated that he had any information in his possession bearing on the Yukon, would not the Yukon scandal be just as real?

The Columbian does not feel able to congratulate the government upon the appointment of Mr. Robertson to the office of Chief Superintendent of Education, and gives the following reasons: That Mr. Robertson's relations with his fellow teachers are not cordial, that his qualifications and claims on the score of service are not equal to those of other available men, and that there is the appearance of too much sectional and political favoritism about the appointment. Very excellent reasons these are.

The Columbian complains that Vancouver has too much pull nowadays with four representatives in the house and two in the government, the latter holding three out of four portfolios. Our contemporary does not do the subject full justice. Mr. Francis L. Carter, Cotton is Finance Minister, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. Joseph Martin is Attorney-General and Minister of Education. This gives these two gentlemen five portfolios.

The Nelson Tribune wants the political gullotine used more freely and thinks the government can hardly hope to get along satisfactorily unless it is. We do not believe there is the least foundation for the allegation of the Tribune that the permanent officials are not loyal to the administration.

The Kamloops Standard thinks the people are tired of politics and politicians and that what British Columbia wants is a British Columbia party. It was the effort of Mr. Turner when in power to develop what would be practically a British Columbia party, although it might not bear the name. Mr. Turner saw, as every observant man must see, that there is a necessity of unity of effort if this great province is to be advanced to its proper place in an industrial sense. A strong Conservative in federal politics, he endeavored in the conduct of provincial affairs to gain the approval of the Liberals as well as Conservatives. Although he opposed Sir Wilfrid Laurier's party, he aimed at securing harmonious relations between Sir Wilfrid's government and that of the province. Whether we will ever have a British Columbia party under that name may be doubtful, but we want one in reality.

The Times says that the editorial remarks of the Colonist in regard to the new fishery regulations were misleading. Perhaps they were. The sentence objected to was copied from a letter from Sir Louis Davies. As the full regulations were printed, no one need have been misled.

The Globe thinks that Attorney-General Martin is trying to stir up trouble. Whether he is trying or not, he is certainly succeeding in a phenomenal degree.

The Times waxes eloquent against those people who change their allegiance. There are upwards of a million people in the United States who were formerly British subjects and are now American citizens and there are in Canada many people who were once aliens and are now British subjects. As a rule these people will average about as high in good sense, honesty, patriotism and everything else that makes a man deserving of respect as those who criticize them.

THE YUKON MAIL.

It is a relief to know that the Postmaster-General has in contemplation a daily mail service to Dawson after the opening of navigation. We hope it will be extended to Atlin also. No good reason can be given why such a service should not be maintained. There will be boats enough on the river, small lakes. While speaking of the service for the future it may be well once more to refer to that of the past. The Colonist has had experience of its own on this point, and two instances may be cited out of several. An arrangement was made with a man who went to the Klondike the year before last to send regular letters to this paper at a price agreed upon. He returned last fall, and said that he had written several letters as per agreement and duly mailed them. Not one of them ever reached this office. In the spring of 1898 another person was engaged to write regular letters to this paper. He wrote three. One of them only reached this office, although the others were mailed. A few days ago the Colonist was shown a letter written from Dawson by a young man to his father, in which he complained bitterly that no mail had come to him for five months. Yet his father said he had written to him at least once a fortnight. In view of such instances as these, and the Colonist has heard of very many of them, we are not disposed to accept the assurances of Mr. Maxwell, M.P., that the mails were regular. On the contrary, we feel inclined to ask how it happened that he could get his letters promptly while others could not.

KANG YU-WEI.

The presence in Victoria of Kang Yu-Wei, the great Chinese reformer, is an incident of great interest. A Cantonese of the tradesman class, this man has by his ability risen to be the comrade of the Emperor, and although now in exile has had the proud distinction of having given China an impetus on the road to progress and reform which will never be wholly lost, even though its operation may be temporarily retarded. If he had enjoyed the co-operation of a monarch with strength of character equal to the Emperor, Kang might have been to China what the Marquis Ito was to Japan. His opportunity may yet come.

There is much in the career of this humble Cantonese boy which appeals to the imagination. We know the Cantonese pretty well in Victoria, and would not look to that class to produce a man, who may inaugurate a new era for humanity, for it is certain that if Kang's plans succeed their effect will extend around the world. But his humble origin is no evidence that he does not possess the inspiration by which great movements are set on foot. Both Confucius and Lao-Tze, the great Chinese teachers, sprang from poverty. Nevertheless the gap between the home of a tradesman and the imperial palace at Peking is wide, and it is not surprising that only a few men out of the four hundred millions of China are able to cross it. By a singular coincidence, Kang's chief opponent, from whom he has sought refuge under the British flag, namely, the Dowager Empress of China, is also sprung from the lower classes. It is certainly an extraordinary thing that the two leaders of this ancient empire, where family pedigrees have been preserved for centuries and the broadest social distinctions exist, should be on the one side an ex-slave girl, the champion of conservatism, and on the other a storekeeper's son, the champion of reform.

The movement which Kang Yu-Wei represents can hardly be kept long in abeyance. He himself believes it to be essential to the permanency of the empire, which otherwise must fall in ruins under the influence of decay from within and blows from without. His sympathies are pro-British, a fact which will of itself commend him and his views to the hearty interest of the British people. His visit to Great Britain can hardly fail to arouse interest in the affairs of China, and may perhaps lead to the adoption of a new line of policy.

A card on the outside of office door says: "Gone to lunch. Be back in ten minutes." And, the man will be there on time. That is, for some days, weeks or even months, he will. Then he will be at home occasionally for a day. He'll tell you he had a headache—a tura of cholera morbus, or maybe he'll say he had a lump in his stomach and felt too miserable to move. The lump was probably two or three tennis rackets condensed.

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ADMITTED TO THE BAR.

Thirteen Lawyers Passed the Final Examination of the Law Society.

The results of the recent examinations of the Law Society of British Columbia have been announced, and twelve of the thirteen candidates who passed were yesterday presented by Mr. D. M. Eberts, Q. C., to Mr. Justice Walker. The new lawyers are: A. C. Anderson, of Victoria; E. C. Kenning, Rossland; E. C. Gillan, Vancouver; J. R. Brown, Rossland; H. A. McLean, Victoria; W. F. Gurr, Cranbrook; Alfred Hays, Rossland; J. R. Costigan, Q. C. J. S. T. Alexander, A. J. Kappel, Vancouver; A. E. Garrett, Vancouver; H. J. Dawson; H. G. S. Heisterman, Victoria.

With the exception of Messrs. Anderson and Heisterman, all the successful candidates are from the Eastern provinces. The two Victorians were both tried in the office of Messrs. McPhillips, Wootton & Barnard. They passed very creditable examinations; in fact Mr. Anderson's papers were particularly good. Mr. Heisterman has not yet been presented. Mr. A. D. McIntyre was admitted as a solicitor.

THE BOSCOVITZ SAFE.

Vessel Loads Off the Rocks Uninjured and Reports at Union. "Everything is all right and I am going to Departure Bay for orders." This was the brief but very cheerful news from Hugh Logan received yesterday from Captain McKinley of the steamer Boscovitz for which he is agent. The steamer was reported by the Gutch a few days ago to be hard and fast on the rocks off Port Simpson and the news thus comes as an agreeable surprise. In reply to the message orders were sent directing the vessel to the Fraser to load a quantity of cannery supplies for her return trip North. She will probably be here on Sunday to complete her cargo. She will also have a large crew of Chinese laborers for the canneries from Victoria.



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COMMITTEE

Proposition of P. ern Company t. Ferry Co.

Report of the Com. manic Qualified. Last B.

There was a good evening's meeting of Fifty, at which May and Mr. H. M. Gray were in the absence. It was the intention of the railway they had just received the Port Angeles they asked for further report.

The proposition of Eastern Company is following letter of Chairman of the railway. The proposition of steel and finished iron will have sufficient space to Victoria in used exclusively for passenger.

The ferry boat will be about two hundred forty feet breadth of commodore from ten to twelve feet deep. It is fitted to carry a which will be necessary load tons. She will be one mile per hour. The dock, ferry, slip at Port Angeles will be of a special nature, and fully worked out that being the business of the dock, etc., at Victoria built in the same way on this side, and will be submitted as soon as to location, and complete them. We are sufficient business to sender steamer making daily and the ferry depending upon the amount.

Passenger and freight ranged on a healthy without saying that be put forth on our traffic. It would be utter time to state what it would require for us to carry out our plan continental connection to locate the ferry in city and our engineering actions. We would like, that its location as possible, as we are carrying all the work of completing the line.

We will add regard have practically agreed section with the Port railroad, as it would considerably, and are abstract route to the In submitting these actions, we have aimed to give in every you decide to be satisfied. We are sure we will be very materially reduced. Yours truly, CHARLES ISAAC GOR.

The report of the aldermanic qualification up, and was considered. The first clause respecting the division of the city into wards, and the second clause, that Ald. Beckwith, and the other members of the committee, should be secured if elected by the city at Ald. Williams second. Mr. Walter Morris by abolishing the ward system might be a part of the city electorate should be the proposition.

Mr. Bragg said anything the committee be submitted to a reply to Mr. Hunter, nothing to show that be secured to manage city. He proposed Mr. to the industrial of the city would be well ably.

Mr. Hunter denied cast a slur on the what he referred to men who stooped to call while those who stood were defeated.

Mr. Gorr Powell's abolition, pointing whose election he had much to do with the affairs as the men rep Mr. Pearson suggested until they were prepared by the city into four wards on the clause.

Mayor Redfern said the more unanimity of aldermen were elected city. At present aldermen should look after the lary, while if elected whole they would fit attend to the wants whole. Besides, by man with \$100 ward could vote for while a man with \$1 ward could vote for Mr. W. McKay said were not unanimous was agreed to by the Consideration of t ferred.

The next clause was qualification of aldermen a candidate for alder property to the value in personal property in personal property in branches, and that be subject over 21 years of the city for 1 Mr. Bragg moved it should be left as it