

MR. MARTIN'S CHALLENGE.

Every white working man and woman in British Columbia was directly and personally insulted when Hon. George B. Martin, chief commissioner of lands and works, (member of Hon. Mr. Turner's unique cabinet of ministerial curios—now on view daily, free of charge, at the large annex to the provincial museum, James Bay.) said from his place in the house that he considered a Chinaman at fifteen dollars a month the superior of any Canadian; reiterated the monstrous statement when challenged by his own leader, and gave it all the emphasis necessary to show that he was in dead earnest about it and meant his words should be recorded. It now remains for the various labor organizations in British Columbia to consider most earnestly at their next meeting what action shall be taken to mark the strong feeling of white labor in regard to Hon. Mr. Martin's statements. We shall go further, and say that the labor organizations owe it to themselves and the white people of this province as a bounden duty to pass resolutions condemning in the strongest terms the pro-Chinese minister and urging upon all white electors (there may be yellow ones, seeing Messrs. Martin and Hunter are men of considerable influence), the duty and the necessity of riding British Columbia politics of such a man as Hon. Mr. Martin. So long as Hon. Mr. Martin is allowed to hold office in any cabinet in this province, so long must the province submit to those humiliating spectacles and speeches which have disgraced the present session of the legislative assembly. Why, the honorable gentleman had to be awakened from a profound slumber the other day when a member of the Opposition wished to question him! In ancient times the people believed that men were governed by good or evil spirits; we do not know what kind of spirits govern Hon. Mr. Martin. Against Hon. Mr. Martin personally we have nothing (at present) to urge; we believe he is a very agreeable companion, and what is known generally as "a good fellow;" but Hon. Mr. Martin, minister of the crown, is another fellow altogether. The electors of North Yale should not send him back here again, unless they actually wish to see the house turned into a bear-garden and the province described in the world's press as a unique relic of the rough-and-ready. But the electors of North Yale may take it from the Times that even if they do send Hon. Mr. Martin here again and the Turner government should, by some wrathful dispensation of providence be sustained, Hon. Mr. Martin will be "let out" at the earliest opportunity. The Turner government, ludicrous as it may sound, are not proud of their rough diamond, and want to get rid of him. And he ought to be glad to get rid of them; for at any rate, his blunders and faults are those of a man not of a tea-topping old wife called her own shadow.

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The Colonist in this morning's issue professes to believe that the redistribution bill is all that it should be, and that the changes made therein in the representation of different portions of the province are such as will commend themselves to "the people most directly interested." If by the term "the people most directly interested" the Colonist means the members of the cabinet who formed the celebrated gerrymandering bill, no exception can be taken to the assertion. If, however, the Colonist pretends to speak for the people of Southwest Kootenay, a most emphatic denial must be returned. The cabinet's treatment of the people of Southwest Kootenay, as contrasted with its treatment of the people of Cassiar, is a brutal insult to the intelligence of the people of Kootenay, and to the people of the whole province. It is a plain statement to the people of Southwest Kootenay that since they cannot be trusted to return government supporters, they shall not receive their due representation in the house. By the bill as it was submitted to the house an additional member was given to the district of Cassiar, while the claims of the district of Southwest Kootenay were ignored. The government cannot plead ignorance in this matter. Before the redistribution bill was passed the government had figures before it showing the relative voting strength of the several districts. For the district of Cassiar, the latest information that the government confessed to have was that in the Skiena division there were 199 names upon the voters' list, and 97 applications to be placed upon the same. There were to be returned, whatever from the Stikine district. Yet the government decided that Cassiar should receive an additional member. For the riding of Southwest Kootenay, at present represented by J. Fred Hume, the government's return showed that there were on the voters' list 1,388 names and 484 additional applications, or 1,872 names in all, as against 296 for the district of Cassiar. Yet the government refused the application of the south riding of Kootenay for additional representation, and actually increased the voting strength of the old district by altering its boundaries.

THE REBUTAL.

The reason for this action can be found in a reference to the votes cast in the last general election. In Cassiar, out of a total of 206 names upon the voters' list, the successful government candidate secured 102, as against 35 votes cast for a rival government candidate. In the south riding of West Kootenay, out of 1,872 voters on the list, the Opposition can-

didate received 401, as against 258 votes for the government candidate. These figures show that Messrs. Turner, Peckley & Co. considered it very safe to give Cassiar an additional member, even though it was not merited, and rather dangerous to their hopes to recognize the just claims of South Kootenay. The injustice does not end here, since the latest trustworthy information for South Kootenay is to the effect that there are at present 1,800 names upon the voters' list and 800 more applications to be placed upon the same, indicating a voting strength for the district of 2,600. These voters will be represented by one member, while the 296 voters of Cassiar, with the small voting district of Stikine to be heard from, will have two members.

Has the Colonist the hardihood to say that this is fair or will commend itself to "the people most directly interested" in Kootenay?

WHIRROO!

There is a "hot time" in the east over the semi-private affairs of the Klondike Mining, Trading & Transportation Corporation (hereinafter to be referred to for the sake of breath and space as the corporation), having been ruthlessly laid bare by the Ottawa Free Press last Saturday night. The Free Press had the audacity to publish a list of the salaries of the hereinbefore mentioned corporation, giving the various salaries in somewhat generous fashion; a trifle higher than the distinguished recipients actually receive. The Free Press magnanimously allows Sir Charles Tupper, a certain engineer, not named, \$12,000 each, and Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper and Editor C. H. Lugin, "the disappointed man," as Senator W. J. Macdonald calls him, \$6,000 each. These salaries are enough to make any man's mouth water, but, unfortunately, they are somewhat fairy-talish. Sir Charles Tupper, with characteristic moderation and politeness, stamps the Free Press' generous pay list, so far as it concerns him, as "false and libellous," and has demanded "immediate retraction and apology." The choleric old knight, who is not to be trifled with by anybody "inside or outside the house," is good enough to state that he gets only \$1,500 as salary, and that the other salaries mentioned by the Free Press are correspondingly exaggerated. It seems the gentlemen mentioned were paid merely for services rendered. Now, the point here is: Services of value to the company Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Hibbert, Hon. Mr. Dewdney, Hon. Mr. Peters and the engineer undoubtedly could render the company, but what did the services of Mr. Lugin consist of? Would it be dastardly and impertinent to inquire if his services were to be not wholly unconnected with the manufacture of those delicious and popular delicacies known as puffs? If so, the company has shown a singular want of appreciation for his skill and assiduity as a pastry-baker; for the Colonist's daily bill of fare for many weeks back has been supplemented richly in plain puffs, fancy puffs, fish-pastry puffs, sweetened puffs and pretty nearly all the puffs known to the most ingenious sufferer afflicting. Yes, until the body began to loathe the toothsome and appetizing puff as the foolish wagger loathes his quail on toast ten days before the expiration of the period during which he must face "em or lose his money. But, then, it may not have been for puffs, but just for moral influence. But the corporation seems to have been disappointed with the arrangement—hence more than one "disappointed man." It is not all beer and skittles directing even a powerful and prosperous Klondike corporation, and the Colonist is all the better to be heart-whole and fancy-free after its recent experiences.

THOSE QUEER MINISTERS.

Having set on foot since the astonishing outburst of the premier and the attorney-general, (not to mention the characteristic explosion of the chief commissioner of lands and works), last Thursday, when certain hints and innuendoes were thrown out about the antecedents and reputation of "the man who writes those articles for the Times," some private inquiries as to the antecedents and reputation of the hon. the premier, and the hon. the attorney-general, "the man who writes those articles for the Times" has some rather amusing information to impart. We should say that the private inquiry into the antecedents and reputation of the hon. the chief commissioner of lands and works was abruptly abandoned at an early stage of the investigation for good cause. "The man" set out on the enquiry believing that the hon. the attorney-general would not surely be such an ass as to talk loudly and superciliously in the house about antecedents unless he were prepared to have his own antecedents show him to be at least blue-blooded; but even the little "the man" has learned in this brief space goes to confirm his suspicion: that the hon. the attorney-general's extraordinary remarks were nothing more than a piece of "grit" "bluff."

"The man" of whose character he spoke so significantly and with so evident an intent to "damage" now knows that this pompous personage, who masquerades under the high and mighty title of attorney-general is a plebeian of the plebeians, and just as common a man as the plainest of the community. "The man" is socially inferior by many notches; and not to bludge or trifles, his intellectual inferior by the whole gamut of comparison. The attorney-general did not well to put in that "advisedly." Better advised had he held his tongue. The letter of "Junius," (68th) to Lord Mansfield contains a paragraph that always rises in "the man's" mind when the at-

THAT CASSIAR MEMBER.

Examiners of the new redistribution bill just submitted by the government will find the more they look into the provision for another member in Cassiar district, the less they will like the proposition. It is an extremely fishy warrant of business, and comes as near to being a direct insult to the people of the province as anything the Turner government has done. But let us look into the matter for a moment. Here is the huge district of Cassiar, a large part of it yet unexplored, scantily populated, with a scanty enough population indeed to support one member. It has prospects, of course, of important accessions to its population owing to the rich mineral discoveries made there recently, but this is altogether speculative. The government, to meet those conditions, has provided, in effect, that a steamer load of voters can be taken up from any Victoria or Vancouver, landed at some point in Cassiar where they can record their votes—and be all taken back again! It sounds a little like a piece out of one of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operas; nevertheless it is a fact. Nothing of what we have read or ever heard as to the odd methods in politics put in practice sometimes by American politicians compares with it for originality and impudence. They charge in and out of the house; the Times; they imagine their names being thrown out dark insinuations against the private character of the editor of this paper they could thereby damage him before the community and so, in some mysterious manner, check his attacks. But they will learn that they cannot annihilate an opponent in that manner. They charge in and out of the house; they imagine their names being thrown out dark insinuations against the private character of the editor of this paper they could thereby damage him before the community and so, in some mysterious manner, check his attacks. But they will learn that they cannot annihilate an opponent in that manner.

TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE CASSIAR SECTION.

The government have given three signal instances lately of their sheep-inapacity for office—the comic-opera redistribution bill; the failure to accept Dominion government aid to repair the river bank at Revelstoke and their mysterious refusal to accept the splendid offer of the Dominion government to remove the Songhees Indian reserve. Heaven help British Columbia if that ministry be returned to power.

torney-general puts himself in evidence. It is this:
"As a practical profession the study of law requires but a moderate portion of abilities. The learning of a pleader is not a level with his industry. The indiscriminate defence of right and wrong contracts the understanding while it corrupts the heart. Subtlety is soon mistaken for wisdom and impunity for virtue. If there be any instance on record, as some there are undoubtedly, of genius and morality united in a lawyer, they are distinguished by their singularity, and operate as exceptions."
It will be astonishing to "the man" to learn that our precious attorney-general is one of those exceptions.

As for the premier his reputation is good and his antecedents are such as any plain man can look upon with satisfaction, but when he alleged in his place in the house that "if the antecedents of the man who writes those articles for the Times were looked into they would show nothing to his credit," (vide press reports), the honorable the premier and minister of British Columbia, John Herbert Turner, had better be advised that the reports of Premier Turner's remarks were substantially correct, before affixing the foregoing criticism to the premier's attack on his character. Plain speaking cannot be offensive to a pleader who, from his seat in the house, shouted at a member of the opposition: "That's a lie!"

As for the chief commissioner of lands and works' challenge to "the man who writes those articles for the Times" he should be advised that the reports of Premier Turner's remarks were substantially correct, before affixing the foregoing criticism to the premier's attack on his character. Plain speaking cannot be offensive to a pleader who, from his seat in the house, shouted at a member of the opposition: "That's a lie!"

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OUR LUCKY MINISTERS.

There is no precedent in the records of the legislative assembly of British Columbia of the conduct of three cabinet ministers, including the premier, rising in their places in the house to assail the private character of the editor of a provincial newspaper. Some writers might accept this as a kind of compliment or advertisement, but we have only contempt for the conduct of these three honorable members of the legislature for the abominable abuse of the privileges of the house by men who ought at least to know that the dignity of the legislative assembly should at all times be preserved. Those men complained about the health of some of the Times; they imagine their names being thrown out dark insinuations against the private character of the editor of this paper they could thereby damage him before the community and so, in some mysterious manner, check his attacks. But they will learn that they cannot annihilate an opponent in that manner.

press must be introduced here; there are abuses to be dealt with which no other style will suit; public men are forgetting their duty and their pledges to the people; and they must be reminded of them in words far removed from the hisping generalities and neatly-mouthed pipings of the "silly season" journalist. In troublous times like these cold- and while we strongly deprecate the unmitigated vulgarity and scurrilousness of the Vancouver World, equally with the stupid dulness of the Colonist, with its cheap, canting willow-pattern vocabulary and pawn-shop sentiment, we would welcome the bold, outspoken freedom of the English press. Premier Turner and his colleagues seem to have some idea that their action and language in the house will frighten the Times from demanding reform, but they only show childlike stupidity. Premier Turner and his colleagues have been very lucky hitherto; only as a general thing the sickly, skim-milk deprecation of British criticism, among the Americans has been dealt out to them; what they need is British criticism, and they will get it when they need it between this date and that upon which the lay down office in June.

THE LAST SHOT.

It is a pity the editor of the Colonist does not yet realize that the public of Victoria are tired of hearing about his personal affairs and those of the editor of the Times. The editor of the Colonist does not depart from his usual style of writing this morning in making a proposition entirely consonant with his well-known principles. We have not the slightest intention of following him through the column-long fustian of unrestrained violence and personal spite with which he disgraces the once-respected Colonist. But we should like to point out briefly the absurdity of an American citizen, a man who by solemn oath and declaration, about two years ago, deliberately renounced his allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen; published in the columns of an American newspaper a long article in which he conclusively proved that he had not a drop of British blood in his veins, and who desires to be known as anything but an American citizen, of American descent and fitted with American sentiments; daily railing and despising the authority of the Queen of Great Britain and all British institutions—the absurdity, we say, of such a man attempting to chide a British subject.

That there may be no misunderstanding as to the stupendous character of this man's impudence here is the declaration he made:
DECLARATION OF INTENTION.
United States of America, (S.S.)
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY OF WASHINGTON.
I, Charles H. Lugin, a native of New Brunswick, do declare on oath that it is my bona fide intention to become a citizen of the UNITED STATES and to renounce forever all allegiance and loyalty to the Queen of Great Britain, potentate, state and sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to VICTORIA, GREEN BLENDED WITH RED IN THE LAND, whose subject I am, AND THAT I REMIND YOU OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. CHARLES H. LUGRIN.

Any man who could stomach that declaration and sign it "so help me God," ought to hold his insolent tongue forever under the British flag. This censorious under he is further noted, calmly swallows these and other denunciations and declarations when popular indignation made Seattle too hot for him, and he had to come over into the shelter of the dominions of the gracious lady whom he had so basely forsown. He has ever since laid down the law to Britons as to what constitutes patriotism and honor. So it will be noted, that the editor of the Colonist can speak from experience of the character of a person of whom he and he has, from this time henceforward, no opportunity to revile and defame his deserted country, the United States. The Seattle Times, his former charge, has not yet referred to the Colonist as "an ultra-British newspaper"; onlookers see more clearly how the game goes and the Seattle people know that no paper which is connected with "the man who writes those articles for the Times" is ever "ultra-British" or even British. But it is useless to belabor an opponent whose principles are so elastic that he could take pay from a speculative company to help them with his influence, and pay also as editor at the same time. The newspaper has been more long-suffering than the company, which has ungratefully bounced him for good cause. The editor of the Colonist will not succeed again in getting a free advertisement in these columns, as "a few lines" terminate this matter so far as the Times is concerned.

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Fourthly Mr. Booth states: "The Hon. John H. Turner, as attorney-general, is no more responsible for the decision of the court, than the man in the moon. I am, however, very sorry to know that Hon. Mr. S. P. Mills, the judge of the court of revision, knows that he would be the man to have to answer for the decision, by any instructions from the government, that the government would have to answer for the decision, by any instructions from the government, that the government would have to answer for the decision, by any instructions from the government."

Theological matters in the old country are reaching an acute stage, and very remarkable things are looked for regarding the deceased wife's sister marriage question. After two years' deliberations, 23 Presbyteries and 111 Sessions of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, against six Presbyteries and 22 Sessions, have voted in favor of immediate liberty being allowed in regard to Church as regards marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

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ULTIMATUM
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Washington, April 20.—A ultimatum had been signed for the passage of the bill to Spain. At the same time announcement was made that it be made public until to-morrow.

The ultimatum gives Spain 48 hours to answer. The ultimatum is not received from Spain it will proceed to at once carry out of congress.

At 11:20 o'clock Minister F. was announced at the White House by the messenger his request for his passports. He is to-night.

Spain's affairs have been the French ambassador an minister.

When the house was the president had approved the resolution there was a tremor of applause. Chairman the military affairs committee unanimous consent of the consideration of a bill anti president to call out the vol-

said he had just received a copy of the ultimatum from the White House urging that it be passed. It is believed that at Saturday is Spain's furthest.

The house unanimously considered the volunteer army if now being considered in con-

The Cuban resolution is and the ultimatum to Spain pledged fact. The president affixed his signature to the vote of congress requiring the state department by Saturday Day, and at 11:30 time was made at the ultimatum to Spain was signed by the president, who signed. After the ultimatum Day said the ultimatum to Minister Woodford, liver it to the Spanish gov-

The Spanish minister was not present in the house when he received it, and requested his passport.

At the cabinet meeting general features of the ultimatum were discussed, and it was agreed upon, and there was no objection to the president's signature on the ultimatum. The ultimatum was made to-day under was laid before the president.

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