

The Colonist.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 1898.

GLADSTONE.

Gladstone is dead. A long and useful life has ended. The world mourns one of its greatest men. What place the deceased statesman will occupy in the estimation of future generations it would be folly to attempt to forecast. History plays strange pranks with reputations which are great during the lifetime of their possessors. Gladstone has so long been prominent that it is 66 years since he first entered parliament—that he has formed an integral part of the public life of Great Britain and has been a factor to be reckoned with during the whole of the period over which the recollection of most men now living extends. Sixty-four years ago, before most of the public men of the day in any part of the world were out of pinafores, Gladstone was a member of a British ministry. More than half a century ago he renounced his Conservative associations and became a Liberal. It is utterly impossible for those who have been contemporary with such a man to correctly gauge his influence upon the nation, to which he belonged, and the civilized world, with the affairs of which he was so intimately associated.

William Ewart Gladstone was born December 29, 1809. His father was Sir John Gladstone, Bart., a Liverpool merchant, but with his mother, a native of Scotland. The dead statesman had from the outset all the advantages of means, education and high social position. He left Oxford in his 22nd year, when he graduated with the highest honors in classics and mathematics, and in the following year the Duke of Newcastle caused him to be returned to parliament for the pocket borough of Newark. Since then he has been conspicuous in public life. Two years after his entry into parliament Sir Robert Peel gave him a place in his administration. Peel was defeated in 1835, but on his return to power in 1841, Gladstone was again given a portfolio. He remained associated with Peel until 1846, when that statesman again went out and his ministry with him. It was not until 1852 that Gladstone again took office, this time as a Liberal in the Aberdeen ministry, in which he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. He retained this office under Palmerston, for a short time. He was re-appointed to it in 1859 and retained it for seven years. In 1866 the Russell ministry was defeated, but its successor, having passed a Reform bill, was thrown out by the new electorate and Gladstone became Prime Minister in 1868. He retained office for six years, was defeated in 1874, but returned to power in 1880; was again defeated in 1885, but came back the next year for a five months' term. In 1892 he was once more at the head of affairs, retiring in 1894. He was only out of the House of Commons for a year and a half in all his long career.

Space will not permit of a review of his work as a statesman and scholar. His great career has been the subject of the keenest criticism. Yet friends and opponents alike concede his right to the title of "Grand Old Man," and regard him as an ornament to the nation to the service of which his life has been devoted.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Mr. Helmcken introduced a resolution in the house yesterday declaring that preference ought to be given to natives of British Columbia in appointments to the civil service. As no other member of the house enjoys the dignity of being a native born son, it is not surprising that Mr. Helmcken's proposition did not commend itself to any one else, although several members declared they would have voted for it if it could be phrased to mean something a little different. No one seemed to know just what he wanted, and the suggestion of Mr. Higgins that the resolution should be amended to read "born or raised" in British Columbia only served to make the difficulty of meeting the case greater. Every one knows what Mr. Helmcken is aiming at; but it is not very easy to state the idea in writing, at least in the form of a resolution. It would be wholly impossible for the house to give any direction to the government on the subject, which must, as Mr. Forster very properly observed, be left to the discretion of the ministers.

The matter is one that will bear ventilating, for there is a principle involved in it and a mistaken idea is abroad in regard to it. The mistaken idea is that the civil service is filled up with men imported principally from the Mother Country—English dudes, as the phrase is. This is very far from being the case. The dude element is conspicuous by its absence in the British Columbia civil service, which is composed almost wholly of men who attend to their business in a modest way. Very few of the members of this body have not either been born in Canada or been long enough in the province to become thoroughly Canadian in their instincts and customs. There may be a few exceptions, but they are unimportant. The principle involved in this: The civil service ought to be filled with the best men available and ought to be open to all British subjects, no matter where they are born. The accident of birth should disqualify no man for holding a position under the government. At the same time it is right that when it is consistent with the public service those persons who have been identified for a long time with the province should be given preference when any offices have to be filled. As a general proposition we should be entirely opposed to the idea of giving offices in British Columbia to men who come to the province expressly to take them. The Col-

onist has taken this position in regard to the chief justiceship. The man who comes to British Columbia only because he is offered an official position ought to be permitted to stay away, when there are in the province equally qualified men for the place to which he is appointed. But it may well be that for some special position certain qualifications may be required, which are not possessed by any one already a resident of the province in an equal degree to an available person who is a non-resident. In such cases it would be to the public interest to select the outsider. The public welfare ought always to be thought of first.

It is also out of the question in a growing province like our own to think of filling all ordinary government offices by natives of the province or by persons who have for a long time been identified with British Columbia. There are now communities made up almost wholly of new comers. There will be more of them by and by, and to establish the rule that these new comers can have no share in the administration of affairs would be, as the Premier said, to put an obstacle in the way of immigration at a time when we want every one to come to the province who is willing to help develop it. At the same time, not only those persons, who have been a long time in the province, but the new comers also are alike of the opinion that the civil service ought to be filled whenever possible from the ranks of men who are Canadian in their training and sentiment and if it is possible to do so without too much restricting the choice of the government, the majority of the people should like to see the junior places filled with young men who are either natives of the province or have been resident here long enough to be in associations and ambitions British Columbia boys.

JAPAN AS A COMPETITOR.

In the course of his very interesting observations made to a Colonist reporter and printed in yesterday's issue of the paper, Mr. Tromp, lately of the British diplomatic service in Japan, mentioned that the cost of living there had increased 75 per cent. since the war. Mr. George Anderson, Canadian trade commissioner to Japan, points out in his report that wages have increased 75 per cent. during the same period. The rate of wages is yet far below the Canadian standard, but the tendency is upward and it is not likely to be arrested. Japanese cheap labor will soon be a thing of the past. It is not difficult to account for this. To an isolated people, as the Japanese have practically been until very recently, and as the Chinese are now, the manner of living is simple and the expense low. It is the same in all parts of the world. The French-Canadian, in the isolation of remote settlements, is a cheap laborer. When he is brought into contact with other people he spends his money as lavishly as they do. He has more and he wants more. It is an economic rule that our wants increase as our ability to supply them increases. Nearly every one in this community can prove this principle by his own experience. Few of us were born rich; few were not compelled to begin at the bottom of the ladder of life. But in nearly every case, as the capacity of earning increased, the wants he supplied increased also. As with individuals so with communities and nations. As the facilities of production increase the demand for products increases.

Moreover it may be stated as a general proposition that taking all things into consideration it costs about as much to do anything in one place as in another, with such variations as are due to natural facilities. Doubtless man for man Canadians can do more work in the same time than Japanese, are equally skillful and more resourceful. It is probable that under the stimulus of novelty or anxiety to learn, a Japanese may sometimes do more work in the same time and do it as well as a Canadian; but such instances are exceptional, and it will doubtless be found that as a general proposition, the Canadian, the American or the British workman will do more work and better work in the same length of time than the Japanese. At present he wants much more pay; but that is because his wants are more than those of the Japanese—we speak now of the Japanese at home. When with the adoption of European civilization new wants become general in Japan, wages will have to advance to keep pace with them. As the Japanese workman learns to make things, he will begin to learn to want to use them and he will demand pay that will enable him to purchase them. Another important consideration is the change in the diet of the people. Until very recently the Japanese people lived within themselves. Now they are beginning to use imported foods and this means higher wages. It will be a long time before the scale of Japanese wages reaches that in force in this country, but the indications are that it will not be long before the increased cost of production in Japan, coupled with other causes, such as the enlarged home market, will make the dreaded competition of the Japanese in manufactures as no longer a cause of alarm.

AN ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE

If an alliance is effected between Great Britain and the United States it will not be on sentimental grounds alone, but because of mutual interest. Hereafter it will be impossible for the latter country to refrain from participating in international politics. It is idle to talk, as some of the newspapers and public men do, of defeating Spain and then retiring into the position heretofore occupied. There can be no step backward in a matter of this kind. When once the Washington government undertook to coerce a European power, it departed forever from its policy of isolation. It is clear that no nation other than Great Britain possesses the same interests as



WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE.

the United States in regard to Asia and America. Not less than Great Britain does the United States require "an open door" in Asia. Not less than the United States is Great Britain interested in preventing European usurpation of the American continent. It must not be forgotten that the Monroe doctrine owes its origin to a British prime minister. It was George Canning who suggested to President Monroe that he should declare that any interference with the self-governing communities of America would be regarded by the Washington government as an unfriendly act, and it was well known in every capital in Europe that Canning stood ready to pledge the active support of the United Kingdom to the policy thus declared. Next to the United States, Great Britain is the greatest American power, for though the population of Canada, Newfoundland, the West Indies and British Guiana is less than that of Mexico or Brazil, when it comes to energy, commerce and aggressive power the British possessions take place ahead of those nations. The British government is therefore as much interested as that of the United States in seeing that no European power shall be allowed to disturb the existing status of the continent.

There is more than a sympathy between the crowned and the uncrowned republic in regard to the principles of government. Naturally the democracy of Great Britain and the democracy of the United States alike feel that the imperialism of Continental Europe, whether it takes the form of absolute government or masks under the semblance of popular institutions as in Europe, must not be allowed to gain any greater foothold than it at present has. Between the dynasties of Europe and the people there is an antagonism that will not down, and the expanding tendency of popular government in the British Empire and the democratic institutions of the United States are a constant incentive to the masses of Continental Europe to assert themselves. That the empires of Europe would crush out Anglo-American self-government, if they were able, is beyond question. If either one of the English-speaking nations should be worsted in war, the fate of the other would follow fast, and liberty would be a lost cause all over the world.

MR. MARTIN'S SLANDERERS.

It is very hard to characterize in language the action of those persons who have been the means of circulating the calumnies against the Hon. G. B. Martin, which attribute to him the statement that a Chinaman is better than a Canadian. What Mr. Martin actually said is or ought to be known to every one and it is a matter of surprise that any branches of the Trades and Labor Council should base resolutions upon what is simply a foul slander. Mr. Martin has fully explained what he said. Admitting that he had once had a Chinaman in his employ, he said that he had discharged him because he was a Chinaman, although he was better adapted for his work than any Canadian he had ever hired. Conceding for the sake of argument that a reporter who heard Mr. Martin speak misunderstood him, it is considered simply ordinary decency to accept a speaker's own version of what he said. But the Trades and Labor Councils of Victoria and Rossland have seen fit to take what the reporter understood Mr. Martin to say and not what Mr. Martin says he said. It ought not to be necessary to point out to those who have been instrumental in having resolutions passed condemning Mr. Martin for his alleged utterance, that if public men are to be tried and found guilty for saying what they expressly deny having said, if a speaker is to be held accountable for the way in which a reporter catches his words, if a member of the legislature is not to be accorded the privilege that is allowed every other person in the world of saying that

he has been misunderstood, public life will become unfit for decent people.

Especially unjust is such action in regard to Mr. Martin. The chief commissioner was speaking on the subject of Chinese labor. He was declaring that he had always been opposed to it. He was pointing out that only once was a Chinaman ever employed upon his premises, although he has for years been an employer of labor. He was telling the house that in order to give effect to his principle of employing none but white labor, he discharged the Chinaman on learning that he was employed, and in order to emphasize the fact that the discharge was not due to the inefficiency of the workman, he added that he was better suited for his work than any Canadian he had ever employed. Later when correcting the report of his speech he explained that the work at which the Chinaman was engaged was gardening and irrigating, and it is not very difficult to understand how it might happen that Mr. Martin never had a Canadian as expert at this work as a Chinaman. We suppose that there are five hundred people in British Columbia who can say the same thing with perfect truth about Chinese workmen, but no one except a very foolish person would imagine that this would mean that they regarded the Chinese as superior to Canadians. Competent Canadian gardeners are scarce in British Columbia, and it is very hard that when Mr. Martin let a good man go because he was a Chinaman, he should be scandalized throughout the length and breadth of the province upon the false charge of having declared that in his opinion the Chinaman is a superior creature. We do not suppose that the slander will cost Mr. Martin a single vote. In his own constituency his record is well known. The people to whose sufferages he will appeal know his attitude in regard to Chinese labor. But it is none the less a regrettable thing that the Trades and Labor Councils above referred to have been so ill-advised and have placed themselves on record as condemning a public man upon grounds which he has declared in the most positive manner possible are wholly false.

BY WAY OF VARIETY.

Who Pay-Badge—You say you have so much trouble to get paid for service, but I notice you have bought a new house lately. Some of your patients must pay Dr. Helmcken for their hair—Boston Transcript.

A Shame—Housekeeper (to a book agent who brings the tenth installment of a novel)—I can't take the book Mr. Meier is dead. Book agent—Oh, what a shame! It's right at the most exciting part of the story!—Pittsburg Blatter.

CERTIFICATE OF THE REGISTRATION OF AN EXTRA-PROVINCIAL COMPANY.

"Companies Act, 1897."
"Cariboo Dredging Company."
[Registered the 5th May, A.D. 1898.]
I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day registered the "Cariboo Dredging Company" as an Extra-Provincial Company under the "Companies Act, 1897," to carry out or effect all or any of the objects herein after set forth to which the legislative authority of the Legislature of British Columbia extends.
The head office of the Company is situated in the City of Tacoma, County of Pierce, State of Washington, U. S. A.
The amount of the capital of the Company is sixteen thousand dollars, divided into sixteen thousand shares of one dollar each.
The objects for which the Company has been established are:
To buy, manufacture, operate, lease and sell every form of dredging and mining machinery; to buy, operate, lease and sell mines and mining interests and claims of any and every description; to enter into contracts for grading, dredging and trenching, and every form of useful work and employment; to do and perform all things necessary, proper or convenient for the carrying out and accomplishing the objects and purposes above specified.
Given under my hand and seal of office at Victoria, Province of British Columbia, this fifth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.
(L.S.) S. Y. WOOTTON,
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

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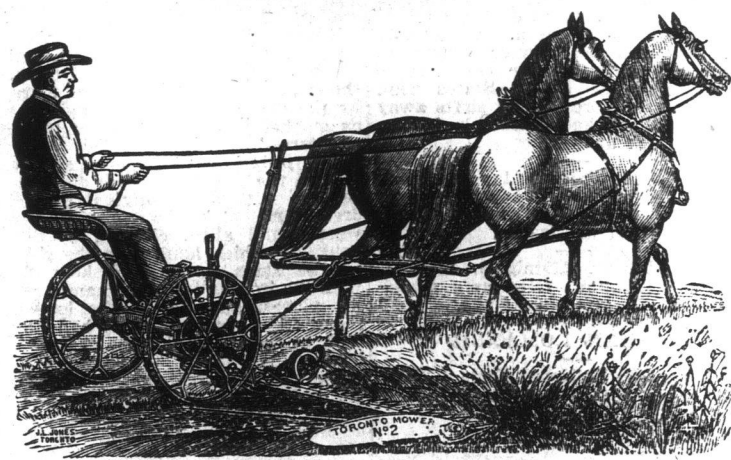
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- DEVILED CRAB - - - - - 15c.
- CHICKEN TAMALES - - - - - 25c.
- PORTABLE TABLE JELLIES - - - - - 10, 15, 25c.

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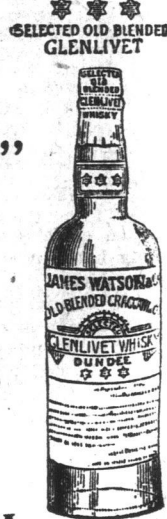
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