

The Colonist.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1895.

Published Every Monday and Thursday

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability.

W. H. ELLIS, Manager. A. G. SARGENTON, Secretary.

TERMS:

THE DAILY COLONIST. Published Every Day except Monday. Per year, postage free to any part of Canada...

ADVERTISING RATES.

REGULAR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING, as distinguished from every kind of transient character—that is to say, advertising referring to real estate, Government and Land Notices, published at the following rates, per line, solid nonpareil...

WILFULLY BLIND.

No one is so blind as he who will not see, and no one is so stupid as he who will not understand. The Times and those who take the Times as an authority on matters of fact have become phenomenal unbelievers.

The appearance of the Times' leading article should convince the most obstinate Grit of them all, particularly if he has the least sense of humor in his composition, that the unbelievers are making themselves very ridiculous.

Here we have the word of the Premier as to a matter of fact about which he knows everything as against the word of a Grit press correspondent about a subject with respect to which he has to depend upon others for his information.

Small politicians who think themselves wonderfully clever may affect to believe what the newspaper man says with respect to Mr. Prior's appointment, but they must be as shallow as they are dishonest.

A MISAPPREHENSION.

The Vancouver World says that "the telegram from Premier Bowell read that the Conservative meeting last night to the Hon. E. G. Prior that His Honor (Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney) had made remonstrances urging that the gallant Colonel be raised to the status of full-fledged Minister of the Crown."

asked the Premier himself to give an answer to the question that almost every one in the city was asking, and the Premier answered promptly. The appointment had been already made and there was no more politics in the Governor's question than if he had asked the Premier what cheese was selling at in Montreal.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S PROTEGES.

What are these South and Central American Republics, of which the United States has constituted itself protector and champion, like? Are they well-governed, are their inhabitants in the enjoyment of all the blessings of freedom?

The answer to these questions as far as the Central American republics are concerned comes from an American traveller who is at the same time a writer of more than ordinary ability. His name is Richard Harding Davis, and his account of those republics is to be found in the November number of Harper's Magazine.

It is supposed to belong to the republic of Honduras, but it is in reality the property of Rosner Brothers, who sell you everything from the German machetes to German music boxes, and who could, if they wanted it, purchase the entire republic of Honduras in the morning and make a present of it to the Kaiser in the course of the afternoon.

When we were in Nicaragua one little English banking house was fighting the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President and the entire Government, and while notes issued by the bank were accepted at their face value, those of the Government were taken only in the presence of a policeman or a soldier, who was there to see that you did take it.

It is to maintain the nominal independence of republics such as these that the American jingoes are ready to plunge their country into war. As to Venezuela, about which such an ado is being made, not only by the jingo press of the United States, but by the Head of its Government, another intelligent traveller, Mr. H. Somers Somerset, presumably an Englishman, says:

The home politics of the country are notoriously unjust and corrupt. Contracts both with foreigners and natives are not worth the paper of their deeds; and from time to time the injured populace show a marked dislike to their ruin, and a strong feeling for home reform breaks out in the city.

Political power and the honors of office mean the opportunity to pilfer the public treasure, and ruin the commerce of their country by breaking contracts and infringing on the rights of foreigners.

Such, then, is the Venezuela of to-day, and such it will remain as long as the present system of republicanism continues. Socially—a moral and refined aristocracy supported by a penitence but contented half-breed population. Politically—a mass of violence, fraud and corruption, utterly unworthy in its promises both to nations and individuals, and liable at any moment to overthrow such promises when a new government arises by force of arms antagonistic to the political creeds of its predecessor.

"UNNATURAL AND INEXPEDIENT."

In the face of Great Britain's wonderful success in planting colonies at great distances from their Mother Country it was certainly cool for Secretary Olney to write:

"That the distance, 3,000 miles of intervening ocean, makes any permanent political union between a European and an American state unnatural and inexpedient will hardly be denied. But physical and geographical considerations are the least of the objections to such a union."

According, then, to Mr. Olney the political union between Canada and Great Britain is "unnatural and inexpedient." That union has now continued for a long time and it is to-day at all appearance stronger than it was half a century ago.

European interests, so far, have never vexed the people of Canada nor have they felt any ill effects from European complications. None of these things trouble them. They have never found the bond that connects them with the Mother Country in the slightest degree galling, and they are more than contented that their union with the Old Land shall continue, unnatural and inexpedient as that union appears to Mr. Secretary Olney.

A BAD BEGINNING.

The Times, having commenced a campaign of falsehood and humbug, is determined to continue its tricky and deceptive course. It will have it that Col. Prior has not been appointed to a seat in the Cabinet even though the man who has the appointment of Cabinet ministers says he has been.

Thanks for expression of approval by Liberal-Conservative Association of Government's action in giving British Columbia representation to the Cabinet and the selection of Col. Prior, who in the past has proved himself indefatigable in looking after the interests of his Province.

We see that the smart Ales who run and inspire the Times have been so exceedingly clever as to throw a doubt on the authenticity of the telegram read by Col. Prior at the Conservative meeting.

the Premier of the Dominion, are only a shade more idiotic than the men who believe, or say they believe, that in so important a matter as the appointment of a Cabinet Minister, the Premier does not mean what he says.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER.

It is said by some who are opposed to the Government's policy on the Manitoba school question that the Manitoba Government is required by the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to re-establish separate schools precisely as they were previous to 1890.

Here it is said specifically that the old law need not be revived, but that the existing law should be changed in such a way as to give the minority the redress they ask for.

The remedial order, which is intended to give effect to the Judgment of the Privy Council—no more, no less—it is asserted requires the enactment of the old separate school law. It does not.

What the minority in Manitoba want is to be placed on the same footing as regards education as are the minorities of Ontario and Quebec. It is admitted now that they are protected by the Constitution of Manitoba as the Catholic minority in Ontario and the Protestant minority in Quebec are protected by the Constitution of the Dominion.

Another correspondent, writing from Bedfordshire, says: Agricultural prospects are not very cheering, for if land is farmed well 50 per cent. of the value of the produce must go for labor, while taxation and rates are grinding agriculture into nothingness.

A MANITOBIAN'S TESTIMONY.

In reply to the accusation that the Dominion Government were too abrupt and dictatorial in requesting the Government of Manitoba to redress the grievance of the minority in the province complain, Mr. James Fisher, M.P.P., a Manitoba Liberal, who has written a series of able letters on the school question, says:

In the first place it is an absolute historical fact that the Dominion Government did, long before the issue of the order, approach the Government of the province and its legislature with an appeal that the latter should settle the question. It is a fact also that the communication containing this appeal was couched in terms that were altogether unobjectionable, and quite conciliatory.

The statements contained in this memorial are matters of the deepest concern and solicitude in the interests of the Dominion at large, and it is a matter of the utmost importance to the people of Canada that the laws that prevail in any portion of the Dominion should not be such as to occasion complaint of oppression or injustice to any class or portion of the people, but should be recognized as establishing perfect freedom and equality, especially in all matters relating to religion and to religious belief and practice, and the committee, therefore, humbly advise that Your Excellency may join in expressing the most earnest hope that the Legislature of Manitoba may take into consideration at the earliest possible moment the complaints which are set forth in this petition, and which are said to create dissatisfaction among the Roman Catholics, not only in Manitoba but likewise throughout Canada, and may take speedy measures to give redress in all the matters in relation to which any well-founded complaint or grievance be ascertained to exist.

It is no wonder that Mr. Fisher asks, "Can the most superstitious critic find fault with the language I have quoted?" In this appeal the Government of the

Dominion were not hampered by legal forms or technicalities, and they consequently addressed the Government of Manitoba in the most persuasive as well as the most respectful way. If the "sunny ways of diplomacy" could be effective with the Manitoba Ministry, this friendly, conciliatory and reasonable appeal, if it did not produce the effect aimed at by its authors, would at least have elicited a kindly and courteous reply. But no such answer was forthcoming. The formal reply was, we are told: "That the executive of the province see no reason for recommending the legislature to alter the principle complained of."

THE EFFECTS OF FREE TRADE.

Although the leading organ of the Liberal party has been compelled to declare that free-trade-as-it-is-in-England is for Canada "out of the question," it and the minor organs continue to recommend free trade to the farmers of the Dominion as a policy peculiarly favorable to them.

Yet what are the facts starting one full in the face at the present moment? Let me enumerate some of them. In the first place, it is beyond all possible question that farmers are abandoning their occupations—not only an isolated case here and there, but in large numbers and in all parts of the country.

Another correspondent, writing from Bedfordshire, says: Agricultural prospects are not very cheering, for if land is farmed well 50 per cent. of the value of the produce must go for labor, while taxation and rates are grinding agriculture into nothingness. Farmers are at a loss to know what to grow. Beef is selling very badly; at the price which stores command there is very little for the feeder.

TRADE REVIEWED.

New York, Dec. 20.—Bradstreet's says general trade at Montreal shows room for improvement, although the distribution of dry goods there exceeds the total of last year. At Quebec city the usual volume of trade is reported for the season and from Halifax it is telegraphed that a general business is unchanged with a steady demand for holiday goods.

THE SMALL DEBTS COURT.

NANAIMO, Dec. 20.—(Special)—In the Nanaimo court to-night Judge Harrison gave judgment in the case in which writs of prohibition were argued before him, and in which the constitutionality of the Small Debts court was assailed. The judge dismissed the writs and declared the act as valid in view of the legislature. The decision is directly contrary to that recently given by Mr. Justice Gressie.

FOREST BAY, Dec. 20.—Rev. James Whiting, pastor of the Methodist church here, dropped dead yesterday in his house, aged 65.

BRANTFORD, Dec. 20.—Rev. Mr. Alexander, one of the oldest Presbyterian ministers in Canada, is dead, aged 90.

The U. S. Gov't Reports show Royal Baking Powder superior to all others.

THE FLAGSHIP'S SEARCH

Scientific Calculations as to the Position of the "Strathnevis" Are Not Verified.

Thorough Exploration of Coast Waters During Both Day and Night.

H.M.S. Royal Arthur returned to Esquimalt yesterday, her search for the Strathnevis having not only been unsuccessful in so far as picking up that long missing steamer is concerned, but providing no new data or reliable information upon which a conclusion can be arrived at as to her present whereabouts. The cruise terminated somewhat sooner than had been generally expected, but was—as was to have been expected—thorough and systematic.

By 7 p.m. on Monday, a position in latitude 48:50 N. and longitude 131:10 W. was reached, and from then a careful and systematic search was made of an area comprised between the parallels of 48:50 N. and 50:5 N. and the meridian of 131:10 W. and 134:00 W., that is, an area of about 120 miles longitude by 70 miles wide, by steaming in parallel lines alternately east and west, 20 miles apart.

At 10 p.m. on the 18th, the Royal Arthur was in latitude 49:23 N., longitude 132:46, the wind still being N.W. by W. with showers. At noon on the 17th the wind backed to W. and remained there until noon of the 18th, when the position was latitude 50:05 N., longitude 133:08 W. By 8 o'clock p.m. on the 18th, the wind was S.E., blowing fresh, and the glass falling rapidly—by midnight it was blowing a gale. At 3 a.m. on the 19th, the glass having fallen eight-tenths of an inch in five hours, the wind quickly backed to E. and then N., and blew a whole gale from N.W., with a strong sea and frequent squalls.

Flattery light was made at 7 a.m. on the 20th, the ship having covered 1,200 miles in a search made in favorable circumstances considering the season, and although not successful, it gives the negative information that the Strathnevis must have been set considerably out of the track she would have endeavored to maintain. All courses and directions of wind, etc., are "true"; the currents experienced were very light, being N. 60 deg. W. 6 min., between the 16th and the 17th, and S. 3 min. between the 17th and the 19th, no nights being obtained on the 18th. With the exception of 14 hours S.E. and 9 hours S.W., the winds were in the N.W. quarter and the swell was N.W. all the time.

For searching by day a crow's nest was fitted for the lookout man at the mast head at 107 feet above the water, so that a steamer would be visible 15 miles away; and at night two electric search lights were elevated 30 feet above the sea, and worked at frequent intervals during the dark hours. They would be visible twenty or thirty miles on a cloudy night, and it was hoped would call forth a rocket or signal of some sort, from the disabled Strathnevis.

AWARDED HIGHEST HONORS—WORLD'S FAIR. DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER. MOST PERFECT MADE. A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.