

THE DAILY TIMES

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THE WEEKLY TIMES

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THE TIMES P. & P. COMPANY, WM. TEMPLEMAN Manager

TO THE SUBSCRIBERS, When you wish to have your address changed, please give former as well as new address.

The Weekly Times

Friday, Victoria, June 29, 1894.

DOMINION FRANCHISE.

In introducing his franchise act amendment bill Sir John Thompson gave an explanation 'throwing a little further light on the subject. As the franchise is the most important topic which the citizen has to consider, we need offer no excuse for reproducing the following summary of the premier's statement:

The principal features of the bill were: First, in reference to the revision of the present year, to bring into force the provisions of the redistribution act of 1892. It will follow that the revision of the present year will be made on the basis of the constituencies as rearranged by the act, although the act would not come into force until the expiration of the present parliament, but it is the duty of the government to see that the constituencies shall be ready for a general election, so that while it is possible that there will be another revision next year and before a dissolution, we must keep the constituencies in a position to have the vote taken at any time.

A change has been proposed also in the act that the basis of the franchise shall be adopted from the franchise of the several provinces. While he admitted that this was a new departure, it was not at all a surrender of any principle for which the government had contended in the past. The practical difference between the Dominion and the provincial franchise is now so few as to render it not worth the expense of keeping them up separately, and the adoption of a common system for local and Dominion purposes has the recommendation of economy, which was not peculiar to the system which has been in vogue for the past few years.

This new system should be available for years to use and while some difficulty and labor will be experienced in the preparation of the first list, the bill will simplify the revision as to make future revisions easy. These difficulties would be partly caused because the present lists were three years old. The great principle of the act of 1885, however, that the revision shall be made by officers under the control of parliament, has been adhered to in the bill, first as regards the franchise itself, and secondly as to the carrying out of the franchise law the principle is maintained that the elections to the Dominion house ought not to be under the control, as regards franchise, of the officers of any other than the federal authorities.

An obvious reply to Sir John Thompson was that which Mr. Laurier gave, namely, that the government is retaining the worst feature of the present system when it keeps the power of placing the revision in the hands of partisan officers if it chooses to do so. In reply to Hon. David Mills the premier made the further statement that the provincial lists could not be regarded as conclusive, for it was proposed that persons who might have applied to the provincial officers and been rejected may apply to the Dominion officer to be put on the federal list if able to establish his qualification.

It seems that another change in the election machinery is proposed by the government, having reference to the form of ballot paper. In a measure introduced by Sir John Thompson it is provided that in future elections the paper used will be black, with oblong white spaces in which the names of the candidates will be printed, and round white spaces immediately to the right of the oblong spaces, in which the voter will place his cross. This should do away with mistakes in the marking of the ballot by the voter, and with nearly all disputes as to the validity of ballots.

LIKE MASTER LIKE ORGAN.

With its usual fat-wittedness the Colonist makes another reference to the letter episode at New Westminster, and of course instead of trying to defend the premier from the charge of dishonesty it makes an attack on the Times. Fortunately the organ's attacks are rendered harmless by its want of teeth, or the Times would long since have been torn to pieces. In this case our neighbor for

the second time elects to ignore the report of Mr. Davis's speech in the News, the government organ at Westminster, wherein the following sentence appeared: "Mr. Davis then proved Mr. Brown in a delicate lie in an assertion that a letter was read in the house, which, after a long while the deceased member was unable to find." We assumed in the first place that the government organ's report was correct, a most reasonable assumption. We have since said that if we assume its correctness as regards the reading of the letter in the house, there still remains the fact that Mr. Davis challenged Mr. Brown to read the letter from the journals, when he knew the letter was not there. The premier's object was evidently to create the impression that the letter was not read in the house, and to seek to create that impression indirectly was even more dishonest than to offer a direct denial. In short, the premier was guilty of a "suggested falsity," just as the Colonist is now in misrepresenting what the Times has said on the subject. It is equally hard for the premier and the organ to stick to the truth.

THE ELECTRIC SITE.

Ald. Wilson writes strongly in support of the council's decision respecting the electric station site, yet he does not convince us that the majority of the aldermen did the best they could for the ratepayers' interest. If it be true that the preparation of the Nuttall lots will involve the expenditure of only a few hundred dollars instead of the \$5000 spoken of, then indeed will the objections be materially modified; but we have reason to doubt the correctness of the estimate given by the worthy alderman.

We are also inclined to suspect that the combination of uses of which he speaks will not be found practicable. Mr. Wilson says the choice was narrowed down to two lots, the one selected and one situated on Rock Bay. It is hard to understand why that should have been so. Mr. Wilson says he favored locating the station on the city property on James Bay. Other aldermen have also in private declared themselves in favor of the same site, and we cannot well understand why more was not heard of it in council. That is another mystery. There were other suitable sites mentioned which seem to have been rejected without any reason being given to the public at all events. Under the circumstances it is hard to see why the aldermen should have felt themselves restricted to the choice of one out of two lots. The result is, as we have pointed out, that an undue proportion of the available funds is swallowed up in providing the ground for the station. We have already noticed the curious fact that the council has decided to purchase a piece of property at more than double the amount for which it is assessed, and Ald. Wilson in this connection gives a most interesting list at the end of his letter. Have these properties been assessed so much too low, or did their owners hope to bleed the city by asking so much more than their real value? If any one of the lots had been placed on the roll of the amount fixed in the tender there would most likely have been an appeal to the court of revision. We hope Mr. Northcott will take note of the figures for the next assessment, and we are certain the ratepayers will feel grateful to Ald. Wilson for taking the trouble to make out his list.

A CHANCE FOR ENTERPRISE.

An American paper extracts from a report of Consul Mason, of Frankfurt Germany, an interesting description of the new process whereby electricity is employed in the smelting of iron. The smelting or casting is effected by electric heat under the influence of rarefied air, and is performed at a reduction of 50 per cent. in the present cost of casting iron, and other metals, besides a saving in time and an important gain in the character of the product, the castings being free from oxidation and blow holes. Mr. Mason describes the apparatus as consisting of an airtight furnace which is lined with glazed firebrick and has its hearth connected with a mould into which the fused metal flows in obedience to the law of gravitation. The firebrick lining forms an efficient insulation, and the electric current is sent through the charge directly without the use of any fuel or the employment of carbon electrodes. The fused metal is nearly pure and free from carbon, and is ready to be melted away from the refractory element. The continued exhaustion of the air and the produced gases increases the fluidity of the molten metal, preventing oxidation and blistering, and permitting the production of castings which are dense within, smooth outside, and possessing the highest mechanical qualities. In a small experimental furnace a ton and a half of pig iron was smelted in fifteen minutes by a current of 30,000 amperes and 50 volts, or about 2,000 horsepower. The remarkable thing about this process appears to be that no fuel is required. Using the language of the unphilosophical man who regards electricity as a material fluid, one may say "the electricity is pumped in" upon the cold metal, warms it up to its work, and effects the separation without the aid of other heat than that given by the current, though that may be obtained from a waterfall. So that the possibilities of the new process must be immense if it be all that is claimed for it. It is pointed out that this process for the production of pig iron and steel must be especially valuable in places where water power is abundant. Since it is estimated that the process will require 30 to 50 per cent. less fuel than the present one, where steam is used to generate the electricity, with a corresponding economy

of production, the greater saving to result from the use of water power will be easily apparent. It appears to us that the invention of the process opens up a great field for enterprise in connection with British Columbia iron deposits, especially those at Sooke. There the ore is found at the water's edge, where it can be loaded directly on vessels. A few miles inland the Sooke and Leach rivers offer unlimited water power, which could be used most advantageously to generate electricity and transmit it to the sea shore in the immediate vicinity of the iron ore deposits. If the new process is anything like so successful as Consul Mason represents it, there can be no doubt about it being used with the greatest advantage at Sooke. In fact, there is probably no place in the world where the facilities are combined so well as here. Here, it seems to us, is an idea which could be developed by the owners of the Sooke mines, with great profit to themselves and to the province.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Rev. Mr. Chestnut at Westminster and Rev. Mr. Maxwell at Vancouver have spoken against the government. The World takes revenge by playing on the former's name and calling the latter an ass. The Vancouver organ is just stupid enough to be unable to see that it is thus hurting its own cause.

Mr. Turner is going to hold five meetings in Delta district and Mr. Davis two. Evidently the ministers see great danger of Mr. Foster being elected unless some extra effort is made against him. They will not do much towards accomplishing his defeat.

The Colonist makes a great ado because the government appointed a polling place for Pemberton Meadows after its intention of omitting one was exposed. There is every reason to infer from the circumstances that its first idea was to disfranchise the electors of that district.

It seems that in Westminster government emissaries are going around telling certain voters that their ballots will be examined, and that if they vote opposition they will be sure to lose their places. The same practice is resorted to elsewhere. We need say nothing of the villainy and immorality of such tactics; the intimidator is rightly held in abhorrence by every man of decency. But voters will need to be on no way afraid, for government emissaries cannot find out how they vote. They may deposit their ballots in perfect confidence that no man can know how they vote unless they choose to tell it themselves.

Says the Monetary Times: Lord Mountstephen, on a visit to Montreal the other day, is reported to have expressed little confidence in the probability of Mr. Huddart succeeding in carrying out his projected scheme of Atlantic steamship service. This means that the Canadian Pacific company does not look for Atlantic connections from this source. Should this unfavorable forecast be realized, their delay must take place before Canada will have a fast line of Atlantic steamers. If the question of increasing the subsidy beyond the maximum named by the government should be raised, it must for the present, if not for good, be answered in the negative. We may admit with Lord Mountstephen that a fast line of Atlantic steamers would be a great advantage for Canada, but even then a great advertisement may come too dear.

These are days of hardship among members of the commons. Mr. Corby, the representative of West Hastings, has been obliged to resign because of a violation of the independence of parliament act, and it looks as though Mr. Turcotte would have to follow his example.

The Vernon News rebukes the Vancouver Weekly for attributing to it something it did not do, and in respect to Mr. Vernon's chances of re-election, the reliability of the World's political intelligence is well shown by the incident.

"THE MYSTERY OF THE SITE."

To the Editor: Perhaps you will allow me space to reply to the very suggestive article in your paper yesterday, with reference to the purchase of a site for the city electric light station. My opinion was, and still is, that the site should have been on the city property on James Bay flats. At the east end of the flats, at the place as now proposed to erect our buildings, close to the salt water at all tides, and moreover the ashes from the furnaces would have filled up some of the ugly mud holes over there, and thus saved the cost of their removal. Instead of putting money in land it could have been used in making a better sort of building to ornament the neighborhood. I advocated this plan in the council, and at the meeting to select a site I moved in this direction, but my motion was not entertained. Having shelved my James Bay scheme, the council settled down to business, and the sites were reduced to two. I was therefore compelled to decide between them, and in doing so I believe I have acted in the best interests of the city. In giving my reasons for the course I took I will deal with the two sites and speak of them as you have been pleased to designate them, viz.: Site No. 1, the "electrician's" site (lots 2 and 3, blk. S. Johnson street). Site No. 2, the "four of the aldermen" site (lots 122 and 123, in respect to No. 1). Before considering the sites I may be well to state for the information of the public that after the city had received certain offers of sites it was deemed advisable to advertise, which was done with the result that No. 2 was tendered by the owner, instead of the agent, as had previously been done, at a reduction of \$700 from the original tender. Now I will deal with site No. 1. This property is situated on Rock Bay mud flats, inside the bridge. Every turn of the tide leaves it a long way from salt water. In my opinion it was not suitable to advertise, which was done, could not have got a regular supply of water for the condensers, which is indispensable to the efficient and economical working of the steam machinery of an electric plant.

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CANADIAN NEWS.

The News of Eastern Canada in Short Paragraphs. Winnipeg's building improvements for the first half of the year totalled up to over \$900,000. At Fort Francis James Griffith, who ran a ferry before the falls, was caught in the swift current and carried over to his death. News has also been received of the drowning near Barwick of Mr. Waine, an Indian school teacher. Lieut. Governor Mackintosh has been unable to transact business in his office for the past twelve days. He is suffering from an attack of acute sciatica. The Northwest Assembly is expected to meet in August. The date of the banquet to be given by the Montreal board of trade in honor of the colonial delegates has not yet been fixed, but will probably take place at the Windsor on Thursday evening, July 5. A cablegram has been received by Commander Booth of the Salvation Army from his father, General Booth, stating he is coming to Canada in November. Frank More, of Rat Portage, an explorer, while intoxicated, fired a revolver twice at his wife. Fortunately both shots missed, and he was arrested. It is given out that C. P. Macleod, late manager of the Silver Star, Montreal, and a touring company, has been arrested in Seattle, charged with setting fire to the warehouse and office of that company a few months ago at Brandon. The authorities will apply for the extradition of the prisoner. Ireland came from western Ontario. The Presbyterian General Assembly closed on Thursday night after the disposal of several Northwest matters. Almonte has voted \$40,000 for stock in the Carp, Almonte and Lanark railway. "It is expected," says the St. Catharines Journal, "that the pear crop in this vicinity will turn out very large this year."

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THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. Meetings Arranged For—Mr. Wardle not the Man for Yale. Minister Turner is announced to address public meetings as follows: Ladner's Landing, June 26th, at 8 p.m.; Elgin, 10 a.m., and Surrey Centre, 3 p.m.; Wednesday 27th: Otter Hill, 10 a.m., and Fort Langley, 8 p.m.; Thursday, 28th; Chilliwack, 7 p.m., Friday, Premier Davis will hold public meetings at Surrey, 1 p.m., and Fort Langley, 8 p.m., Tuesday, July 3rd.

J. M. Duval, of Vancouver, has been speaking at Vernon in the interests of Mr. Graham.

A Hope correspondent writes in reference to West Yale: "Now, what we want to know is, when or where did Mr. Wardle gain his immense popularity? We never heard of it here, and I don't think Mr. Davis ever did, or he would not have written to Mr. Wardle to withdraw and let a stronger man run. Now, I never thought Mr. Wardle had any idea he could beat Mr. Davis. I thought he was like the school boy, only running for fun, or else for the purpose of defeating the government. It is not long since he was very hostile against the government, and now he is posing as a government candidate. It is my opinion that when the election is over, the World will find out that they were puffing the wrong man, and if Mr. Wardle should be so successful as to save his two hundred dollars, he will be heartily congratulated."

Beggar—"Have you a copper you can spare, sir?" Carleton—"Yes, you will find him in the kitchen, making love to the cook."

Triss' not too each accensin' tongue, As nos' pusses do, But still believe dat story false Which ought out toe be true.

"The next time I go to that Episcopal church I am going to take a detective along," said Mr. Haddock, a few years ago, however, he absconded to New York to escape a charge of embezzlement preferred by the Hebben estate.



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DATE OF THE EXODUS.

Information Gleaned From the Ancient Records of Egypt.

Although the monuments and papers of Egypt give us no direct information upon the subject of the exodus, says Mr. A. L. Lewis in "Scarab's Magazine," they do indirectly indicate a certain period within which it must have taken place. Thutmose the Third, who was the most powerful king of that dynasty (the eighteenth) which finally drove the Hyksos invaders out of Egypt and reunited the whole country as far as Mesopotamia, overrunning Palestine on his way; he left lists of the conquered nations, but does not mention the Israelites among them. What is, perhaps, more important is that while the Israelites have left records of invasion by Mesopotamians, Moabites, Canaanites, Philistines, and he does not mention any invasion by the Egyptians, and the conclusion is that the Israelites were not settled on the west side of the Nile till after the wars waged by Ramesses the Second at the commencement of his reign, which began not earlier than 1388 B. C., or, as some now say, 1296 B. C. It has been attempted to explain this difficulty away by suggesting that Ramesses the Second kept close to the sea coast on his march through Palestine and did not strike inland until he was some distance to the north of the Israelites; but it is inconceivable that he should not have secured his long line of communications by establishing posts so far inland that they must have been brought into contact with the Hebrews if the latter had at that time been settled in their own country. The earliest date therefore, at which the Egyptian history will permit the exodus to have taken place, even when full allowance is made for the time spent by the Jews in the wilderness and in completing their journey, would seem to be about 1430 B. C., while, if the shorter chronology be adopted, it could not have been much earlier than 1300 B. C.

"For once I'm going to have my own weight," she said as she stepped on the scale and deposited a penny in the slot. "Teacher—" An axiom is a self-evident truth. "What axioms arose up in your mind? The easiest date therefore, at which the Egyptian history will permit the exodus to have taken place, even when full allowance is made for the time spent by the Jews in the wilderness and in completing their journey, would seem to be about 1430 B. C., while, if the shorter chronology be adopted, it could not have been much earlier than 1300 B. C."

"First Boy—"How's business?" "Second Boy—"Poor. Only sold one stamp this week, and I didn't get any thing for that but three marbles. Never saw times so hard."

Mr. Benjamin (calling from window)—"They! they! You for you stand dead and let dot Yankee you knock you all to pieces for? Vy don't you run away?" "They—"I cannot run away, mein father, I am standing on a nickel."