Twice-a-Week Times

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THE ELECTIONS ACT.

As the Times pointed out in its first reference to the proposed amendments to the Dominion Elections Act, the principal object of the measure is to overcome certain difficulties which have arisen in Manitoba. There, as in British Columbia also to some extent, the provincial and the Dominion constituencies do not harmonize with each other. It has been necessary for returning officers to take names of voters from certain provincial constituencies and incorporate them in the larger Dominion constituencies. The same conditions exist in British Columbia to some extent. A correspondent of the Times, who acted as returning officer in Nanaimo at the last election and in some other elections also, explained some days ago the difficulties he encountered in his efforts to segregate the names of the voters as they appeared on the provincial lists. It is well known that returning officers in Comox-Atlin, in New Westminster and in Yale-Cariboo had to deal with conditions of a like character. It is to do away with these complications and to have complete lists when polling day arrives that the mendments to the act have been framed by the Minister of Justice. Doubtless the action of the Manitoba government, inspired by one Hon. Robert Rogers, Attorney-General, in attempting to create an impression that some voters had been distranchised in the rearrangement of the names of voters, had something to do with the determination of the Dominion government to have lists specially prepared for that province. As the conditions in British Columbia were precisely the same, only to a lesser extent, it was determined to apply the amendments to this province also. That is the truth in regard to a matter upon which a good deal of unnecessary agitation has arisen. When the lists are opened, can any good reason be given why they should not be made as complete as possible, why any one should be distranchised who has an unquestioned right to cast his ballot? It will still be open for Conservatives to scrutinize the work of the Dominion officials. If they have any objections to lodge against names of voters, they can do so, just as Liberals are compelled to scrutinize the work of Conservative collectors under the provincial act. It appears to us, as we have already said, that the objections of Mr. Bowser and of those who echo his objections to the act, can only be characterized as impertinent.

PRINCE RUPERT'S DAY.

Prince Rupert, B. C., has hitherto been merely a name upon the map. Although engineers and surveyors have been diligently engaged in clearing the land against the days of activity to come, although wharves have been constructed and ships have landed their freight, the place has remained an uninviting wilderness, because its time had not come. To-day marks the turning point in the history of one of the great commercial cities of the future. Active work upon the construction of Canada's second transcontinental railway has begun. This work will be prosecuted without ceasing, at tremendous cost in money, and doubtless at considerable cost in human life also, until the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway shall be complete from Prince Rupert, B. C., to Moncton, N. B. We are told that already the greater portion of the new road across the prairies has been completed and that it will be an important factor in the transportation of the anticipated great crop of 1908. The enterprise will be a paying one on that section of the system, both from the point of view of the shareholders and from the point of view of the people of Canada, from the very beginning. It was essential to the settlement and the progress of the prairies, and it was essential to the development and continued prosperity of Canada, because without additional railway accommodation settlement was out of the question. There was no such urgent necessity for the construction of either the eastern or the western sections, because for physical reasons the settlement of the regions traversed cannot be so rapid. For physical reasons also the work of the engineers and surveyors engaged in locating the eastern and western sections of the line was much more difficult. Their task has just been completed. The work of construction will now be rushed upon both ends. The government has made large appropriation for the eastern end, the company has made provision for the western end. The probability is that both sections will be completed well within the time set and the trains will be running over the entire system before the year 1911 has passed into history. To British Columbians the most interesting thing in connection with the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific will be the future of Prince Rupert and the development of the great country which will be tributory to it. The new city is destined to be one of the great commercial centres of this province and of Canada. To-day marks the turning-point in its career. Victoria extends her infant sister hearty congratulations and hopes the fond anticipations of her sponsers may be realized.

FLYING MACHINES.

A contemporary discusses in an interesting way the prospects of the human race solving the problem of aerial navigation. There is only one way in which the thing can be accomplished. Let some one construct a machine as light in fibre as the bones and feathers of the birds of the air, equip it with an engine as efficient and trifling in "displacement" as the hearts of all sentient beings, and endow it with intelligence or instinct, and the task is done. Any machine whose intelligence is not a part of itself can never navigate the air successfully. That is our opinion. We may be wrong of course. Wonderful things have been done within the compass of half a century. Many persons alive to-day can remember the time when "old salts" shook their heads incredulously at the idea of "iron floating." They had a conclusive demonstration ready for all who told them an iron ship had been constructed upon the Clyde and was actually in commission. They simply threw a chip of wood and a piece of iron into the water. The result was to them quite convincing. To discuss such academic questions as "specific gravities" of substances was a mere waste of time and mental energy. Yet to-day the "iron kettles" sit more buoyantly upon the waters of the great deep than the lightest Thermopylae that ever spread her white wings to the breeze. The invention of light explosive motors has done much to assist speculative inventors in their quest of practical flying machines. Propellers whose motive power can be carried in small compass now beat the air to some purpose. But there is still the all but imponderable atmosphere, which may be calm one minute and raging with fury the next, to be dealt with. People are timid about entrusting themselves to such a capricious element. Ships which "go down to the sea" carry their life-saving appliances with them. In case of accidents, now very rare indeed with vessels of the highest class, there are lifeboats ready to be launched. If an engine breaks a shaft, the accident does not involve an immediate descent to the depths. In the case of airships, this is not so, nor will it be the case for many years to come, apparently not within the lifetime of the present generation. Consequently we say flying machines are interesting things for lovers of speculative science to experiment with. But that they are likely to prove practical vehicles for transportation purposes is something so remote as not to be worthy of serious consideration.

ASPIRATIONS OF ANARCHISTS.

An American anarchist takes occasion to warn President Roosevelt of what has happened in Russia. Things are happening there quite frequently. The Russian anarchists also seem to handle their bombs much more effectively. They generally go off as timed and do not always hoist the individual who carries the petard. Still what does Mr. Berkman, or whatever his name may be, mean by comparing the United States with Russia? Is there not complete individual freedom in the United States? Or is it that these individuals who pant after freedom as the hart does after the water brook will never be satisfied until they have blown all governments up and reduced society to a state of chaos? One of these continental "aspirationists" with an unpronouncable name "got" President McKinley. Have the successors of this assassin made up their minds that it may be necessary to kill Roosevelt also? That is the impression the remarks of Berkman will make upon the minds of his insane followers. And the disturbing thought arises that any one of these fanatics may make up his mind to carry out the idea conveyed without waiting for the word to go forth or for the drawing of lots to determine who shall have the coveted honor. It is all very well to inquire whether freedom of speech is not to be tolerated in the United States or anywhere else. The mischievous effect of license of speech must also be considered. When Mr. Berkman informs the world through the press that it may be necessary to "remove" President Roosevelt or some one else, the mischief of the thing is that some misguided liberator may become possessed of the idea that he is an ordained minister in the cause of freedom and that he must act with celerity. Consequently there appear to be good public reasons for the determination of President Roosevelt to take stringent measures for the suppression of all anarchist meetings and for the prevention of the publication of all incendiary appeals.

We hope the ladies of British Columbia will not be misled and enticed into temptation by that report about the aged party who died lately in the East. The old lady had been a smoker all her days, but it was a pipe, not a cigarette, she had in her mouth when death visited her dwelling.

ANOTHER KAIEN ISLAND DEAL.

The Prince Rupert Empire charges that the provincial government is determined to manipulate the interest it possesses in the Grand Trunk Pacific townsite for the benefit of its party friends. It claims that the deft hand of the Attorney-General can be plainly discerned in the disposition proposed to be made of the lots in the new townsite. The fair way to place the lots upon the market would be by public auction. If that course were pursued every one would have a fair chance in the competition. But it is evidently not the intention of the government to place all competitors upon an equality. The lots are to be disposed of by private sale. One real estate firm in Vancouver is to be given the exclusive privilege of negotiating sales. This will doubtless prove a very profitable arrangement for the vendors and for the persons enjoying the distinguished consideration of Hon. W. J. Bowser; but it will be bad for the province itself and for all without the pale of the Tory elect. The Empire calls upon the Conservative press of the province to enter a protest and insist upon upright and honorable dealing. The names of the Victoria Colonist, a newspaper which professes to be "independent within the party," the Vancouver Province, and other Conservative newspapers are specifically mentioned as journals which cannot afford to submit in silent to the outrage proposed by the Attorney-General and Premier McBride. We fear the aggressive Empire is making a vain appeal. The organs mentioned turn their faces to the Parliament buildings every morning and each evening as they say their prayers to the great Allah who sanctifies the imposing pile with his presence. There is no god but McBride, and Bowser is his prophet. Is it conceivable that this twain could be guilty of any wrong? Please do not mention the Kaien Island deal or anything of that kind. The latest scandal is but a sequel to the first. What does a Conservative government exist for if not to feather the nests of its supporters—and its own nest in association with faithful and true friends?

THEIR EYES OPENED.

Speaker Cannon of the United States House of Representatives has declared for an investigation of the paper trust. At the same time Mr. Cannon is careful to point out that if there is a paper trust and it has unduly advanced prices, there is no connection between the exorbitant prices and the tariff. Whereat all the newspapers interested set up a howl of derision. They ask Mr. Cannon or the president, or some other autocrat, to abolish the duties upon news print and see what happens. There is no danger of the duty being abolished, it is needless to say. If that were done, it might prove an object lesson for the nation. The secret of the trusts and combines in general might be exposed at one fell swoop. Then of course no mere politician could tell what might happen. There might be a demand for tariff revision so insistent that the high protectionists could not resist it by a promise of revision at some time in the indefinite future or in some equally indefinite event. The supporters of monopoly know too much to commit themselves to any such preposterous proposition as that. Yet the newspapers deserve to be compelled to pay through the nose for their support of a system they must know to be responsible for the despoilment of the people in general. It is only when their own interests are affected directly that they perceive the injustice and the iniquity of protection. In New York it is claimed that only two or three of the newspapers, enjoying the largest circulations of any journals in the world, pay dividends to their stockholders. They have traced the effect back to its true cause, and are clamoring for relief. Why do they not espouse the cause of their constituents who are suffering from like monopolistic evils? That would be the logical and honest thing for them to do. If they do this, how long would Mr. Cannon be able to resist them with his sophistries? They have no right to ask for a form of emancipation they are not willing to see extended to the consuming public at large.

London Punch pokes a little fun at Rudyard Kipling's habit of praising John Bull's boys at the evpense of the old gentleman:

I am about to speak of England and those whose misfortune it is to live there. I speak of England with respect. I have tried to do what I can for the country, but everybody can realize that the efforts of one man must be useless—especially when the rest are living in an iodoform-scented fog of sentimental miasma. For two years they've been living there, and it is not dispelled yet. Men of the blood despise them. You can hear South Africa shouting her scorn from Table Mountain, while Australia responds with derision from the banks of the Wagga-Wagga. Wherever there is a colony the doors have been shut and bolted and barred. Even the black man of the remoter Bush curls a contemptuous lip when you tell him about empire. Only yesterday I happened to be speaking to a young Fijian about the motherland. I dwelt on her glories; her steamers, her locomotives, her motor-cars, her bayonets, her big guns, her ports, and her imperial politicians. "Me no eatee," he remarked, and the conversation fell flat. That is what the government has made of England in two short years. To-day a Canadian took me to Canada. He was laughing all the way. "Don't you see," he said, "that you're not in it? Size, acreage — just think of it? Frenchmen, too, lots of them. Montreal, Toronto, and Quebec, can't you see? No, you're not in it." It was the password. I bowed my head. The truth couldn't be contested. That, again, is the fault of the government.

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The leader of the opposition in the Prince Edward Island legislature has censured the government for accepting the "better terms" given the province by the conference of provincial premiers. He claims that for every dollar received from the Dominion the province contributes ten to the federal treasury. Doubtless all the provinces could put forward a similar plea if they were so minded or if they were governed by a Premier McBride. It is also clear that if Mr. Borden were ever called upon to conduct the affairs of the Dominion he would have considerable business on his hands. He says in such an event he would appoint a commission to investigate British Columbia's claims. Of course he could not refuse any of the provinces similar commissions if they asked for them. And if the claims thus recklessly made were endorsed the Dominion might as well go out of business as a confederation. All its revenues, and more, would be swallowed up in provincial subsidies. It is also worthy of note that every province in the Dominion has shown a surplus in its financial operations for the past year. In most of them, too, the excess of receipts over expenditures is due to the increased subsidies derived from federal sources. Premier McBride claims to be a loyal Canadian, but for purely partizan purposes and upon assumptions based upon false premises, he has succeeded in stirring up a good deal of ill-feeling and discontent within the Dominion.

* * *

The fruit growers of British Columbia have formed what appears to be a combine. But it is a benevolently inclined trust. It is explained that the prices of strawberries, etc., will not be any higher to consumers than they were last year—and may be lower—although they will be arbitarily fixed "for the season" by the "central exchange." Under this benevolent arrangement the economical housewife who under competitive conditions was wont to put off her preserving until prices had apparently reached the minimum, and to keep her lord an hungered for the same reason, might as well throw off all restrictions—because, "there ain't going to be no minimum." Prices will be the same for the entire season. This may appear to be a very fine arrangement from the point of view of the strawberry men, but such an attempt at interference with laws which have hitherto been regarded as immutable will cause some comment. It will also eventually be profitable for some independent grower.

* * *

One of the most noticeable features of commercial growth in South Africa during the past year has been the almost abnormal development of her export trade in soil products, apart from gold and precious stones. This agricultural activity, it is thought, is due in great measure, if not entirely, to the display of South African fruits, grain, and farm produce shown at the South African exhibition in London last spring. The farmers in South Africa are beginning to realize that their fruit and grain, notably mealies, are sought after in London; and so important has the trade become that Cape Colony and Natal have each appointed special officers, attached to the department of their agents-general in London, whose special duty it is to answer inquiries concerning the produce of their respective colonies and inform their fellow-colonists concerning the demands of the home markets.

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Speaking of the Civil Service Commission's report, the Montreal Star says: "There is no notion, of course, that political patronage is an invention of the present government. It is rather one of the encumbrances on the estate which they inherited. Patronage has always been a parasite on the robust body of the most virile political party; and the only way in which the best of them seem able to escape from it is by putting it beyond their own power to exercise their malign privilege. 'A self-denying ordinance' would free the politicians in office from the worst of its effects; but it must be an ordinance which makes self-denial compulsory and not optional."

* * *

One would think a war were impending or that some great crisis menaced the Empire after reading the criticisms of the London Times and other newspapers upon the absence of the King from his post during the illness of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. There is no crisis on. There will be a slight change in the personnel of the government. But the party behind the government has a strong majority in Parliament which cannot be seriously impaired should the House live out its term of seven years. Wherefore all the fuss?

* * *

Ratepayers should not permit themselves to be deluded by specious arguments against the school by-law. There is urgent necessity for better and more healthful school accommodation. The appearance of some of our school premises moves many visitors to the city to scorn and derision.

Easter Suggestions for Men

Men's Nobby Spring Footwear

We have lately opened some very new and natty Footwear for men, some of the somewhat different kind, and as we carry such makes as Keith's Konqueror and others equally good, we are able to show models that are certainly a little out of the ordinary. Then, again, our prices will appeal to you as being the lowest consistent with good quality.

MEN'S TAN KID OXFORDS, Blucher cut, welted sole. Per pair $3.50
MEN'S TAN CALF BLUCHER OXFORDS, welted sole. Per pair $4.50
MEN'S TAN KID BLUCHER CUT LACE BOOTS, medium sole. Per pair....$3.00
MEN'S TAN RUSSIA CALF BLUCHER LACE BOOTS, welted sole. Per.. pair. $5.50
MEN'S KID BLUCHER LACE BOOT, welted sole. Per pair $3.50
MEN'S DONGOLA KID LACE OXFORDS, medium sole. Per pair $2.50
MEN'S WHITE CANVAS BLUCHER OXFORDS. Per pair $1.75
MEN'S PATENT KID BLUCHER OXFORDS, welted sole. Per pair....$4.00
MEN'S TAN VICI KID BLUCHER CUT LACE BOOTS, welted sole. Per pair.. ....$3.75
MEN'S DONGOLA KID LACE BOOTS, medium sole. Per pair $2.50
MEN'S VELOUR CALF BLUCHER LACE BOOTS, medium sole. Per pair....$3.00
MEN'S PATENT COLT BLUCHER LACE BOOT, welted sole. Per pair.....$5.00
MEN'S WHITE CANVAS LACE BOOT, welted sole. Per pair.....$2.50
MEN'S GREY CANVAS OXFORDS, medium sole. Per pair $1.50
MEN'S CHOCOLATE VICI KID BLUCHER OXFORDS, welted sole. Per pair.$4.50
MEN'S CALF BUTTON OXFORDS, welted sole. Per pair $5.00
MEN'S CALF BLUCHER OXFORDS, welted sole. Per pair $3.50

Men's Clothing for Spring

In our new assortment of Spring Hats for men you will find a most comprehensive showing of the correct styles. These represent the ideas of the foremost English and American makers who are authorities on what is correct for men's headwear. In such makes as Henry Heath, Stetson, Pelham, Borsaline, you are sure to get a thoroughly up-to-date shape, and whether you want an extreme or moderate style, we have it here. We have also a splendid showing of Straw Hats. It is really not any too early to look these over, as now you have the full range to select from. For quality our prices cannot be challenged, in either straws or felts. Both stiff and soft shapes in all the newest shades. Prices starting at $8.75

Men's Felt and Straw Hats

For the benefit of any man that intends to invest in a new suit for Easter, we call their attention to the fact that the Clothing we carry is sure to please. It will please you in style, it will please you in looks, it will please you in quality, and particularly in price it is bound to be satisfactory. There is a distinctiveness and an individuality about our Men's Clothing that appeals to good dressers. We can show you the very latest up-to-the-minute styles, made up in the newest and nobbiest cloths, perfectly tailored and beautifully finished, and yet costing no more than you have often paid for garments that were far inferior. We have an elegant assortment, particularly of the asked-for brown effects, so becoming and so dressy at prices ranging from $30 to $2.50

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

DETECTIVE PERDUE BRINGING PRISONER

Will Arrive Here To-morrow Evening With Louis Dondero.

(From Monday's Daily.)

Detective George M. Perdue will arrive in Victoria to-morrow evening bringing with him Louis Dondero, who is charged with having been one of the three men who robbed Tony Parravincini, a miner from the north, of $1,400 through a confidence game. The robbery occurred in the Poodle Dog hotel in this city last November, and Dondero was arrested in San Francisco about two months ago, since when extradition proceedings have been under way. Dondero will stand his trial here, and will probably appear in the police court on Wednesday.

According to the story told by Parravincini at the time he met three fellow Italians in Seattle and they undertook to sell him a mine which they said was located near Nanaimo. The whole party came to Victoria and met at the Poodle Dog to arrange the terms. According to these each of the four men was to put up $1,400, all of which was to be put in a valise, which was then to be locked and entrusted to Parravincini to take to Nanaimo, where the deal was to be completed and the money paid over. Parravincini had his money all right, and the others also each produced a roll which looked like a bundle of bills. All deposited their rolls in the valise, but, as it was being locked, one of the men with whom Parravincini was dealing jumped up and kissed him. While this was being done, it is said, Paravincini's roll of real money was removed from the valise, and a roll of paper substituted for it.

Suspecting nothing Parravincini took the train for Nanaimo, but on arriving there his erstwhile friends were not to be found. This aroused his suspicions,and he broke open the valise only to find that it contained nothing but four rolls of worthless paper. Tony put his case in the hands of the police, with the result that Dondero was arrested by the San Francisco police charged with being one of the parties implicated.

Detective Perdue, accompanied by Parravincini, went down to San Francisco to secure Dondero's extradition, which they have succeeded in doing. While so engaged, however, Parravincini fell a victim to Cupid, and is bringing a wife back with him. The party is coming overland, and should arrive here to-morrow evening.

—In the Institute hall, View street, at the beginning of May, an intertainment in aid of the Seamen's Institute will be held. A three-act comedy, "All a Mistake," will be presented for the first time in Victoria.

A HOSPITAL FOR LILLOOET

FRANK EAGLESON HAS BEEN ASSURED OF IT

After Persistently Pressing for the Undertaking it is Promised.

Through representations made to the provincial government by Mark Eagleson, M. P. P. for Lillooet, it has now been decided that sufficient ground from the government reserve at Lillooet will be set aside for the purpose of building a provincial hospital in that town.

Mr. Eagleson has during the time he represented Lillooet been continually pressing for this hospital. On the floor of the House he pointed out that many men met with accidents in that district and were in a sad position.

Mr. Eagleson, who was in town last week, took the opportunity of seeing Dr. H. E. Young, provincial secretary, on the matter about which he has been communicating with the department for some time, and on Saturday last he received the following letter from the provincial secretary's office:

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Victoria April 10th, 1908.

Mark Eagleson, Esq., Victoria.
Re Lillooet Hospital.

Sir,—Referring to our conversation with regard to a hospital, I beg leave to say that upon application from the government agent of the district the government will set aside a sufficient amount of ground in the government reserve for a hospital, and when your plans mature this department will give you $1,500 for hospital purposes.

I have, etc.,
H. E. YOUNG,
Provincial Secretary.

Mr. Eagleson, speaking on the matter on Saturday night last at the Dominion hotel, prior to his leaving for home, said that the matter would be actively taken up again on his arrival at Lillooet, and a subscription campaign strated there at once. He said there were sufficient promises made which, with the government assistance, would be sufficient to provide enough money to commence operations and make the cost of the new structure certain of being obtained in time for the building to be completed by next fall.

WAS PRESIDENT OF U. P. A.

Chicago, April 13. — John Vandercook, jr., president and general manager of the United Press Association, died on Saturday at a local hospital as a result of an operation for appendicitis.

FIND THAT DEATH WAS DUE TO SUFFOCATION

Coroner's Jury Investigates Death of William Hooper of Duncan.

(From Monday's Daily.)

The inquest into the circumstances surrounding the death of Wm. Hooper, of Duncans, which took place in the police station at an early hour Saturday morning, was investigated by a coroner's jury the same afternoon, and a verdict returned that the man had suffocated as a result of a piece of meat sticking in his windpipe. The story as told at the inquest was that while Hooper was eating in the Commercial restaurant, corner of Cormorant and Douglas streets, he was suddnly seized with illness and was conveyed to the door, where he commenced to vomit. While so engaged a piece of meat became lodged in his windpipe, causing his death. As soon as the seriousness of the man's condition was noted he was carried across the street to the police station, but died almost immediately on reaching there.

Lewis Hooper, a brother of the dead man, testified that when he last saw his brother on Friday morning he was apparently as well as ever. William had been subject to fainting spells, and, he supposed, had been seized with one while at supper in the Commercial restaurant.

George Helier was eating with Hooper when the latter exclaimed, "George, I'm going to have a fit." Hooper then collapsed on the floor, and had to be carried out to the sidewalk. He had attempted to help, but someone else had intervened. He had gone home after seeing Hooper lying on the sidewalk outside the restaurant.

Dr. Hermann Robertson, who conducted the post mortem examination, said there were no signs of violence on the body, nor any evidence of poisoning. There was a slight enlargement of the heart, and he had found a solid piece of meat sticking in the windpipe. From inquiries he was satisfied that the man had been seized with a fit, and knowing it was coming on had attempted to reach the door. While vomiting the piece of meat had jammed in the windpipe.

Constable Fry told of the man having been carried to the police station, where after one or two gasps he had expired.

Following this the jury retured to consider its verdict, which, when brought in, was to the effect that Hooper had died from suffocation as a result of a piece of meat sticking in his windpipe.

The names of the jurors were: Frank Heanski, foreman; John Lomp, Thos. T. Fenly, Roderick T. McKinnon, Arthur W. Evans, Thos Burke.

The Nippon Yusen steamship Aki Maru is expected to leave to-morrow for Honkgonk via ports. The Iyo Maru is due on Wednesday from Yokohama.