

The Colonist.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1900.

AN UNPRECEDENTED INSULT.

On Tuesday the government brought down and laid upon the table of the house a communication from the Lieutenant-Governor in which he expressed certain views as to the law excluding aliens from our placer mines. In the communication His Honor said: "I strongly approve of the reservation of our placer mines for British subjects only." Scarcely was the ink dry upon the copy of this recommendation laid on the table of the house than the government introduced a measure repealing the very law of which His Honor had expressed approval.

We hold this to be an unprecedented insult to the representative of Her Majesty. It is very much in the nature of a studied insult. The Lieutenant-Governor in good faith made certain suggestions and expressed certain opinions to his advisers. Constitutionally those suggestions and opinions should have been looked in the breasts of his advisers. It was an unprecedented thing to communicate them to the house. To communicate them to the house and follow them up by a measure to give effect to them would be a gross breach of privilege. To communicate them, and then to introduce legislation directly in the teeth of them is the grossest affront ever put upon the representative of the crown in a British colony, for they must have intended to introduce the bill when they brought down the communication.

RAIL TO THE NORTH.

A movement is on foot to interest the public in the construction of a railway to the north end of Vancouver Island, and a meeting is called to be held at the city hall on Friday next for this purpose. No proposal has been before the people in recent years that has met with more favor than this. Every one is for it heart and soul. The great thing now to be done is to crystallize the opinion by showing ourselves to be earnest. We must enlist the support of other communities, and this we can only do by taking vigorous steps ourselves.

We shall not repeat what has been said in the Colonist hitherto in reference to this project, nor anticipate what the speakers at the public meeting may say, but by showing ourselves to be present with urging that there shall be a large gathering of citizens to consider this extremely important question.

IF THE BOERS COULD WIN.

What would it mean if the Boers could win in the war now progressing in South Africa? This is a question about which very little has been said, but it is one well worth considering. We know what will happen when the British win. Life, liberty and property will be secured, and there will be no distinction between the law between men of any color, race or nationality. The black man, his wife and children, who have scarcely emerged from barbarism, will have equal protection from the law with the most cultured immigrant from Europe or America. But what would happen if the Boers could win? Dr. Moffat, brother-in-law of the great Dr. Livingstone, quoted one of the South African aborigines as saying: "If the English win, we black men can breathe and live; if the Boers win, we may as well die, for we shall be no more looked upon as men, but as cattle. So we shall go home and pray to God to make the arms of the English strong." The writings of Dr. Livingstone abound in proof that this is the attitude of the Boers towards the native population, and Dr. Livingstone was no bigot seeking to decry an alien race, but a broad-minded, charitable Christian gentleman.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Very serious work is before the people of British Columbia if they propose to retain even the semblance of political freedom. We say this with all sincerity, fully appreciating what the words imply. Whether or not it is possible to employ language and arguments in a newspaper strong enough to arouse the people to a sense of their danger we do not know, but we will mention a few of the matters which we regard as menacing our political liberty.

First: The Constitution of the province expressly declares that the Lieutenant-Governor shall appoint an Executive Council composed of five officials. No such Executive Council exists in British Columbia or has existed for nearly a year. The express direction of the Constitution has been disregarded. If this may be done with impunity in one instance it may be done in another. If two offices, which the Constitution declares are distinct, may be vested in one man, why may not three, or four, or five? Why may not a strong Lieutenant-Governor attach to himself one minister only, who need not be a member of the legislature, for the Constitution is silent upon this point, or why may not some strong minister dispense with any colleagues and administer the affairs of the province according to his own sweet will? Or what earthly use is a Constitution Act, if its provisions can be disregarded at any time with impunity? Wipe the thing off the statute book or else observe it.

Second: The right of free speech has been denied to members of the legislature, and the party caucus has been declared supreme. Members of the legislature have been choked off by the Speaker when exercising the most ordinary freedom of debate; the Speaker has frankly admitted that he attends party caucuses, and the majority of the house refuse to declare it wrong for him to do so. Until

the grades are very much less than by any other route. Thus while we are assisting the people of the United States to build up cities to control the trade of the Canadian northern gold fields, the government of that country is taking the advantage of transporting merchandise and passengers into the Alaskan gold fields. Surely it is about time for the government, the legislature and people of British Columbia to take some action in the premises and endeavor to retain some control of the carrying trade of their own country. If any proposition were made in the state of Washington to recognize the Canadian claim to the disputed territory or to divert the trade of Alaska to Canadian cities, public opinion would be at fever heat in a moment. No political party could live a day in the face of the furious blast of public indignation to which such a policy would give rise. Have we become so wholly apathetic here? Surely not. Surely the government will not act upon the only patriotic line of policy to be pursued in this regard, there will go up from the people an expression of indignation that cannot be disregarded. Let there be no legislative surrender of our just claims under the treaty of 1855. Let there be no abandonment to aliens of the benefits to flow from our Northern Columbia forest that in times like the present we must hold fast what is our own.

PARLIAMENT.

Only one measure of general importance has been yet introduced into parliament, namely the Redistribution bill, which is said to follow very closely the lines of the similar bill rejected by the Senate last year. The Liberals are stronger in the Senate this session than last, but whether they are strong enough to get this bill through is another matter.

Mr. McInnes has a bill to amend the franchise law so as to prohibit Japanese and Chinese from voting although they may become naturalized. The government may decline to permit this bill to pass on the ground that the control of the franchise has been vested in the provincial legislatures. The matter must be dealt with in some way. It is not desirable that Chinese or Japanese shall be allowed to vote in this country, simply because they have become naturalized. Perhaps there is no valid reason why a person born in this country of Oriental parents should not enjoy the full privileges of a natural-born British subject. But such cases are very few in number and they are not likely to become numerous. But it would be absolutely intolerable to permit a lot of Chinese coolies to vote simply because they have been in the country three years and gone through the form, meaningless to them, of naturalization. The Japanese living amongst us are making a more or less successful effort to harmonize themselves with our institutions, but while we are willing to concede that they are on a somewhat different plane to the Chinese, we are not ready to admit that they should be permitted to vote under any circumstances now within the range of probability. It will take more than three years to get a Chinaman or a Japanese sufficiently in touch with our institutions and ideas to be fit for the franchise. Three generations would be a more reasonable limit.

The debate on the address was very tame this year, compared with last. In point of fact it collapsed. We do not expect this session to be prolific in exciting party debates, for there are not many subjects of controversy which have not been fully thrashed out already. The session of 1899 was notorious for the length and acrimony of the debates and the exceedingly small amount of good resulting from them. There is room for a very great and very beneficial change in this respect.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Mr. Smith was surely not serious in suggesting to the house that the communication from Lieutenant-Governor McInnes re Atlin was a letter written by that gentleman in his private capacity. Mr. Smith must be qualifying himself to entertain the marines when he is turned down in politics.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The Times said on Friday that it cannot see why the Lieutenant-Governor may not personally communicate his views to the legislature. The reason is that the very nature of our institutions forbids it. His Honor may do nothing except through his responsible ministers. And through these ministers he has sent down a bill to repeal the alien exclusion law, while he himself informs the legislature that the law ought to stand. Probably the Times will not admit the inconsistency of these positions, but we have long ago given up expecting our contemporary to appreciate or understand the nature of the institutions of the country in which it is published. The Times suggests that the Lieutenant-Governor may have changed his mind since his memorandum was written. Then it should not have been brought down.

SICK MEMBERS RECOVERING.

London, Feb. 9.—It is announced today that Sir Henry Morton Stanley, the famous African explorer, and Liberal-Unionist member of parliament for North Lambeth, who was taken suddenly ill with gastritis in the House of Commons Wednesday night and was thought to be in a somewhat serious condition, has now practically recovered.

The condition of Mr. Gerald Balfour, who is recovering from a severe attack of influenza which he contracted while in the House of Commons, is reported to be improving.

The well known strengthening properties of a certain tonic, which has been found to be of great benefit in cases of nervous debility, and improve the blood and complexion.

in precedent to the contrary is established, the Speaker is fully justified in taking his direction from the party caucus as to what liberty of criticism of the acts of the government shall be permitted to members of the house and to order of the house and into the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms any member who dares to transgress the limit so prescribed.

Third: The views of the representatives of the crown upon a subject of proposed legislation have been communicated to the house in direct defiance of the constitutional usage of centuries by which the independence of parliament is preserved, for it is a declared principle of our parliamentary system that the representatives of the people shall exercise their legislative functions undeterred by any fear of running counter to the wishes of the crown or its representative.

Fourth: The members of the legislature have been threatened with a dissolution in case a majority of them presume to exercise their unquestioned right of voting against the ministry, which also is in direct defiance of the usage of centuries by which the independence of parliament is preserved, for it is a declared principle of our parliamentary system that the representatives of the people shall exercise their legislative functions undeterred by any fear of running counter to the wishes of the crown or its representative.

Like Deathbed Repentance

Government Devotes Last Hours to Repeal of Its Freak Legislation.

The week just closed finds the position of the government unimproved—indeed it is one may judge from the hesitation in proceeding with measures that are in any way open to controversy; while the practical accomplishment of the five parliamentary days ending with Friday's exciting scenes may be recorded in very few words. The Coal Mines Regulation bill is still in abeyance, although the government has time and again expressed determination to push it through; the liquor license law has not been amended as to partially correct the fatal blunder of last session and meet half way the well-earned agitation against its manifold unfairness that had been instituted by Messrs. Eberts, Pooley, A. W. Smith, Ellison, Col. Bannister, Higgins, and others; the government has presented a measure for the repeal of the act of 1899 excluding aliens from participation in the development of the provincial placers, a notable peculiarity of this being that it follows so closely upon the strong endorsement of the contrary view contained in a memorandum from the Lieutenant-Governor to his cabinet. The only feeble explanation put forward by the government is contained in his statement that the "suggestions" contained in the memorandum referred to, of Lieutenant-Governor McInnes, but of Mr. Thomas R. McInnes in his private capacity. As a matter of fact this statement is written at "Government House," expressly directed to "My Executive Council," by His Honor as Lieutenant-Governor.

Now Invited to Perish by Its Own Weapon of Redistribution.

It may be just possible that the delay of the government in introducing its more important measures is attributable to fear of desertion by its own followers; or it may be that His Honor is so much in a hurry to get the bill passed that he is not prepared to wait for the support of the government taking full advantage of its power to introduce the bill, and asking "the limit." There is a rather well defined understanding in the house that support is to be given to the government on the 24th, and consequently must have been given quick despatch. The most interesting is undoubtedly one from Arthur Carter, who has been nursing a slightly wounded arm. The letter is addressed to the young soldier's brother and is as follows:

Letters from The Front.

Private Arthur Carter Near the Front at the Taking of Sunnyside.

He Received a Slight Wound in the Arm During the Engagement.

A number of letters were received yesterday from Victorians serving with the Canadian contingent in South Africa, most of them being dated Belmont January 5, and consequently must have been given quick despatch. The most interesting is undoubtedly one from Arthur Carter, who has been nursing a slightly wounded arm. The letter is addressed to the young soldier's brother and is as follows:

"Belmont, Jan. 5, 1900. "I suppose by the time you receive this card you will find this stale news, but still it might not be, for it is rather hard to get news so far away. I am writing you all. Everything had been going on the same until New Year's Eve when we got ordered to advance on Sunnyside, a small village, 40 miles from here, to attack 1,000 rebels who had a Boer leader there. We got up at dawn, in a small column, advanced guard found the enemy in large numbers in the kopjes. Our numbers amounted to 500, of which 250 were mounted infantry, two batteries of artillery and odd men from different regiments. We had with us 200 transports to form a flying column. I had charge of an ammunition wagon. At 1:30 p.m. we opened fire with our 12-pounders. The fighting lasted four hours. We lost two of the mounted infantry, and three men of the Boer force were killed. We surprised to find that one of them was me. A slight flesh wound in the arm, nothing much, but they call me one of the wounded just the same. We took 41 Boer prisoners, 28 killed, 40 wounded. I have very few articles of clothing, a few pieces of ammunition and supplies. I will write again as soon as I can.

LOCAL NEWS

Declared a Dividend.—The Albion Iron Works Company have declared a dividend of ten per cent. for last year.

Express Company's Gift.—The Dominion Express Company have kindly offered to forward to South Africa free of cost 500 pounds' weight of articles intended for the use of the Canadian soldiers there.

Largely Attended.—There was a very large attendance yesterday at the funeral of the late Mrs. G. Winter, which took place from the residence, Fairfield road. The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful. Rev. Canon Paddon conducted services at the residence and Messrs. R. Allen, E. H. Henley, G. Bagshaw, R. Savage, H. H. Borden, C. B. Green and J. W. Bolden.

Public Meeting.—In answer to a petition signed by a very large number of citizens, Mayor Hayward has called a public meeting for Friday evening next, to consider the project of building a railway to the northern end of the island, and thus open up rich districts with the northern gold fields. The petition is signed by Victoria's most influential citizens and business men, a very large amount of capital being represented.

Visiting Home.—The Quebec Chronicle of February 1 says: "Mr. Fred. W. Valleeau, gold commissioner, stipendiary magistrate, etc., for Pateo Bay district, British Columbia, is visiting his native city with his bride. Mr. Valleeau left Quebec some years ago, and expresses himself as much impressed with the many substantial and up-to-date improvements noticeable in old Quebec. He speaks in most enthusiastic terms of the magnificent transcontinental railway service of the Canadian Pacific railway and the elegance and comfort of the passenger coaches, and above all the uniform courtesy and painstaking civility extended passengers by the employees of the company from ocean to ocean, and is surprised that more people from Quebec province do not take this trip for health and pleasure in preference to southern and tropical jaunts."

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CABLE TO CUBA.

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James Bay Basketball Team Accept an Invitation to Seattle.

The second game in the championship hockey series between Victoria and Vancouver was played on the Oak Bay grounds yesterday afternoon. The teams lined up as follows:

Vancouver—Goal, Boyd; full backs, Innes and Bauer; half-backs, Bowit, Smyth and Beecher; forwards, right wing, Crickman (captain) and Tait; centre, Mahon; left wing, Murgatroyd and Ponsford.

Victoria—Goal, Jaegers; full backs, McLean and Swinerton; half-backs, Hart, Gillespie and Austin; forwards, right wing, Tye, York; centre, Futcher (captain); left wing, Rogers and Scholefield.

In the first half the play was fact and there were some very good combinations, but the only score was made for the home team by York. Shortly after half time Austin hurt his knee and had to retire from the game, his place being taken by Gore. After some splendid rushes on the Vancouver goal the second score was made for the Victoria team by Scholefield. The third goal, also for the Victorias, was made by Tye, and the fourth and last were both made by Captain Futcher. The game was free from roughness, Austin being the only man hurt, and it was not an one-sided affair as some would seem to indicate, but was played in a splendid style. The combination of the home team was very good, and it was owing to this that the game was won. Hart, who played as a Victoria for the first time, is an old Dublin football player and his old country training showed up to good advantage in the game yesterday. After the game the Ladies' Hockey Club gave the players of both teams afternoon tea. Mr. Ray Bome was the referee and he was ably assisted by P. Austin and A. Vernon as touch judges, and J. A. McArthur and W. W. Borello, who acted as umpires.

The Ladies' Hockey Club are practising preparatory to going over to Vancouver on the 24th.

BASKET BALL.

Will Go to Seattle.

At a meeting of the J. B. A. basket ball team yesterday evening it was decided to send a team to Seattle on Thursday, the 23rd instant, to do battle with the representative club of that city. A return match being arranged for March 17 here—the idea being to celebrate Washington's Birthday and the anniversary of a return patron saint with equal enthusiasm. Both games will be played under the latest rules, and a handsome trophy will be the reward of the team winning most points in the two matches. All members of the James Bay team are urged to be on hand for practice each evening during the present week.

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BUSINESS INDEX

Convincing Evidence of the Prosperity of the General Interests of the City of Victoria.

Representing Many Leading Corporations, Financial, Manufacturing and Wholesale Interests.

A Comprehensive and Classified List of Those Who Have Contributed in Making Victoria a Substantial City.

Some Facts in Regard to Enterprises, Corporations and Institutions that Victoria Citizens Are Proud of.

Following this introduction appears a comprehensive classified index of the principal financial institutions, manufacturing and wholesale firms of this city, making an array of leaders in the different departments of trade and commerce, and one that it will be well to study. It is a handsome list, and contains the names of enterprising and active citizens of the various progressive firms, men of the highest standing in the different departments of the financial and commercial life of the city—those who have earned and are in full enjoyment of good and honorable reputation in the sphere of finance, trade and commerce. They represent the elements that have, in a great measure given to Victoria a reputation second to none for her sterling worth. Taken together, they may be regarded as leaders in the lines represented. Victoria is to-day one of the most substantial and thrifty cities in Canada.

The business men have given her their thrift, and have taken her name abroad as an important financial and wholesale centre. They have furnished work for her laborers, freight traffic for her system of shipping, and used their efforts to promote every public enterprise. They have been the strong towers of Victoria, and they are to-day her pride and her hope. The success achieved by those engaged in business here has been eclipsed by that of industries energy and persistent labor. The wholesale trade of Victoria is already large, the lines of commodities handled being such as are comprised in the list of the most important business centres of the continent.

There is no necessity for going away from Victoria for anything, as the list we here present exhibits almost every branch of the business of the city of Victoria are enterprising, energetic and prudent, and it has been proved that at no place in the province does a customer receive better bargains or better treatment than in the institutions of Victoria. Patronize them, encourage them in their efforts to build up the city, and you will be doing the community justice.

The vast mineral resources of the great Northwest and the interior of the province, and our natural products in lumber, fisheries, etc., combined with the manufacturing and trading interests, will eventually mark Victoria as one of the most important centres in the Dominion of Canada. Her prosperity and picturesque as embodied in schools, colleges and churches, her fine residences, her business buildings, unexcelled fire and police departments, her system of public improvements and other features of progress stand forth as emblems of her enterprise.

The strength of character has been born and bred in Victoria's sons through generations, and the city has ever been famous as the abode of people of culture and refinement, a city where true personal worth, good breeding, and qualities of mind and heart counted for more in the social life of the people than mere accumulation of material wealth. The result of generations of such culture are in evidence in the life of the city today. Energetic in commercial activity, the ambition of the men of Victoria is not compassed by the gaining and maintaining of commercial prestige as the metropolis of the province, the accumulation of material wealth for its own sake, but they enjoy the fruits of their prosperity in the intelligence of such culture. Where are the things that make life worth living more thoroughly appreciated or more generally enjoyed than in Victoria.

The Colonist takes pleasure in presenting its readers with the following classified index of leading financial institutions and business firms:

(See Page Five for Index.)

The Print

BANKS.

Bank of British Columbia

Incorporated by Royal Charter 1858.
Capital paid up.....
(With power to increase.)
Reserve.....
HEAD OFFICE
60 Lombard St., London

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G. GILLES