

DOMINION DAY.

Thirty-two years ago today Canada came into existence as a dominion composed of federated provinces. The original union, as nearly every one knows, only embraced what are now the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This union was the outcome of negotiations begun some years earlier for a union of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. A meeting of delegates was being held at Charlottetown in the last named province to formulate a scheme, when representatives from old Canada arrived on the scene and presented the wider project, which was consummated in due course. The union was made conditional by the Maritime Provinces upon the construction of the Intercolonial railway. There was not much opposition to the abstract idea of a union, but the Quebec Terms, as they were called, evoked a great deal of hostility. They were stoutly opposed by the late Mr. Joseph Howe, who had been one of the earliest public men to suggest a union of all British North America. So intense was the feeling in Nova Scotia on the question of terms that Dr. Tupper, as he then was, was unwilling to face an appeal to the people on them and carried the province into the union without the sanction of a popular vote. Many years were required to overcome the feeling thereby created, but there is no doubt that it was this masterly, if extraordinary, course that made confederation possible. New Brunswick dealt with the issue at two elections, the first being overwhelmingly against it. The second, which took place a year afterwards and in the face of a threatened invasion of Fenians, being equally the other way. In old Canada there was practically no difference of opinion, parties having formed a coalition to carry the measure.

Looking back over the years that have passed and with the memory of the advocates of confederation yet fresh in mind, it must be conceded that the men responsible for the union built wiser than they knew. There were eloquent speakers in those days. Among them were some far superior to any man in public life today in the use of fervid imagery and impassioned appeal. But none of them ventured to picture such a dominion as has come into existence, or dreamed of such a future as we can now see in store for us. Indeed though there are only few survivors of the generation of public men who accomplished the great task of cementing British North America, we are just beginning to grasp some idea of the greatness in store for our country and to realize that a nation was born on that eventful day in July, 1867.

THE ATLIN MUDDLE.

It would be unfair to criticize the action of Judge Irving in demanding a deposit of \$25.00 before taking up a claim preferred before him in Atlin without knowing some thing more about it; but at first sight it seems a mistake and almost certain to mean a denial of justice to very many deserving persons. We do not think the legislature contemplated that any pecuniary obstacle would be placed in the way of claimants. We have so high an opinion of Judge Irving's sense of right that we feel sure he must have some explanation for adopting this rule, which does not occur to us at this distance; nevertheless we feel it right to express what we are sure is the wish of all the people of this province, namely that the gateway of justice in Atlin shall not be closed to a man simply because he has spent all he has in an endeavor to protect his rights pending the arrival of the judge. The province will hold the government responsible for any denial of justice that takes place.

It is difficult to imagine a greater exhibition of incompetency and mismanagement than has been afforded at Atlin. Last year a furious cry went up against Mr. Turner and his colleagues because they did not deal more vigorously with the conditions existing on the Stickline in 1897 and the spring of 1898. There was much excuse for any apparent failure of that government adequately to grasp the situation. One explanation was that the government and every one else was ignorant of what the conditions actually were. Another was that it was difficult to get any word into the district for the greater part of the time. Another was that no one quite knew what was best to be done. Nevertheless the government acted with energy and if they did not accomplish as much as they hoped for and the country expected, the fault does not rest upon their shoulders, but was due to facts or circumstances over which no one had any control. With Atlin the case has been very different. Here is a district every of access. People have been going backward and forward ever since the first discovery of gold was reported. Every one knew just what conditions existed. Every one knew the importance of early and energetic action on the part of the government. What do we find? The summer fast passing away and practically nothing being done. It is no part of the duty of the Colonist to point out to the government what it ought to have done. We shall only say that no great degree of ingenuity would have been necessary to devise some way of straightening out the middle long ago, or at least of having things in a fair way of being straightened out, so that the development of the district would not be retarded for a season. The duty of the government is to find a policy which will be equal to emergencies as they arise, and that they have not done so in the case of Atlin is beyond all question.

SIR HIBBERT'S CHARGES.

There is to be no investigation into Sir Hibbert Tupper's charges. The ministry preferred to rest upon technicalities and trust to their majority in the house to pull them through. We suppose this is politics. It certainly is not statesmanship. The large scope of the charge and the variety of matters embraced in them afforded the government an excuse for a course, which may be sufficient for parliamentary purposes, but the people of Canada will impatiently brush all such considerations aside. They will deal with the undisputed and indisputable facts of the case, which are that grave scandals affecting the integrity of the administration of the Yukon and the trustworthiness of the officials have been allowed to remain unexamined. After everything else has been said, that everything remains, and the people will hold Mr. Sifton and his colleagues responsible for it.

Mr. Sifton has attempted to draw a red herring across the trail by challenging an inquiry into his personal integrity. The Colonist can claim to have been the first paper in Canada to point out the existence of abuses in the administration of the Yukon, but on no occasion did it ever intimate that these touched Mr. Sifton's personal honor or reflected upon anything except his fitness to administer the affairs of that portion of Canada. It pointed out that its information showed the necessity of a searching inquiry which would relieve the name of Canada from the reproaches that were being heaped upon it, never suggesting that the freest disclosures when made would reach cabinet circles and shake the any of our public men were professed by the ministerial acts of their subordinates. Holding these views, we took the position, when Sir Hibbert made his first speech and Mr. Sifton replied with an assurance of his personal integrity, that the latter was beside the question altogether, which is not whether or not Mr. Sifton is an honest man, but whether he selected honest men to discharge the unique and difficult responsibilities cast upon him by the discovery of the Klondike. So also we take the position that Mr. Sifton by interjecting his personal reputation into the subject raises a false issue, and one that will not blind the country to the real question.

Sir Hibbert Tupper has devoted great labor to the presentation of the case against the Yukon administration. He has adduced a mass of facts that cannot be explained away from the floor of parliament, and upon which the public mind can only be settled when an investigation has been held by a tribunal of whose impartiality there can be no doubt. He has done the country valuable service and at very considerable risk to his reputation as a public man. The matter cannot stop where it is, whatever action the ministry may take. We believe their own supporters will demand from them that they will not be conceded to the request of the opposition. The Yukon scandals must be cleared up, and the men who are responsible for them must be made to feel the weight of public indignation, even though they neither knew of their existence nor participated in any benefit from them. A government must be held responsible for the results of its policy. Our institutions will be robbed of their greatest value if a ministry can be allowed to throw responsibility upon subordinates.

THE PHILIPPINES.

It is stated that the censorship over the news sent out from the Philippines is such as has no parallel in the case of recent military operations. Through the statements that are made by persons who have returned it is becoming very clear that the operations of the United States forces have been by no means a great success. One naval officer, who was connected with Admiral Dewey's fleet, says that the troops occupied rather less ground than they did a year ago. This of itself is a very serious statement, and taken in connection with the fact that the rainy season is coming on, and the number of men sent to hospital is steadily increasing, it betrays a state of things which the officer in question does not state too strongly when he calls it disastrous. Every one seems to concede that the peace commission headed by Dr. Schurman has been a complete failure. The natives simply will not discuss terms at all. They believe they can drive the United States forces out of the country and set up an independent republic, and while they hold such views as these there is little use in talking to them about accepting a government at the hands of men whom they regard as invaders, and as such the enemies of their freedom as were the Spaniards.

While all this may be admitted, no one can suggest how the United States government can withdraw from the position it has taken. A large sum of money was paid to Spain in consideration of her sovereignty over the islands. This agreement placed the Washington government in the place occupied by that of Madrid. Doubtless it was anticipated that the people who were in rebellion against Spain would hasten to welcome the new comers. In this regard the people of the United States made a characteristic mistake. The system of education in vogue in that country produces the most extraordinary kind of provincialism. It has taught a whole nation to suppose that the rest of the world takes them at the estimate of the Fourth of July orators. The great majority of the people of the United States really believe that there is no corner of the world where the American eagle is not regarded as the bird of freedom and where the Stars and Stripes would not be welcomed as a badge of security of life, liberty and property. The people honestly supposed that the moment Aguinaldo and his followers heard

that the United States flag would be substituted for that of Spain they would fall over each other in their haste to welcome their self-styled deliverers. They are learning their mistake, but it is a very expensive lesson. Of course they will conquer the Philippines, but their mission at the outset was not to conquer but to bring freedom, and the Filipino sense a distinction if the average United States citizen does not.

THE IRON INDUSTRY.

We are glad to see in the Rossland Miner a very excellent article upon the iron mines of British Columbia and the importance of something being done to lead the utilization. This subject is not new, but it has been mentioned of recently. It has occupied the attention of the business men in the state of Washington and British Columbia, for there seems to be no doubt reason for believing the field here is a good one for a large iron smelting establishment. A great deal of money was spent at Kirkland, on Lake Washington, and not far from Seattle, some ten or twelve years ago with the avowed intention of putting up an extensive iron plant. How much of it was genuine and how much a town lot boom pure and simple will perhaps never be known to the public, but there is a good deal of ground for supposing it to have been chiefly the latter. A very promising start was made at Port Townsend, and the traveller by the Sound states can see the ovens in the distance south of that town. Let Mr. D. H. Gilman, who for years was one of the most prominent business men of Seattle, endeavor to interest New York capital in a great iron plant to be established at Seattle. He had most of the mines along the Coast as far north as Rivers Inlet under consideration, and at one time appeared on the eve of carrying his project to a successful conclusion. Later still some people started a project for a great iron smelter at Port Angeles, and two or three different concerns had the matter in hand. It is not very long since the last of these expressed themselves as confident of being able to carry through their plans successfully. Several projects of the same nature have been proposed in British Columbia and more or less progress has been made upon them, perhaps it may be truthfully said that some of them have been very abandoned. It was at one time said that the Great Northern railway intended to erect iron smelting works at some point along its line on the Coast. In all these instances the promoters believed they saw a good profit in iron mining. There is a large Coast market, and we suppose it is reasonable to expect that the expanding trade of the Pacific will open markets for the iron industry, although there are doubtless large deposits of iron ore in both China and Japan.

We reprint the Miner's article and have to express our very hearty satisfaction that it has brought the question once more to the front. The subject might be advantageously considered by those people who are interested in seeing the value of Victoria really advance. Sites admirably suited for the location of an iron foundry and blast furnaces are to be found near the city, and we suppose Victoria is as conveniently situated as respects ores, fluxes and coke as any other point of the Coast.

THE JAPANESE CORRESPONDENCE.

There has at no time been any disposition on the part of the Imperial government to prevent the placing of restrictions upon Oriental immigration if there is any real prospect of its becoming a benefit to white labor in Canada. On July 20, 1898, Mr. Chamberlain, writing to the Governor-General said:

In the meantime I have to request that restrictive legislation of the type of which the legislation in question appears to be is extremely repugnant to the sentiments of the people and government of Japan, and you should not fail to impress upon the Japanese authorities the importance of their respecting the wishes of the people and government of Canada, and you should not fail to impress upon the Japanese authorities the importance of their respecting the wishes of the people and government of Canada, and you should not fail to impress upon the Japanese authorities the importance of their respecting the wishes of the people and government of Canada.

Here we have a distinct recognition on the part of the Imperial government that Japanese immigration may give rise to serious questions that it must be checked, and the importance of checking it in such an eventuality is impressed upon the Dominion government. In transmitting this despatch to the British Columbia government, the Dominion government sent with it the report of the Minister of Justice, in which this sentence occurs:

The provincial government should be asked to give the matter early consideration, and state for the information of Your Excellency's government any facts or reasons which they desire to be considered.

This is a distinct invitation to the provincial government extended in December last to discuss the whole question of Oriental immigration with the object of giving effect to the views held by the Imperial government. Mr. Chamberlain opened the door for the consideration of the whole question, and the Dominion government extended an invitation to the Provincial government to present its reasons for thinking that action should be taken. Here was a golden opportunity. If the provincial government were really desirous of protecting white labor from Oriental competition, here was the best possible chance that could be asked. As Mr. Chamberlain afterwards pointed out, it was not of the practical exclusion of Japanese that the Mikado's government complained, but to their exclusion by name, which specifically stamps the whole notion as undesirable. The Naito Act, recommended to the Dominion government as one that ought to be passed if there was any real danger of a large influx of Japanese, and in regard to which the provincial government was

invited to express its views, would practically put an end at once and forever to the immigration into Canada of the Chinese and Japanese who compete with white labor. This act prohibits the immigration into Natal of any person who when asked to do so by an officer appointed under this act shall fail to himself write out and sign in the characters of any language of Europe an application to the Colonial Secretary in the form set out in schedule B to this Act." This would bar every Chinese coolie or Japanese workman; but Mr. Chamberlain said: "If the particular test in that law is not regarded as sufficient, there is no reason why a more stringent and effective one should not be adopted, so long as the disqualification is not based specifically on distinction of race or color." Surely no person desirous of restricting Oriental immigration could ask anything more than the British government was not only willing to concede, but regarded as important to be done if there is any real danger. Surely when the provincial government was asked to set forth the reasons why there should be restrictive legislation of this far-reaching character, an opportunity unique in character was presented, which men who were really in earnest would have embraced with alacrity. Not so the provincial government. Instead of accepting the offer to secure the restriction of the immigration of Oriental laborers entirely, they pleaded that they were not aiming at anything of the kind, and that the legislation objected to was not intended to shut out Oriental competition in any except a few cases. We quote Mr. Cotton's report to the Executive Council:

The undersigned would point out that the statutes passed by the legislature of this province imposing certain restrictions on the employment of Japanese in British Columbia, while it is respectfully submitted clearly within the power of that body, do not impose restrictions nearly as onerous or far-reaching as would be the case if the Imperial government, by Her Majesty's government, NO LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF JAPANESE PERSONS ORIGINALLY COMING INTO CANADA IS SUGGESTED BY THE STATUTES PASSED BY THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE. NO RESTRICTION IS PLACED BY THOSE STATUTES ON SUCH PERSONS PURSUING ANY CALLING, OCCUPATION OR TRADE. WHILE THE ONE EXCEPTION—which is not carried on under the authority of privileges or franchises conferred by the legislature of British Columbia. That exception is working in coal mines, the legislature from the evidence placed before it having come to the conclusion that the employment of Chinese or Japanese underground in coal mines is a source of danger. All that is sought to be attained by the legislature is that Chinese or Japanese persons shall not be allowed to find employment on works, the construction of which has been authorized or made possible of accomplishment by the granting of certain privileges or franchises by the legislature. It will be seen that the restrictive provisions are merely in the nature of a condition in agreements of contracts between the government and particular individuals or companies whereby certain privileges, franchises, concessions and in some cases land and guarantees are granted to such individuals or companies in consideration of only white labor being employed in the work. The subject matter of such agreements.

Here we have the provincial government, through Mr. Cotton, pleading that they do not aim at restricting the number of Oriental immigrants who shall come into Canada, that they do not desire to restrict them from engaging in competition with white labor anywhere except in coal mines and underground working for certain incorporate companies or individuals who may have received franchises from the legislature. Mr. Chamberlain said, substantially: If there is any real danger of Japanese competition, here is a way to prevent it in every line of industry. The Dominion government said to the provincial government: Give us your reasons for thinking that Japanese immigration is a danger to white labor. The provincial government replied: We do not aim at restricting Oriental competition; we only want to keep them from doing certain kinds of work; we are willing that in every other line of industry they shall compete with white people. The provincial government was offered all the way that can be desired by any one in the way of restrictions upon Japanese and Chinese immigration. They said they did not want all, and insisted upon having a very partial measure of restriction, even when told that "it would give legitimate offence to a power with whom Her Majesty is and earnestly desires to remain on friendly terms." They got nothing. Mr. Chamberlain promptly detected the thinness of the pretensions of the provincial government and pronounced the legislation in question to be "admittedly only partial and ineffective."

The attitude of the provincial government is one of rank demagoguery. It is inspired by the hope that they can pose as the only champions of white labor in Canada. They expect to be able to fool the people into thinking that they and they alone are standing out against the Imperial government and the Chinese immigration in an effort to keep Oriental labor from competing with white labor. The utter fallacy of their claim is fully demonstrated by the correspondence. Mr. Cotton has given their case away in his usual fashion. He and his government were so anxious to play the role of demagogues that they did not see that they were rejecting something of the most important interest of white labor, the paltry but measure which they have insisted upon retaining on the statute book only to have them dissolved. The object of insisting on the maintenance of the legislation as to Japanese in coal mines is obvious. Danger to life of miners has nothing to do with it.

It is evident to any one from the correspondence that months ago the whole question of Oriental exclusion might have been under discussion between the provincial and federal governments with the full approval of the Imperial government, which pointed out the way in which acceptable legislation might be passed, if it had not been for the perverseness of the provincial government, and its overmastering inclination to play the role of the demagogue. We are not discussing anything except the exposure of the pretensions of the government to be the friend of the workingman.

THE DISALLOWANCE CORRESPONDENCE.

The correspondence relating to certain acts of the British Columbia legislature, which have been disallowed by the Governor-General, is published. It makes a pamphlet of 32 pages. There is not much in it that can actually be called new, but as the incident is of peculiar interest, we give a summary.

On March 14, 1898, Mr. Shimizu, Japanese Consul at Vancouver, addressed a letter to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, asking him to cause a bill introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. W. B. McInnes, putting a poll tax of \$500 on Japanese immigrants, to be withdrawn. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in reply said that Mr. McInnes was acting within his rights as a private member, but he hoped and believed that nothing would be done in Canada to interrupt friendly relations with Japan.

On August 3rd of the same year, Mr. Kato, Japanese minister in London, addressed a letter to the Marquis of Salisbury, bringing under his notice the anti-Japanese legislation of British Columbia, passed in 1898, and expressing the opinion that in the opinion of the Japanese government "such measures, if allowed to become law, cannot but injuriously affect the cordial and commercial relations which now happily exist between Japan and the Dominion of Canada, and which have every prospect of further development in the near future." In this letter Mr. Kato said that the Japanese in Canada were few in number, are law-abiding and have done nothing to necessitate legislation against their interests. This letter was sent to the Governor-General on August 11, and on November 10 the Governor-General was advised by his ministers to transmit it to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. In the meanwhile the Japanese minister was informed that his representations were under consideration.

On December 17 the Privy Council for Canada reviewed all the British Columbia legislation of 1898, and all the acts were left to their operation with the exception of one bringing into force the Revised Statutes, one respecting the C. P. N. Company and those containing the anti-Japanese clauses. The objection to the first mentioned act is that the Revised Statutes profess to deal with the composition of juries in criminal cases, and to the second that it gives the company mentioned the right to operate between points in Canada and foreign points, both of which are matters out of the jurisdiction of the local legislature. The recommendation was made that these acts be left to their operation provided the government would undertake to repeal the objectionable clauses. They were accordingly repealed. The report of the Minister of Justice on the anti-Japanese clauses is in some detail. In it he refers to the Natal act "To place certain restrictions upon immigration," which was recommended to the attention of the parliament of Canada by Mr. Chamberlain as an efficient and unobjectionable way of dealing with the matter of Japanese immigration, if the influx should be found at any time to be prejudicial to the interests of Canada. The Minister of Justice suggested that all the correspondence should be sent to the British Columbia government, with the request that its views should be communicated to the Governor-General. This report with the correspondence referred to was received by the Lieutenant-Governor on January 4, 1899.

In this batch of correspondence were four letters from Mr. Shimizu, in which he took seven points, namely: That no satisfactory reason has been or can be given for discriminatory legislation against the Japanese; that the legislation complained of is in violation of the treaty between Great Britain and Japan; that it is contrary to the principles of international law; that owing to the difference between Japanese and Chinese the arguments applicable to the one do not apply to the other; that the number of Japanese in British Columbia is less than one-tenth that of the Chinese; that Japan regulates immigration and consequently the government of that country can and will control the departure of people if their influx into any country ought to be restricted; and that the restrictive legislation will be detrimental to the growing trade between Canada and Japan.

On February 9th Mr. Shimizu drew the attention of the Governor-General to the paragraph in the speech at the opening of the legislature, promising legislation to prevent Japanese from working in coal mines, and also to the several private bills introduced containing an anti-Japanese clause. On February 28th Mr. Shimizu protested against the provision in the Liquor License act prohibiting Japanese from taking out license. On February 18th the Japanese Minister drew Mr. Chamberlain's attention to the legislation respecting Japanese in coal mines, which protest was duly transmitted to the Governor-General.

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heard from on February 13th, when a report from Mr. Cotton was transmitted to the Governor-General. In this report Mr. Cotton takes the following positions: That the Natal act could not be passed by the provincial legislature, that the Natal act, if passed by parliament, would be insufficient for the purposes intended and would be more repugnant to Japan than the legislation complained of, that the restriction upon Japanese proposed by the local legislature is very much less extensive than that imposed in Natal, that, except in connection with work carried on under legislative franchises and in the coal mines, Japanese are not interfered with in this province, that all that is sought by the proposed legislation "is that Chinese or Japanese shall not be allowed to find employment on works, the construction of which has been authorized or made possible of accomplishment by the granting of certain privileges or franchises by the legislature," that British Columbia is peculiarly subject to the disadvantages of Japanese immigration, that if Japanese may be employed on public works they would monopolize the employment offering, that Imperial interests demand that British Columbia shall be occupied by a thoroughly British population which cannot be if the standard of living is lowered and that there is reason to believe that Japanese will entirely supplant white labor in many important industries. In view of these considerations Mr. Cotton recommended that the anti-Japanese clauses be not repealed. This report was accepted by the provincial government and on February 16th was forwarded to the Governor-General.

On March 23rd Mr. Chamberlain wrote to the Governor-General saying that "Her Majesty's government must regret to find the government and legislature of British Columbia adopting a course that is justly regarded as offensive by a friendly power." He recommends the passage of such a measure as the Natal act, which will be of general application and in the name of the government "strongly deprecates the passing of exceptional legislation affecting Japanese already in the province."

On April 19th, 1899, Mr. Chamberlain wrote to the Governor-General acknowledging the decision reached by the British Columbia government. He said that Her Majesty's government felt unable to withdraw their objections to the legislation, which he pointed out was admittedly only partial and ineffective. "It is not the practical exclusion of Japanese to which the government of the Mikado objects," said Mr. Chamberlain, "but onset of prohibiting Japanese from taking out license." He again urges the passage of a law similar to that adopted in Natal or one even more restrictive, and declares that any legislation specifically directed at the subjects of a friendly power is contrary to the guiding principles of British rule. He urges the government

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Atlin Mine

Delegates of the

Their Grievance

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Member for Ca

From His Part

of Jus

Mr. Hans Helgeson, fellow delegates from the Atlin district, Mr. McCrory, James Mr. Munro, Mr. Campbell, conference with the yesterday morning, with their grievances in a manner. Mr. Helgeson, convenience, handing memorandum:

"To the Honorable, the el as come the fruit season, and with it

"Gentlemen: I have by the merchants and Atlin mine and fore you, in conjunction from the working mine. Certain matters are weighing heavily on and general prosperity which I have been several acts of your Atlin district.

"Disputed Claims.—a tangle which took place office at Atlin last fall. cation of much trouble ing operations in the has been greatly aggra which has taken place the inquiry of your jud to be settled to settle the inquiry has now ever, and we are hope to be a speedy settlement to claimants.

"But in the opinion, the people whom I re fair and unjust to for whose cases may com missioner, to pay \$25 to the right which the them. This exaction is injustice, for many ch and their just c must alone will be s should be established a claimant makes g money paid in shou any case we believe heavy.

"Another matter in the powers of the Atlin be so enlarged that h hereafter to settle al may arise, otherwise to accept any recov as in the past, and that that are in dispute, it that has been prop ed in the future, to all the claimants.

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