

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST. Per year, postage free to any part of the Dominion or the United States.

ADVERTISING RATES. REGULAR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING, as distinguished from every kind of a transient character.

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NEGOTIATIONS ON FOOT. In 1890, when Manitoba's education law was enacted, this was not so clear as it is now. It was then believed that if the law enacted by the Provincial Legislature was intra vires, constitutional, the only way in which the Dominion Government could interfere would be to veto the bill, and it is now well understood that enactments which are intra vires must not be vetoed.

NEGOTIATIONS ON FOOT. The Manitoba government must now see that in framing their law of 1890 they made a mistake, inasmuch as they placed it within the power of the minority to invoke federal interference. It is reasonable to suppose that, if they were fully aware of this in 1890, they would have framed their law in such a way as

to give the minority no reasonable ground of complaint. What is wanted now is nothing more than to correct that mistake. This can easily be done and it is the only way to avert Dominion interference, for it is evident that the mistake must be corrected or Dominion interference is inevitable. It is said that the Manitobans will correct the mistake for Mr. Laurier, but they will not for Sir Mackenzie Bowell. This is childish, and we believe that when the Greenway Government are convinced that a settlement must be made or Dominion interference cannot be avoided, no matter what government is in power, they will see that it is the part of prudence and patriotism to settle the question without proceeding to extremities.

THE TAX ON MINES.

We understand that the sections of the Assessment Bill that relate to mines and mining are to be amended in such a way as to meet the views of the most intelligent and the most experienced of the mining men. The tax is to be one per cent. on the smelter returns. The proposed allowances for cost of production, etc., are to be done away with and the uniform tax of one per cent. to be imposed, instead. This, it is said, can be easily collected and not easily evaded. The gentlemen who have visited the Capital to make representations to the Government on this very important subject express themselves highly pleased at the way in which they have been treated by its members. They have found them courteous and disposed to do everything in their power to encourage the mining industry. They have, to judge by their manner, been agreeably surprised by the way in which they have been received in Victoria. There can be no doubt that their own reasonableness and the willingness they freely expressed to bear a fair share of provincial taxation had a good deal to do with the cordiality of their reception. We are glad to know that these gentlemen return to the Kootenay country satisfied, and convinced that they and all others connected with the mining industry will receive justice and the most favorable consideration at the hands of the Government of the Province.

THE COLUMBIA AND WESTERN.

We trust that any attempt that may be made to hamper the Columbia and Western Railway Company with unnecessary restrictions will be unavailing. Their enterprise is one well calculated to advance the progress of the Province, and it is but reasonable that as few obstacles as possible should be placed in their way. The advocates of sectional interests are generally shortsighted. They imagine that if what they believe to be advantageous to them is not considered, and that if their demands are not complied with the localities which they represent will be materially injured. But it often turns out, that by giving them their way, not only is the general welfare not advanced but that of their own localities is retarded. Let two or three sections of the road be constructed and put in successful operation, and it will be seen how groundless are the fears of those who desired to hamper the promoters by useless restrictions. Those restrictions, while they would do no good to those who advanced them, might, and probably would, prove a serious detriment to the company. When men ask the Legislature's leave to build a road which everyone can see is needed, and which, when built, cannot fail to be of the greatest advantage to the Province, it is to the interest of every man in the country, whether in the Legislature or out of it, to give those men every possible encouragement to carry out their enterprise. The Columbia and Western is admitted by all to be such a road. Why, then, should impediments be placed in the way of the projectors?

A SINGLE-TAX FIGHT.

A movement of considerable interest is going on in the little state of Delaware. The single-taxers are endeavoring with all their might to capture the Legislature of that state. The work has been going on for about nine years. Single-tax men in all parts of the Union are contributing towards the Delaware campaign. They have made that state the theatre of missionary effort. Henry George has been there in person, and so have many of the most able and most energetic of the American single-taxers. Their aim seems to be to make Delaware a kind of object-lesson, for not only the whole of the United States, but for all the world. Having a commonwealth under their complete, or nearly complete, control they propose to let the world see how the principle of single tax works—what it is capable of doing when it has a fair chance.

In order to effect their object they have flooded the state with single-tax literature and filled it with single-tax orators. They have, for the purpose of propagating single-tax doctrines, adopted the methods of the Salvation Army. The principles of Henry George are preached not only in lecture halls and theatres but in churches and at the corners of the streets. Delaware is to have what we, in Canada, call a general election next November. The Georgites are bound to make the most

of the intervening months. If the next Government of Delaware, from the Governor down to the poundkeeper, is not single tax pure and simple, it will not be the fault of the believers of that economic theory in not only that state but in all the states.

But the success of the missionaries does not seem proportionate to their zeal. They have not, it is said, converted a majority of the electors of the state. "The politicians of Delaware," the correspondent of the New York Herald says, "are given to ignoring the single tax movement. When it is forced upon their attention they say that their theories are of such a nature as to find acceptance only among a class of people that is not numerous in the State. . . It is likely, that when they come to the fight, these gentlemen of the single tax school in Delaware will find that only in districts where the single tax candidate will prove a diversion for the damage of the candidate of the opposing party, will the officials be ready to help him to prepare for the work at the polls; and in spite of all the boasts of the hopefuls who cluster around the Campaign Committee rooms the outlook for single tax in Delaware cannot be truthfully described as a promising one."

It seems almost a pity that the single-taxers could not have everything their own way in the state of Delaware. If they gained control of the Legislature of that State we are quite satisfied that the impracticable nature of their theory would be demonstrated in a way that would make every single taxer, who possesses a grain of common sense of the very sound of single tax for the rest of his natural life. Nothing short of a practical demonstration of this kind will convince single tax enthusiasts that they are laboring under a strong delusion, and that the economic doctrines which they almost worship can never be made to work to the advantage of any civilized community. Perhaps the correspondent is mistaken and that the single taxers have a fighting chance in Delaware. If they have and if they succeed in getting hold of the government of the state we shall see what we shall see.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

There seems to be quite a number of persons in this city who cannot see how a Government can be favorable to an enterprise, and can have earnestly and honestly expressed their willingness to further it by all practicable and reasonable means, and yet reject firmly and unqualifiedly a proposal to carry out that enterprise. Yet this is what almost everyone has done in his private transactions—not once or twice, but hundreds of times. And it is done, too, without any reflection being cast upon the rejecter's earnestness or sincerity. There is nothing, too, that causes an individual to reject what he would like to favor or possess more quickly than the conviction, whether well-grounded or ill-grounded, that he cannot afford it.

This, setting aside for the moment the reasonableness or the unreasonableness of the offer, is precisely the position in which the Hon. Mr. Turner and his Government stand before the country with respect to the British Pacific railway. After having considered Mr. Bowdell's proposals seriously and carefully they have come to the conclusion that they, in the interests of the inhabitants of the Province, cannot afford to accept them. Is there anything blameworthy in this? It must be remembered that in this matter Mr. Turner, from his position, has not to consider the interests or the supposed interests of the citizens of Victoria alone. As Premier of the Province he must consult the interests of every part of British Columbia. If after looking over the whole field and considering the resources of the Government, present and prospective, he comes to the conclusion that the proposed burden is too heavy for the taxpayers to carry, is he not rather to be commended and sympathized with than censured when he refuses to place it on their shoulders?

It would be far easier and pleasanter for him in this instance to say "Yes" than "No." But when a man feels himself compelled by his duty to say "No," when his inclination is to say "Yes," he is not generally condemned, even by those who do not agree with him or who believe that he is mistaken. There was, then, nothing wrong in Mr. Turner's rejecting, and decidedly rejecting, Mr. Bowdell's offer, when he believed that the Province cannot just now afford the luxury of a British Pacific Railway on the terms proposed.

Having come to this conclusion the next thing that a fair-minded elector will do is to try and find out, from the persons presumably best capable of forming a correct opinion on the subject, whether Mr. Turner is right or wrong in his estimate of the Province's capability to bear the burden which the acceptance of Mr. Bowdell's proposals would place upon it. A little inquiry would convince him that there are men in the Province capable of coming to an intelligent conclusion in the matter, and he would find that many of those who agree with the Premier and approve of what he has done are not scoundrels, but very much the reverse.

But Mr. Turner rejected the proposals on another ground; they are, he contends, not fair to the Province. There can be nothing wrong in rejecting the proposals on this ground alone. If the

Premier and his colleagues believe that they would be doing an injustice to the Province if they accepted Mr. Bowdell's offer, most intelligent men will conclude that they were perfectly justified in rejecting the offer on that ground alone. On this subject, too, the ordinary elector should be diffident of his ability unaided to come to a sound and correct conclusion. These financial questions are not as easy of solution as some persons seem to think.

Here then are the two questions which the Premier answered in the negative: (1.) Can the Province afford to pay the price which Mr. Bowdell asked for the road? (2.) Are Mr. Bowdell's proposals fair to the people of this Province?

The interest of the people of British Columbia requires that these questions should stand alone and be answered without reference to party politics or the antecedents of party politicians. If the province cannot afford the road on the terms proposed it does not matter what those who rejected them said and did three years or two years or one year ago. In the same way if the proposals are not fair to the people of British Columbia their consideration should not be mixed up with questions of local interests or party policy or personal jealousy. It is of the greatest importance that these questions should be considered in all parts of the Province solely on their merits. We are quite satisfied that if this is done, and when this is done, the great majority of the electors of this Province will not blame the Hon. Mr. Turner for giving a negative answer to them both.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.

The Manchester Ship Canal, of which, when it was opened, such great things were hoped and expected, has not so far turned out well. The traffic on the Canal, though increasing, is not nearly so large as was calculated upon by its projectors. In the last six months of 1895 the amount on which tolls were paid was 755,000 tons against 555,000 in a similar period in 1894. For the full years in question, the total tonnage of 1895 was 1,358,000 tons against 925,000 tons in 1894. The Canal has not yet paid its working expenses. The City of Manchester borrowed £4,000,000 to build the Canal and it finds itself obliged to pay the interest on that immense sum. This is what Bradstreet's says about the Canal in a late issue:

Leaving aside the financial results—which are certainly not encouraging—it would seem that the results of building the canal are not what was anticipated. In spite of the most vigorous efforts to procure traffic for the canal, it has not yet made Manchester a seaport. It has been pointed out by the management of the company that the traders and manufacturers of the district can not only effect great savings directly by making full use of it, but that, "as a matter of policy, they wish to support the canal even when the older rival routes are for the time being offering equal advantages." It is one of the aims of Manchester to force the railroads to put the city upon the same footing as other sea ports in regard to rates. This the railroad companies thus far refuse to do. They carry goods from Liverpool to London at low rates in order to prevent the traffic from going by sea. But they do not for the present show any readiness to class Manchester with Liverpool in this respect. Nor is it likely that this object will be gained till the traffic of the canal reaches proportions indicating that it is becoming a dangerous competitor to the railroads for the coastwise carriage of freight.

While the Canal was being constructed its projectors confidently predicted that when in full operation it would bring the railroad directors to their senses, and cause them to give Manchester manufacturers and traders as favorable rates as they gave to any city in the Kingdom, but their predictions have not yet been fulfilled.

A SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT.

The Winnipeg Free Press, which, all things considered, has pursued a moderate course on the school question, is of opinion that an arrangement will be made between the Government of the Dominion and the Government of the Province which will put an end to the present unpleasant agitation. In its issue of the 9th it says:

There is every prospect that Sir Donald A. Smith's recent visit to this city is to bear rich fruit. The burden of the despatches sent out from Ottawa, to Liberal papers as well as Conservative, is to the like effect—that a settlement of the school question will be arrived at between the two Governments, and that it will not be necessary to proceed with the remedial bill. Correspondents who are supposed to be more or less inspired and who are kept in close touch with Ministers on occasions such as this, and correspondents who fit around on the outside of the charmed circle, and whose sharper wits have to depend on a word here and a sign there, have but one story—Mr. Greenway is to be invited to Ottawa, and the long sore is to be healed without the drastic treatment of Parliament. There are too many evidences to doubt that some such step as this is in contemplation. The leader of the House at Ottawa has virtually admitted it, and Mr. Greenway's unusual tenderness in dealing with the question when it is put to him is generally accepted as very strong confirmation of the suspicion that "something is in the wind."

Many of us believe and all hope that such is the case. And we shall not stand on the manner of the settlement so long as a settlement is reached. Besides becoming vastly tiresome, the question is fast developing ugly features that would certainly become dangerous if not checked. We suspect that it was this that excited the concern of Sir Donald Smith and brought him to Winnipeg in the hope that some peaceable disposi-

tion of the difficulties might be made. From the time the judgment of the Privy Council was rendered there ought to have been no difficulty in connection with the matter, nor would there have been but for the annoying and arbitrary interference of the authorities at Ottawa.

After reflecting severely and, as we believe, very unjustly, on the course pursued by the Dominion Government with respect to the school question, the Free Press goes on to say:

Another fortunate circumstance is that a new power has taken the lead in Ottawa; a new influence has arisen which recognizes that the agitation is to be subdued if worse is not to come of it. With these agencies at work, we can well understand that Mr. Greenway has been prevailed upon to consider terms of a settlement. If there was not such agreement in the despatches from Ottawa, it would be easy to believe that with the ministerial influence of Sir Charles Tupper in the ascendancy, supported by the rational, business sentiment of the country, an earnest effort would be made to dispose of the question before further and worse harm resulted. And when approached in a proper spirit there is not now, any more than there has been since the opinion of the Privy Council became known, the slightest reason to suppose that Mr. Greenway on his part would refuse to respond.

The indications, then, all point to a conference at the Capital, with the view of reaching a settlement of this vexing school question. It would be a thousand pities if nothing should come of it. In the interests of peace and harmony we believe both sides would be willing to make sacrifices; but if there should be failure, a terrible responsibility will rest on the side that refuses to go far enough.

If the spirit which the Free Press displays in the article of which the above is an extract prevails in Manitoba, it will not, we think, be at all difficult for the Minister of Justice, with the aid of Sir Donald Smith's powerful influence, to bring about a compromise which will be cheerfully acquiesced in by men of every creed and of all shades of political belief in every province of the Dominion.

CONSUMPTION.

Dr. Playter, the editor of the Canada Health Journal, has written a work on Consumption; its Nature, Causes and Prevention. Such a work as this, if it is well and judiciously written, cannot fail to be of very great use not only to medical men but to every intelligent parent in Canada. Consumption is lamentably prevalent in every part of the country. It is, therefore, necessary that those who have the care of the young should know all that there is to be known about its nature, its causes, and how it is to be prevented. As everyone knows, there are some constitutions predisposed to consumption. The bacillus of the disease finds in them a congenial soil, and when the circumstances are at all favorable they increase and multiply at a deadly rate. "The effects of environment on the prevalence of consumption are made clear by a mass of evidence culled from numerous statistical works—the unavoidable conclusion being that its virulence and spread are most marked in over-crowded cities. Full breathing surface and abundant oxygen are essential to the preservation and recovery of pulmonary health. The emphasis often laid upon heredity, Dr. Playter reduces to reasonable significance when he urges those in whose families cases of consumption have occurred, to accept the fact as a timely warning to omit no needful precautions. The evidence of its infectiousness is abundant and manifold and that it may be contracted from diseased meat and milk, ample statistics have established." Those who wish to keep their families free from consumption should be most careful to have their houses and the premises surrounding them in the best possible sanitary condition. The drainage not only of the house but of the whole district should be looked to and put in good order whenever it is possible to prevail upon the municipal authorities to give the sewers the attention they require. An excellent review of Dr. Playter's book in the Montreal Gazette, from which we have already quoted, says:

The home calls for special consideration, and here there is still vast room for improvement. Many houses, and even whole districts, are nurseries of tuberculosis. The diffusion of sound principles of sanitation should be combined with a strict enforcement of sanitary law. Therewith are associated the problems of drainage, the disposal of refuse, food inspection, public baths, sanitarium, and other details of health administration. Dr. Playter is of opinion that the climate of Canada, of even the coldest part, is favorable to persons disposed to or affected by consumption. This is said to be particularly true of some parts of British Columbia.

MANY old acquaintances of the deceased lady helped to form the sorrowing circle at the funeral yesterday afternoon of the late Mrs. Pollard, relict of the late Rev. William Pollard. The services, which were largely attended, were conducted by Rev. J. F. Betts, assisted by Rev. Messrs. Tait, Glover and Bryant. They were held at the residence of the deceased's son-in-law, Mr. H. G. Hall, Saanich road, and were very impressive. The pall-bearers were Messrs. D. Spencer, A. J. McJellan, John Teague, William Morris, J. Bullen and J. Jessop. Mr. and Mrs. Burgess, Rev. Joseph and Mrs. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Grant were among the chief mourners.

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

"PREACH THE GOSPEL!"

The annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held yesterday evening at the Metropolitan Methodist church, Mr. Noah Shakespeare, the president, being in the chair and the attendance being very numerous one. Before calling for the report the president stated that the work of the branch had broadened into a new field during the year just closed, and that the number of men employed and many bibles having been distributed with good results. Dr. Lang then presented the annual report as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.—In presenting the report of the British and Foreign Bible Society for the past year I have to note that your executive committee have held five meetings for the dispatch of business. A letter from the society's permanent secretary in Toronto, dated 16th May, raised the important question of the desirability of this branch employing a colporteur for work in this province. The suggestion was a welcome one and was acted on without delay. Your committee secured the services of Mr. T. J. Barron, a graduate of McGill University, who on 20th August was appointed to prosecute colporteur work in this province, and who entered on his duties forthwith.

Although prevented from prosecuting his labors continuously, various settlements on Vancouver Island have been visited and faithfully canvassed. Mr. Barron's reports while revealing a field sparsely settled, and hence one in which comparatively few sales of books could be effected, yet they reveal a most needy field for such labors. From the date of Mr. Barron's appointment until the 31st of December, 1895, he reports having spent 40 full days in colporteur work, having travelled 511 miles, visited 713 families and individuals, sold 60 bibles and 91 testaments, and given gratis three bibles and 25 testaments. We heartily share in the hope expressed in a recent letter from headquarters in Toronto, that "though the good seed appears to be cast in stony ground, some of it, at least, will take root and bring forth abundantly to the glory of God." We look forward with considerable interest to the vigorous prosecution of this new departure in bible distribution work in connection with this branch.

Your committee has had under consideration a proposal to place in hotels, steamboats and other public places, copies of the scriptures. We hope at an early date that the proposal will be carried into effect, as recent advices from headquarters promise all needed help in the matter.

Our stock of bibles and bible portions at the depository, at Messrs. Hibben & Co.'s, was at the beginning of the year valued at \$293.27. In the course of the year stock valued at \$49.40 was received from Toronto. Sales and grants for the year have together amounted to \$171.25, leaving stock on hand valued at \$171.42. An order has been forwarded to England, of which we expect delivery in due course, while a consignment is now on its way from Toronto, comprising bibles and scripture portions in the English, Italian, French, Icelandic, Norwegian and Portuguese languages.

Last year our free contribution to the Upper Canada branch was much smaller than in past years, being only \$10.00. The present year we cannot yet tell what amount we shall be able to forward as a free contribution, as our annual collection is being taken up this year after our annual meeting instead of before it as in former years.

Here we would express the hope that your liberality shall enable us to contribute more largely than in the past, to a society through which we are now enabled to place the word of God in almost every home and cabin in the province. In making this appeal we would remind you of the great object of the society of which we form a part, viz.: The giving of the Bible without note or comment to the various nations of the earth. The annual issue of bibles and portions in all languages now amounts to close on 4,000,000, and each year sees this glorious book issuing in languages in which it had not formerly been printed. In 1895 the people of Afghanistan were to receive their first complete bible; and at the present time different regions in Africa, in New Guinea, on the slopes of the Himalayas, and in Assam, native races are having the scriptures placed within their reach for the first time. It is surely ours to do what we can to aid in scattering abroad "the incorruptible seed of the Word, which liveth and abideth forever."

On motion of Rev. Mr. Betts, seconded by Mr. S. B. Nelson, the report was adopted. Rev. Dr. Wilson then moved, Rev. Dr. Campbell seconding, the following resolution, which also was adopted:

"That this meeting expresses its gratitude to Almighty God for the success which from the beginning has attended the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society; and that it rejoices in signs of increasing interest in its work, and resolves to assist it in its operations financially or otherwise." Addresses and music followed, the singing of the Centennial church choir, a well rendered solo by Mrs. Greenway, and a duet by Professor and Mrs. Spice adding greatly to the pleasure of the meeting. Before the adjournment votes of thanks were passed to these musical friends, and to the trustees of the Metropolitan church for the use of the building for the purposes of the meeting.

Awarded Highest Honors—World's Fair. DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER. MOST PERFECT MADE. A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

THE SEASON'S FINEST MOVEMENTS

The Season's Finest Movements and Pictures

Pension for Du Galleries and Opened

LONDON, March 15.—The first drawing held on Wednesday by the Prince of Wales, near St. James's Palace, was a success.

Although the weather was not very favorable, the drawing was a success, and the Prince of Wales was delighted with the result.

The drawing was held in the presence of a large number of guests, and the Prince of Wales was accompanied by the Princess Alice and the Princess Louise.

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