

Colonist.

FEBRUARY 20, 1896.

DOUBTING.

...all that the Times has been forced to swallow was the appointment of Col. Prior to a seat in the Cabinet. Although the appointment was made months ago, and Col. Prior has taken the seat in the Cabinet to which he was appointed and is performing the duties and exercising the powers of a Cabinet Minister, the Times is still making wry faces and sputtering in the most undignified manner over the dose. We cannot honestly say we are sorry for our contemporary, because it ought to have had more sense than to have placed itself in such a very pitiable position. Can it not see how ridiculous it is making itself by denying what has long been an accomplished fact? It would be just as reasonable for the editor of the Times to maintain that Col. Prior has not been returned to Parliament as to deny that he is a member of the Cabinet.

Our contemporary becomes sarcastic when it discusses the question. "But," it says, "as Col. Prior's organ in this city says the appointment of a controller to a seat in the Cabinet is all right, probably the constitutional lawyers at Ottawa do not know anything about the matter." We do not know that Col. Prior has an organ in this city; but if he has and it says that the Premier has full power to appoint a controller to a seat in the Cabinet, it says what is perfectly true, and there is at least one constitutional authority in Ottawa who agrees with it. That authority is the Hon. David Mills. In a speech which he delivered in the House of Commons, on the 4th of the present month, he is reported by the Toronto Globe as saying: "To make a man a Privy Councillor whom the law intended should not be, was a most extraordinary proceeding, although he would not say it was unconstitutional, because the Crown could call in anyone to advise the Crown—a member of the House."

According to Mr. Mills, then, the appointment of a Controller to a seat in the Cabinet was extraordinary, but not unconstitutional. Surely this ought to convince our contemporary that in questioning the genuineness of the Hon. Col. Prior's appointment and expressing doubts as to his status in the Government, it is, not to put too fine a point on it, making a fool of itself. Does our contemporary for a moment suppose that if Col. Prior has not a perfect legal and constitutional right to the seat in the cabinet which he occupies the Grits would be so slack and so stupid as to permit him without protest to occupy it for a single day? If that were the case, would the Hon. David Mills, the constitutional authority of the Grit party, be so foolish as to admit that the appointment is constitutional? The fact is Col. Prior is a Cabinet Minister, and what is the Times going to do about it?

THE LATEST VAGARY.

There is no accounting for the vagaries of the local organ of the Opposition. Yesterday evening it scolded the Government because it did not prolong the debate on the Lands Sale bill after the Opposition had said all that they thought it necessary to say about the measure. It is the duty and the privilege of the Opposition thoroughly to ventilate every Government measure that is submitted for their consideration. If the members on the Opposition side of the Chamber had exhausted their arguments against the measure on the day on which the motion for the second reading was made, is the Government to blame? If the Opposition are so slack as to permit the question on the second reading of an important measure to be put and carried before they have discussed it sufficiently, they have no one to blame for their remissness but themselves. To censure the Government because they did not lend the Opposition a helping hand in opposing the passage of a Government measure is something so utterly absurd that we hardly believed our eyes when we read the leading article in yesterday evening's Times.

Our contemporary does not treat its friends kindly when it assumes that they allowed the second reading of the bill—its most important stage—to be carried before they had said what they had to say in opposition to its passage. It is foolish for our contemporary to talk about "a snap verdict." We are very sure that the acting Speaker, Mr. Booth, gave the Opposition every opportunity to speak against the bill—that is, if they had anything to urge against it. He is, in the Speaker's chair, the embodiment of fairness, and if the debate was closed prematurely the fault was not his.

The organ's censure of the Government is really the most sweeping condemnation of the Opposition that could be uttered. Intelligently read, it signifies that the Opposition either cannot or will not do their duty. It should, if it were only for decency's sake, take it for granted that the Opposition had changed their minds about the bill, and saw that if they continued to oppose it they would be doing what was detrimental to the public welfare. If it could not bring itself to take this course it should not have lashed its friends over the shoulders of the government. It ought to have read them a lecture on their

want of zeal and their lack of vigilance. This would have been the honest and straightforward course, but our contemporary through a perverseness which has become one of its chief characteristics took the shortest and the readiest way open to it to make both itself and its political friends ridiculous.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER IN MONTREAL.

Sir Charles Tupper, who the Grits are trying to convince the people of Canada is a worn-out politician, enfeebled by the infirmities of age, made a speech in Montreal on his return from the Cape Breton election campaign. This was the Gazette of that city said about his condition after the labors of a lively contest: "He had just completed a long railway journey, after spending a fortnight in a winter political campaign. He is a man of nearly seventy-five years of age. He spoke with some huskiness, the natural effect of long continued exertions which a much younger man might plead guilty to without shame. But there was no other sign of weakness. His address was a well-arranged, well-delivered review of the main issue of the political field and a justification of the Conservative policy in regard thereto."

As a great deal has been said and written about the Cape Breton election and of the influences which secured Sir Charles Tupper's return, we do not think we are wrong in concluding that our readers will like to see what Sir Charles himself had to say about the matter and about the principal question that was then, as it is now, before the people. About the clerical influence which is said to have been used on his behalf, Sir Charles said:

From the hour that he entered the county he felt it right, as a public man, to frankly and fearlessly state his views on the burning question of the Manitoba schools. He did so in the most open manner, and his speeches were reported verbatim, and were scattered broadcast all over the country, and he was proud to be able to state that the best evidence of the feeling and sentiment of the people of the province was to be seen in the fact that Roman Catholics and Protestants were to be found standing side by side, and shoulder to shoulder, in defence of equal rights to all, without respect to race or creed. (Loud applause.) "I took my stand upon this platform," said Sir Charles, "I approached neither prelate nor priest of any denomination. (Applause.) I may say that down to the time that the poll closed in that county I had not the slightest communication, direct or indirect, with my friend Bishop Cameron. But having placed my views on this question frankly and fearlessly before the electorate, I had the pleasure of finding at every meeting that I held—and they were great meetings, representing the intelligent element of that fine county—I found myself sustained by the presence of Roman Catholic priests and Presbyterian divines and Church of England ministers sitting side by side (cheers), and when I had placed my views before them the clergy of all denominations congratulated me upon the stand I had taken, and stated, whether Presbyterians or Episcopalians, or whatever denomination they belonged to, they were prepared to maintain the rights of Catholics just as they would expect to have their own rights maintained. (Cheers.) Those who know the County of Cape Breton do not only look at the polling districts, and they will find that there was no portion of the county in which I was more handsomely sustained than the districts which are almost entirely Presbyterian or Protestant." (Hear, hear.)

What Sir Charles said on the question of coercion is instructive. Our readers will see that he did not shirk the question but said what he had to say upon it freely, openly and without the slightest reserve. "There is just one point," he said, "I should like to mention, and I found it was a position accepted by all parties and all classes without material question. It was this. I say there is the gravest objection to the coercion of any province, I say there is the gravest objection to tampering with the autonomy of a province. The Act of Confederation defines, in distinct terms and very clearly, the powers that can be exercised by local parliaments and local governments, and I am the last man in the world, having been one of the fathers of Confederation—I am afraid almost the only one remaining, I am sorry to say, but having been one of the fathers of Confederation, I have no objection to making a statement, one who took a most active and energetic part in relation to the whole of that great constitution of Canada. I am in a position to say that I am the last man in the world to lay my hand upon the ark of the constitution, and to tamper with it or touch it in any way whatever. (Applause.) But, while, under that constitution, the question of education is placed in the hands of the local legislatures of each province, there is one marked exception, and that is just such a case as has arisen now. Sir Alexander Gait, the distinguished representative of the English speaking Protestants of Lower Canada, wrote with his own hand the clause of the constitution that deals with this important subject. Sir Alexander Gait demanded, not on behalf of Roman Catholic minorities, but he demanded on behalf of the Protestant minority of Quebec, that there should be a complete guarantee in the constitution of the country that would prevent the rights of any minority, whether Protestant or Catholic, being invaded by a majority of a different kind. (Applause.) Now, what is that provision in the constitution? It is this: 'While a local legislature has education committed to its care, it is at the same time stated that, in case they touch, they infringe upon, they destroy, they take away the rights of the minority, whether Catholic or Protestant, then the constitution declares that their power ceases, and that it becomes a question for the Federal Legislature. That is the position. No question of coercion arises. If the legislature of Manitoba, or of any other province, infringes that law of the constitution of the country which pro-

vides that the rights and privileges enjoyed by minorities when they went into Confederation shall not be interfered with, then, I say, the constitution removes that question from the local legislature and devotes the responsibility upon the Parliament of the Dominion to redress that wrong. (Great cheering.) There is no question of provincial autonomy, there is no question of coercion, because under the constitution the duty then is imposed upon the Dominion Legislature, just as under the previous state of things it was imposed upon the local legislature. (Hear, hear.) Now, what has happened? This question has been referred to the courts. My lamented friend, Sir John Thompson, stated on the public platform, in the city of Toronto, what he would do. He was asked, 'What will you do with this Manitoba question?' And his answer was this: 'That question has been referred to the courts. I don't know what the decision will be, but as Premier of Canada, charged with the responsibility of the Government, I pledge myself to every man that whatever the decision may be, I will carry it out so far as I am able. (Applause.) That was the position taken by a Roman Catholic premier, and it did him infinite honor. That is the position that I take, every man, whether Protestant or Catholic, in this country, is bound to maintain. It was referred to the courts, and the highest tribunal in the Empire, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, has declared that the rights and privileges of the minority in Manitoba have been infringed, and that the duty, the responsibility of dealing with that question now rests upon the Dominion parliament. (Applause.) But, gentlemen, I am glad to be able to find that even the Government of Manitoba admit the wrong. I hold in my hand the speech with which the Hon. the Governor of Manitoba, acting under the advice of his council, declared what their position is, and what do they say? They say 'the attitude assumed by the Government of Manitoba in relation to the pending application of the minority for a restoration of their former privileges in regard to education.' What does that mean? It means that they have taken away the privileges enjoyed by the minority. (Applause.) They have adopted a position which closes their mouths against any question of coercion."

It will have to be admitted by opponents as well as friends that Sir Charles Tupper discussed the Manitoba school question in a statesmanlike manner. He looked upon the question as a public man without sectarian bias or religious prejudice. After hearing his clear, impartial and able exposition of the question, it is not surprising that both Protestants and Roman Catholics in Cape Breton supported him enthusiastically.

THE REMEDIAL BILL.

The remedial bill is discussed very freely in the Eastern newspapers. Those that support the Government, as might be expected, notice it favorably, and the criticisms of such of the opposition newspapers as we have seen, are not very severe. The Montreal Star, which has for some time been singularly non-partisan, evidently considers it a good measure. This is what it says of it: "The Remedial Bill submitted to Parliament yesterday will strike impartial critics as eminently fair to both Protestants and Catholics in its intentions at least. That it will be completely satisfactory to the extremists of either section is neither to be expected nor desired. The main principle of the bill, the application of the proceeds of school taxes levied upon Roman Catholics to the purposes of Roman Catholic education, is scarcely open to question. Any man who quarrels with that would not be satisfied even if Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Mr. Clarke Wallace were to go to Manitoba and teach Roman Catholic dogma in the separate schools themselves. The framers of the bill have been at great pains, and have shown considerable ingenuity in making the law as little coercive and offensive as possible in its working. A time will come, probably soon after the next general election when the Manitoba school question will cease to be an issue in either Dominion or Provincial politics, but there will remain a question of the separate school law, which might be a cause of local irritation for many years, if always operated by an authority outside the province. In this matter the Dominion Government has shown more regard for provincial autonomy in the future than has been displayed by the Greenway Government. If the bill becomes law, not only will Mr. Greenway have an opportunity of settling it, and with it the responsibility of carrying out its provisions, but any future provincial administration, which may not be embarrassed by the exigencies of Dominion party politics, will have the same option. Thus the duty of appointing a Roman Catholic Board of Education for Manitoba is assigned in the first place to the Manitoba Government. Only in the event of its failure to act is the Dominion Government authorized to appoint a Board; and every year, by the retirement of three members, the Provincial Government of the day will have an opportunity of exercising its authority in this matter. Again, while to the municipal authorities is assigned the duty of levying and collecting the Roman Catholic school assessments, only in the event of the failure of any of them to act, is the Provincial Roman Catholic Board of Education authorized to act for them. The bill appears to be an honest attempt to make a law which shall be operative, preferably by the co-operation of provincial authorities, but in any way, operative. To have framed a bill which should depend for its operation wholly upon the Dominion Government, which is resolved in advance not to assist in its execution would have been a mockery and a sham. The most embarrassing part of the new arrangement will be the division of the public grant in aid of the maintenance of schools. The disposition of the revenue of the province is wholly in the power of its legislature. The federal government cannot compel it to give a pro rata part of it to the schools of the minority. All, therefore, that the remedial law does is to assert the right of the

minority to a proportionate share of the grant, leaving it to the sense of justice of the legislature whether it will give or withhold that share. This is what the Minister of Justice said about this very delicate part of the subject in his exposition of the law: "The subject of a legislative grant was one of very grave difficulty, and the constitutionality of the provisions relating to that will, I have no doubt, be the subject of discussion in the House. But, so far as the bill is concerned, the attempt that was made by the Government was this: 'There were two aspects of the question, the sharing of the legislative grant, which was one of the rights adjudged primarily to the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba in the Privy Council decision in England and Canada; that therefore was one of the rights to which they were particularly entitled. On the other hand it was felt that for this Parliament to attempt to legislate directly with supply granted by the Province of Manitoba would lead to enormous practical difficulties, besides being of a very highly offensive character—if I may use that term—to the local authorities. The Government did not feel that this house had any constitutional authority to deal practically with the question of the legislative grant, and, as far as the difficulty was considered possible of solution, it solved in the bill which I propose to introduce by adjudicating that the right to share in the legislative grant be one of the rights and privileges of the Catholic minority in the province of Manitoba. Taking it for granted—as I think later discussion will show we have a right to do—that the province of Manitoba itself will, after the system is established, supply that fund to the separate schools. That, of course, will be a matter of discussion later on. I do not know that I can say anything further just now as to the financial aspect of the case."

MOVING BACKWARDS.

We see that Mr. Kitchen, M.P.P., has given the following notice of motion: "That in the opinion of this House the Provincial Board of Health is an unnecessary expense on the province, under present circumstances, and that the appointment of the members of the board should be cancelled."

We wonder if Mr. Kitchen has inquired into the nature of boards of health and tried to find out what they have done in other countries. From expressions that fell from him, a few days ago, he seemed to be under the impression that the Provincial Board of Health was established expressly for the purpose of preventing the importation of cholera, smallpox and other contagious diseases from China and Japan. It is true that if the Board of Health does its duty well the inhabitants of the Province need not fear the introduction of contagious diseases from China or any other country. In Great Britain it has been found that the action of the health authorities, besides conferring great benefits on the inhabitants of both town and country, renders quarantine unnecessary. When the local boards do their duty it is impossible for either cholera or smallpox, however it may be introduced, to do the community much harm.

Mr. Kitchen and some other local politicians, who are very wise in their own conceit, appear to have no use for boards of health. They see in them nothing but expensive pieces of governmental machinery. They evidently believe that every dollar spent on a board of health is a dollar lost to the province. These gentlemen differ from a British statesman, who, now that he is dead and gone, all Englishmen unite in speaking of as "great." This statesman was, during the first part of his public life, known as D'Israeli, and in his latter days as Lord Beaconsfield. This eminent, experienced and enlightened British statesman said "The public health is the foundation on which repose the happiness of the people and the power of a country. The care of the public health is the first duty of a statesman."

The means which statesmen use to ascertain the state of the public health and to devise ways of preserving it are boards of health. Such boards are established in all civilized countries and they have been found to be useful. They have preserved thousands upon thousands of human lives and made life better and worth living. We have discovered that one-third of the deaths in these days are from diseases which are known to be preventable. That is, one death out of every three is caused by ignorance, neglect, carelessness or pigheadedness. This is a serious consideration for Mr. Kitchen and for the other gentlemen, who the people of this Province and this Dominion have entrusted with the care of the health of the public. Many people seem to forget that there are means which governing bodies only can use to preserve the public health, and means which, we are thankful to say, have proved to be efficacious.

It was found at one time that British soldiers in India died like flies, in fact, that the mortality among soldiers in barracks was everywhere lamentably great. Thirty-six years ago 69 soldiers out of every 1,000 serving in India died every year. Proper sanitary regulations were established and enforced, and the mortality was reduced to less than 35 in the 1,000. Here obedience to sanitary law saved annually the lives of 54 soldiers in every 1,000. This in an army of 30,000 meant 1,630, nearly equal to two regiments.

The jails in Great Britain were once the nurseries of disease. The inmates were afflicted with a terrible disease known as jail fever. This disease was not always confined to the jails. It was discovered that the prevalence of this disease was owing wholly to the insanitary condition of the prisons. The conditions were improved and now the prisons of England are healthier than the houses of the citizens. The same means which, without medicine of any kind, effected such great improvements in the health of the soldiers in garrison and the prisoners in jails, were in time applied by boards of health to the inhabitants of cities with the best results. We are told that: "In the seventeenth century the mortality of the city of London was 80 per 1,000; in the eighteenth century it was 5,000; in 1871 it was 22.6 per 1,000 and had been at this rate for some years previously; but coincidentally with the passing of the Public Health Act, in 1872 the death rate commenced to fall, and continued to fall regularly until, in 1881 it was 18.9 per 1,000. In other towns and cities of Great Britain the death rate has been lowered surprisingly by the action of boards of health. There is the same account to be given of the cities of continental Europe and of America. Boards of health of one kind and another are considered a necessary part of national and municipal government. In this Dominion every Province has its Board of Health, and the man who would propose to do away with them would be regarded as very much indeed of a back number.

This Province of British Columbia needs a Board of Health quite as much as any other of the Provinces of the Dominion. The public health in both town and country needs to be preserved. British Columbia has suffered very seriously already for the want of an efficient Board of Health. If there had been one in good working order when the smallpox was brought into the province, three years ago, it would not have been allowed to spread. The direct cost of that visitation must have been over \$100,000, and the in-

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sanitary condition of the prisons. The direct cost many times that sum. The money then lost for the want of a Provincial Board of Health would have supported, and liberally supported, one for at least a quarter of a century. If anyone had proposed the establishment of a Provincial Board of Health the year before the smallpox visitation economists of the Kitchen calibre would have protested against its cost and declared that it was "an unnecessary expense under present circumstances."

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLOROXYNE. Vice-Chancellor Sir W. PAGE WOOD stated publicly in court that Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE was undoubtedly the inventor of Chloroxyne, that the whole story of the defendant Freeman was literally untrue, and he requested to say that it had been sworn to.—Times, July 12, 1884. DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLOROXYNE IS THE BEST AND MOST CERTAIN REMEDY IN COLIC, COLDS, ASTHMA, CONSUMPTION, NEURALGIA, RHEUMATISM, &c. DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLOROXYNE is prescribed by scores of orthodox practitioners. Of course it would not be thus generally popular did it not "supply a want and fill a place."—Medical Times, January 12, 1885. DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLOROXYNE is a certain cure for Cholera, Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Colic, &c. CAUTION—None genuine without the words "Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chloroxyne" on the wrapper. Overwhelming medical testimony secures each bottle. Sole manufacturer, J. T. DAVENPORT, 25 Great Russell Street, London, Sold at Is., 1/6d., 2s., 3s., 4s., 5s.

NEWS OF THE

C. P. R. Improvement land and Nelson C. ence. Charles Warwick R. ington Dynamite O. ous Quarrel at

VANCOUVER, Feb. 18. Superintendent of the East returned from the East on an interview said that a terminal building would this year, a large sum was improving the roadbed. All correspondence for Creek, has for some time patched daily by the W. and from the 12th inst. Kaslo and Kootenay. Latched the same way. pence for Vancouver and Nanaimo is forward and is due in Vancouver the third day after the date. Vancouver, Feb. 19. A Chilean ship now in port escape from drowning, fell from the deck side against the anchor chain the water. He was swimming about for ten Mr. Morris, Chilean, dented himself in order Chilean barques at present passengers to Chile. A passenger vessel. She in eight weeks, while the steamer takes six weeks same voyage. The court of revision morning.

WESTMINSTER, Feb. 18. Inquest into the death of Wilbanc at Mission City turned a verdict of "de causes. The two tramps, Clark stole furs at Mission and at Whatcom, have been trial by the U.S. authorities. WESTMINSTER, Feb. 18. new lined mill are in sale here. Reeve Armstrong and gridge having thought to remove a Surrey farmer council chamber during council, the reeve and prosecuted by the farmer.

NANAIMO, Feb. 18.—Wilkinson and E. A. B. don, Eng., and Mr. H. provincial assayer, have Alberni. They are mude the country, but say no future intentions. John Erick, a notary and Chas. Mitchell, a B. dents of Northfield, qu day night, Erick finally ear off. Constable M. Erick.

H. S. Royal Arthur to-morrow, when an effort to arrange a Rugby match flagship and our own X. George Graham, reeve Union on a charge of the dynamite outrage all been released on bail to \$4,000 in all, \$2,000 in and two sureties of \$1,000. Work is progressing. Albertini mines and l. men are employed on claims, which they expect for slaying in May. been let for the erection on the old mill site, wh nucleus of a new town. the mines is to pass the NANAIMO, Feb. 19.—H thur arrived in port on

The city council have tion praying the Lieut in-connel to cancel the a police magistrate at the per annum, and further appoint a suitable per annum. DUNCAN, Feb. 18.—Th Cowichan Creamery A agreed to purchase from can an acre of land ad way immediately to the can station, for a site for The Cowichan Instit of their pleasant dances at the Agricultural hall.

ASHCROFT (From the B. C. Min It is probable that a n Sounders will cast this summer and will separating gold from the to be found in such upper country. It is reported on good strike of unexampled r made by Col. Lightner mine at Savona. The though, anyhow, going coat, but it is stated the new strike will go count. A 150-horse power boiler umbia & Kootenay Nav passed through Ashcrof 1887, also a double rail timbers 12x18 inches l long to be used as gunv steamer to be construct pany and destined to pl Eia river. The boiler w B. C. Ironworks of Van timbers were cut at th mill. H. Helgeson and son at Quesselle Forks o Goose creek opposite Goose creek has the rep a good creek in deep g tried in the early days l der was well known and ers met in sinking were to handle. The weathe been wonderfully fine at J. E. Boss has rece