

"FREE AND INDEPENDENT."

Mr. Masson, member for North Grey, voted for the second reading of the remedial bill, though he knew the great majority of his constituents were opposed to that bill. He had ample evidence of that fact in the stand taken by the new Conservative candidate in the riding, who found it necessary to pledge himself against remedial legislation. Mr. Masson was promptly rewarded by his appointment as junior judge of the county of Huron, and there is no doubt whatever that he had the promise of that appointment in his pocket when he voted for the bill. At the late session of the Ontario legislature an act was passed providing that there shall not be more than one judge in any county having less than 80,000 population. Huron county has less than that number, and therefore the judicial seat which had been kept open for Mr. Masson for over a year was seriously endangered. To avert the danger a rush was necessary at the last hour, the incident being thus described by the Globe: "This clause was inserted in the bill on Thursday of last week and the bill was read a third time on the same day, when the house finished its business and rose. The next day being Good Friday, the Lieutenant-Governor did not come down to sanction the bill, but that ceremony was deferred until the following Tuesday. In the meantime telegraphic information was no doubt conveyed to the government and Mr. Masson at Ottawa of this new provision. Mr. Masson was snatched from his duties as a watcher of the coercion bill, his commission was issued on Monday, he made haste to reach Toronto on Tuesday and was sworn in on the forenoon of that day. Before the Lieutenant-Governor gave his assent to the bill in the afternoon. It was a lively scramble and a narrow escape. We can with difficulty conceive a more striking illustration of the keenness of the traffic carried on at Ottawa than this appointment presents." In one of his late speeches in the commons Mr. McCarthy very plainly said that more of the members who voted so faithfully with the government had the same reasons as Mr. Masson. He mentioned the reports that Boyle of Monck was to be appointed collector of customs at Niagara, Mr. McKay, of Hamilton, to be appointed collector of customs at that city, and Metcalfe of the Kingston penitentiary. These members failed to deny the soft impeachment. Mr. McCarthy well summed up the situation when he said: "We do not know who sit here the free and independent representatives of the people, or who occupy these seats with government professions of place in their pockets." The whole fact of the matter is that the government sought to coerce Manitoba by means of purchased votes.

E. & N. LANDS.

The E. & N. railway company demand from the province land to the extent of 86,000 acres, in lieu of the lands in the specified railway belt that were alienated by the crown prior to the passage of the act in 1883. This claim will be apt to cause some mild surprise in the public mind, for very few people seem to have been aware that there was any such provision in the act as that which the company quotes. It would be presumptuous on the part of any ordinary person to dispute the interpretation of the law advanced by the company, especially when it is endorsed by the chief law officer of the country, but nobody need hesitate about denouncing the fatuity which made such a claim possible. We suppose that the matter will end as such matters usually do in this country, with the people being left the poor satisfaction of cursing the memory of the politicians who devised such plans for the affliction of coming generations.

A SESSION OF WOBBLING.

Though it lasted over 54 days, the late session of the legislature was an exceedingly barren one in the way of useful legislation, while it was a little too fertile in legislation of the other sort. The government could hardly have taken a surer course to demonstrate its own incapacity than that which it followed in respect of a number of bills. It introduced provisions relating to schools, which public opinion forced it to withdraw. It proposed to introduce a system of selling public lands by warrants, under which speculators would have been able to "blanket" large portions of the public domain at a cost to themselves merely nominal. There was another yielding to public disapproval, and the very objectionable measure was withdrawn, to be replaced by one not quite so bad—in its final form at least. A most outrageous bill for the taxation of the mining industry gave another illustration of the government's capacity for blundering and muddling. We doubt if any other governing body in Canada would entertain for a moment the preposterous ideas embodied in that bill. Fortunately the mining men had sufficient influence with the government to secure a radical modification of the measure, or there would have been a serious check to the industry to which the province is hopefully looking. As regards the public funds the treatment of former years has been followed, with aggravations of some of the worst features. With one breath the government pleads "poverty" and with the next it proposes the reckless squandering of money—all of which its faithful follow-

ers endorse. Additional taxes, additional powers to raise money by selling public property—all such instruments may well prove insufficient to keep the provincial books straight when the administration is in the hands of a set of incompetent politicians who care nothing for the public's welfare.

DOMINION TAXATION.

"We are opposed to the 'bleeding process' whereby the Province of British Columbia has been forced for years to contribute to the Dominion treasury in customs, excise, fishery and other dues, and to eastern monopolists, over two million dollars a year in excess of the sum returned to us for all purposes." This statement in the address of the Liberal candidates for Victoria seems to be causing the Colonist some mental trouble. "We should like to see how the candidates figure out these two millions," says the organ. The process is not at all difficult to understand, if the Colonist will only bear in mind the fact that the "contributions to eastern monopolists" are not recorded in the blue books. Every man of intelligence knows that on the large amount of goods from eastern Canada manufactured and consumed in this province a tax is levied by the manufacturers very nearly equal to the duty on similar foreign goods. It is also a well known fact that many foreign goods reach British Columbia by way of Montreal and Toronto, at which places the duty is collected and therefore is not credited to this province, though there is no doubt about it being ultimately paid by the consumer here. If we add to the collections set down in the blue books the tribute exacted for eastern manufacturers by the N. P. and the amount of duties paid here but recorded elsewhere the two millions mentioned by the Liberal candidates will very quickly be reached. In fact, the estimate is a moderate one, and well within the mark.

SOME QUERIES.

As the general elections are close at hand and as the occasion will probably be the last opportunity for a period of five years on which the electors will be able to express their judgment upon those matters so vitally affecting their interests, the time is not inopportune in view of the fact that there is a noticeable absence of unanimity of approval of the present government's past actions—to submit to the electors a few questions for their earnest consideration.

The system of protection has been given a fair trial. Has it brought prosperity? Has it built up—as was claimed it would do—countless manufacturing concerns from one end of the Dominion to the other? Has it, not, indeed, failed to maintain in existence, those industries which were born under its sheltering wing?

Has this system benefited—as was claimed it would do—the agricultural interests of the country? Are they not, on the other hand, worse because of it?

Has it—as was claimed it would do—caused a flow of immigration to our shores? Has it not, rather, had the effect of driving vast numbers of Canadians away from the land of their birth, because of its miserable failure to provide employment?

It has, we grant, built up monopoly; but is that desirable? And if this much-vaunted system of protection has proved a failure—a complete failure, as all save monopolists will be prepared to admit—is it not suicidal to continue its existence?

Then again: It has been charged that the present party in power has been guilty of gross extravagance in its administration of public funds; that there has been wholesale booting and that a most shameful state of corruption exists. The specific charges are matters of public knowledge, and we would ask is it not apparent to all those who possess even a slight knowledge of public affairs that these charges are true?

Can, then, such men be further trusted? Is it reasonable to believe that the present administration, if re-elected to power will reform their ways? Is it unreasonable to assume, as we do, that if again placed in power they will rob more openly and extensively than ever?

In regard to matters immediately affecting the interests of Victorians, is it not true, as charged, that the present Ottawa government, have continually neglected the needs of this province and this city? Is it not true, as charged, that the present government are subservient to the dictation of the C. P. R.? And is it not a fact that the C. P. R. has ever regarded this city with disdain and done everything possible to retard its progress? How then—aside from all other questions—can Victorians ever hope to secure a measure of justice from the Dominion government as long as its policy is dictated by Sir William Van Horne and his satellites?

As to our present representatives, Messrs. Earle and Prior. Have those gentlemen labored as earnestly in behalf of their constituency as they should have done? Have they not rather neglected to demand and insist upon getting—as our representatives should do—justice for this city? But even assuming that Messrs. Earle and Prior have exerted every endeavor in Le-half of the district they represent, have not the results attained been miserable and repeated failures?

These are a few of the questions which should—and we believe will—be

considered by every elector before he casts his ballot on election day. The Opposition party do not fear their answers to these questions nor their verdict at the polls, and only ask that they will arouse themselves from that state of indifference which in the past has been so fatal to their interests and determine upon a course of active interest in the momentous questions of the day.

The awful calamity that was averted by the defeat of the Opposition candidate at the late Victoria bye-election somehow grows less appalling as time takes its flight. 'Tis strange!

There is not a particle of truth in the absurd rumor that our most excellent and highly esteemed representative, Mr. Thomas Earle, is rusticated in Cuba. At last reports that gentleman was engaged in his customary and soothing pastime of flirting with Morphew on a couch in the house at Ottawa. Let us at least be just and say he is doing his duty—nobly, bravely and well.

The luxurious furnishings of the Cabinet Club's quarters—recently opened with great éclat—were paid for, so it is announced, by private contributions. Residents of Ottawa are proverbially philanthropic Prior to a general election.

It is comforting to reflect that three foot bolts on Victoria's fair landscape—the San Pedro, the powder magazine and the coercionist—will soon be obliterated. The first is to be blown up, the second torn down and the third snowed under.

Certain of the Dominion government party have developed a great respect for the constitution. They are courageously following the example of their worthy leader, who said he would sacrifice health, nay life itself, to bring about the passage of the coercion bill. He then immediately betook himself to bed—to sleep calmly while understraps kept watch over his bill.

Americans are usually slow in adopting "Canadianisms," but disciples of Uncle Sam are at last forced to include in their vocabulary a phrase as purely Canadian in its origin as it is expressive. Instead of saying he was "whipped into line," "compelled to do so," "held up," "throttled" or "coerced," they now simply say "I'll Tupper you," or, "he was Tuppered," as the case may be.

Citizens suffering from that "want a change feeling" are recommended to inspect the photo of British Columbia's real, live "cabinet" minister, on view in a Government street show window. A flood of ecstasy actually intoxicating in its intensity is immediately experienced and dull care at once takes flight.

A Madrid dispatch says: "The figures of the polls give more votes than there are registered electors." It will come in the nature of a surprise to learn that there are relatives of the Tupper family residing in Spain.

Mr. Wade's letter, published elsewhere in this issue, shows that the separate school system was imposed on the people of Manitoba in 1871 by a combination of bribery and fraud. Now it is proposed to re-impose it by coercion from Ottawa. No lover of fair dealing and freedom can approve of this scheme.

In a few short weeks our coercionist will stand before us and smilingly ask approval of his actions. Even though we should be charged—perhaps not without reason—with being pessimistic on this point, we cannot refrain from expressing the belief that he will notice a stray elector here and there who will be prone to question the existence of a degree of prosperity actually marvellous. There are restless souls everywhere.

The father of the prisoner Shortis, the Valleyfield murderer, is said to have spent \$60,000 in order to have his son's sentence commuted to imprisonment for life. Sir Hilbert Tupper may now be expected to promise that should he contract kidney disease he will be liberated.

By the way, was it Monte Christo or Sir Charles Tupper who exclaimed "The world is mine!" The palpable right of each to ownership is an excuse for a little uncertainty upon the point.

Canadians who yet retain a spark of confidence in the present Ottawa administration are blessed with an abundance of faith in the truism "out of evil cometh good." But the spectacle excites wonderment.

AN INDICATION OF FOUL AIR.

"In the Zurich industrial exposition," says Gaea (Leipzig, January), an air-tester is exhibited, which shows whether and in what degree the air in a workshop is contaminated. The apparatus consists of an airtight closed glass vessel filled with red fluid. Through a glass tube that dips into the liquid and is bent at the top a drop falls every 100 seconds on a cord that hangs beneath, and that is somewhat stretched by its weight. The fluid from which the drop comes has the property of changing its red color to white by the action of carbonic acid. The more carbonic acid there is in the air the quicker this change takes place. If the air is very foul the drop becomes white at the upper end of the cord, while the change of color corresponding to a slight proportion of carbonic acid does not take place till the drop has run farther along the cord. The exact condition of the air can be ascertained by observing a scale that is placed alongside the cord and that is divided into convenient parts, bearing the designations, "extremely bad," "very bad," "passable," "pure." This is surely a useful device, and should be found in every factory, every workshop, and every place, where persons are crowded together.



To the Electors of the Electoral District of Victoria:

Gentlemen: We respectfully solicit your votes and support at the general election for the House of Commons, at which we will be candidates in the interest of the Opposition party.

In our opinion the time has arrived when, for the welfare of Canada and to ensure a revival of prosperity in this constituency and throughout the Dominion, a change in the federal administration is absolutely necessary.

We fully endorse the Opposition platform, adopted at the Ottawa convention in June, 1893. As the candidates of that party we are opposed to the ruinous fiscal policy which has now had a trial of eighteen years, and are of opinion that the "highest interests of Canada demand a removal of this obstacle to our country's progress, by the adoption of a sound fiscal policy, which, while not doing any injustice to any class, will promote domestic and foreign trade and hasten a return of prosperity to our people, and to that end we believe that the tariff should be reduced to the needs of honest, economical and efficient government."

We believe in provincial rights, and will oppose coercion in any form towards the provinces of the Dominion in respect to matters upon which they have been entrusted with the powers to legislate. In the matter of the Manitoba School Question we are of opinion that the offer of the Greenway government to so amend the school law that the clergyman or representative of any denomination would have the right to impart religious instruction in the public schools, at stated times, was a most reasonable one, and that it ought to have been accepted by the minority as a compromise and by all parties as a liberal and adequate compliance with the judgment of the privy council. We are still in hope that, along these lines and under the policy of conciliation of Mr. Laurier—to whom all Canada is now looking for a final settlement of this disturbing question—the strife and intolerance which are provoked by denominational differences and religious rancor will forever disappear from the arena of Canadian politics, at least in so far as the public school system of our country is concerned.

We will support a progressive railway policy, and if elected will strongly urge the importance of assisting a trunk line to open up the great country in the northern part of British Columbia, by which a transcontinental line would traverse a rich and yet uninhabited region.

We are opposed to the "bleeding process" whereby the province of British Columbia has been forced for years to contribute to the Dominion treasury in customs, excise, fishery and other dues, and to eastern monopolists, over two million dollars a year in excess of the sum returned to us for all purposes.

We believe that it is possible to administer public affairs absolutely free from the scandals that have been a marked characteristic of the rule of the present and late administrations, and will support no man or set of men that will shield criminals, whitewash bootlers, or condone corruption in high places.

We believe in Canada and have faith in her future. Her progress has been retarded by a ruinous tariff and by maladministration in every department of the public service. High taxation has been crushing the energies of her people, who have been leaving the country at the rate of one hundred thousand a year to find in the United States opportunities to live denied them at home. Bad government has checked, to an extent simply incalculable, her progress, but it has not—only because it had not time in eighteen years—irretrievably ruined both the people and the country. With an electorate influenced by principle and right, there is still great hope for our country, and especially for this province with its immense natural wealth and magnificent opportunities for expansion.

Keeping in mind, then, the great issues upon which you will be called to pronounce a verdict—remembering the non-progressive state of the country, the unfair treatment which British Columbia has received, the failure of the protective tariff, the abandonment of Canadian political life by ministers of the crown, and all minor questions—we respectfully invite you to consider if the time has not come for the electors of Victoria to demand that the old order of things shall be reversed and that a new and a better system of government shall be inaugurated in its stead.

Faithfully yours,  
W. TEMPLEMAN,  
G. L. MILNE.

WILL STAND BY BALLINGTON.  
The Salvationists of St. Paul Will Extend Him Large Support.  
St. Paul, April 20.—Nearly 90 per cent. of the members of the Salvation Army of this city have declared for Ballington Booth. They are only awaiting his arrival or that of his officials to make known their position.

HOME RULE FOR CUBA.

Spain and the United States May Now Shake Hands and Call it Square.

Element of Home Rule is Secured by the Establishment of Two Local Houses.

Government's General Will Still Continue as Supreme Representative.

Washington, April 20.—The Spanish government within the next few weeks will put into execution a comprehensive system of home rule or autonomy for the island of Cuba.

There is good reason to believe that the state department has received from Madrid information to this effect. At any event, it is beyond question that this important move is assured, and promises to bring to a sudden termination the irritation and friction which has existed for many months between the United States and Spain, and to replace this feeling with one of a friendly amiable nature.

The law, which will be put into effect, was signed by the Queen Regent of Spain on March 15, 1895, and is to be followed up by rules and regulations developing the present scheme of reforms. By the time the Queen Regent of Spain makes her address to the Spanish cortes, which assembles in one month, the law will be promulgated throughout Cuba, and the long-expected policy of home rule for Cuba will be realized.

The law is very elaborate in its provisions. The element of home rule is secured by the establishment of two local bodies, drawn largely, if not entirely, from residents of Cuba. One of these is to be known as the provincial chamber of deputies, the other as the council of administration. The latter has appellate jurisdiction over the former. Large powers are granted to the council of administration in the internal management of public affairs, but the government's general will continue as supreme representative on the island, and will have direct charge of military, naval and international questions. The details of the reform projects were published at the time of their adoption by the Spanish cortes in 1895.

A GOOD OLD AGE.

Hannah Chard, of Paulsboro, N. J., is 108 and Still Frisky.

Paulsboro, N. J., April 20.—Mrs. Hannah Chard, or "Aunt Hannah," as familiarly known, celebrated her 108th birthday at her home at Ferrel, Gloucester county, to-day. There were present three sons, the youngest of whom is 66 years, thirty-two grandchildren, 82 great-grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren. Hundreds of people paid their respects to the oldest woman in New Jersey.

A ROTHSCHILD DEAL.

The Great Financial Firm Invest in New South Wales.

Washington, April 20.—The Rothschilds have acquired a large interest in one of the leading silver smelter works in New South Wales. The United States commercial agent at Newcastle, N. S. W., Mr. Keightley, in a report to the state department says these smelting works are projected on an extensive scale for the treatment of silver ore from Broken Hill by the Ashcroft process. The company, termed the New Sulphide Corporation, in which the great house of Rothschilds holds a large interest, has purchased a site at Cooke creek, about 12 miles from Newcastle, and works costing \$290,000 are being erected. They will employ 1000 men.



In Advanced Years

The strength and pure blood necessary to resist the effects of cold seasons are given by Hood's Sarsaparilla. "I have for the last 25 years of my life been complaining of a weakness of the lungs and colds in the head, especially in the winter. Last fall I was again attacked. Reading of Hood's Sarsaparilla I was led to try it. I am now taking the fifth bottle with good results. I can positively say that I have now spent a winter as free from coughs or pains and difficult breathing spells for the last 25 years as was last winter. I can lie down and sleep all night without any annoyance from cough or pain in the lungs or asthmatic difficulty." E. M. CHAMBERS, J. P., Cornhill, N. B.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Is the Only True Blood Purifier Prominently in the public eye today. Hood's Pills cure habitual constipation. Price 25c per box.

THE GREAT

United States Senate Their Heads Over Problem.

General News Notes Gleaned from Land of the Free.

Washington, April 20.—In the States senate to-day, pending the resolution relating to sectarian schools, Carter (Rep. Montana) offered amendments striking out the provision that appropriation shall be made to maintain schools.

Mr. Peffer offered a further amendment directing the secretary of the interior to provide temporary school facilities by the closing of school buildings. This amendment was rejected.

Mr. Cockerill then offered a substitute for the entire proposition, substitute provides for contracts for existing schools for 1897 to the amount of 50 per cent. of the contracts of 1896 and adds the following:

"And it is hereby declared to be the settled policy of the government to make no appropriation for the education of Indian children in sectarian schools, whenever provision be made for their education otherwise."

Pittsburg, April 20.—Andrew Carnegie has authorized the trustees of Carnegie art gallery to offer \$50,000 for the purchase of the best two oil paintings by American artists. The word "American" includes Canadians.

Rome, N. Y., April 20.—The boy train wreckers began this noon. Hildreth is the first, they demanded separate trials. Followed by Plato, then Hibbard; then the prison having died of consumption.

Fort Wayne, Ind., April 20.—Morse, for seven years master mechanic of the Eastern division of the Wabash route, with headquarters at Wahab, has resigned to accept the office of chief engineer of the Grand Trunk railway, succeeding H. H. Wallis, with headquarters at Montreal.

TOOK CHARGE OF THE

A Crank Causes Consternation Oakland Pulpit.

Oakland, Cal., April 20.—A with a gun stampeded the members of the First Unitarian church system. He stepped out from the pulpit in the service, then denounced Darwinism, decided immorality and esotericity. Talking coherently and excitedly at first he drew no weapons when the members of the congregation tried to reason with him to stop him from turning the altar into a arena, he merely faced his revolver and flourishing his revolver, they to lay hands on him. It was at this point that the person slipped away by the rear door, and he was coaxed back half an hour later with positive assurance that the man in the gun was in duress view. The one gave his name as Lewis B. of Portland, Maine. He is evidently insane.

GERMANY TAKES A HAND

If Any South African Die is Killed Wants a Shill. Zanzibar, April 20.—Steamers German troops are passing left on the way to Tanganyika in German Africa. It is supposed that the man expected with the insurance Mt. Marukasi.

VICTORIA MARKETS

Retail Quotations for Farmers' Produce Carefully Corrected.

Table listing various commodities and their prices, including flour, sugar, and other goods.