

A POINT OF ORDER.

A point arose in the legislature in connection with Mr. Cotton's resolution regarding the mortgage tax and Torrens land registry system that is worth a little discussion. Mr. Booth moved that the further consideration of the resolution be postponed to that day three months, and Mr. Speaker ruled that under such a motion it was not competent for a member to speak to the merits of the question, citing May as authority. May lays down that on the motion to adjourn a debate there shall be no discussion of the merits; but Mr. Booth's motion was not for the adjournment of the debate. It was a motion to throw the whole consideration of the question over for the present session, and therefore did not come within the class of motions referred to by May. Dr. Walker really struck the main principle of the point of order when he said that the house must look to the object of the motion, which was not that the question might be taken up again at a later date, but that it should not be taken up again at all. It seems very obvious that there can be no intelligent discussion of a motion to postpone consideration for three months, unless the merits of the proposition under consideration can be gone into. It might well be that the very essence of the proposition consists in its peremptory character, and therefore the best possible reason against postponement would be that delay would defeat its object. It might be that the reasons involved are of such a nature that the house is not in a position to deal intelligently with them. It might be that the reasons against postponement are to be found in the merits of the resolution. Hence we think Mr. Speaker was wrong in his application of the rule. The matter is of very great importance and more in the interest of the minority than the majority. The government might shut off the discussion of every resolution moved by the opposition by moving a postponement for three months. If Mr. Speaker's ruling in this case becomes a precedent the opposition may find that they have been cutting a rod for their own backs.

CANADA AT THE JUBILEE.

It is certainly to be hoped that Mr. Laurier will be able to attend the jubilee celebration and take with him a fine representative detachment of Canadian soldiers. We find no stronger advocates of this idea than the Conservative papers in the East, which, on this question, have made all party feeling out of sight and hope to see the Dominion represented at London in a manner that will best fit the dignity and loyalty of the premier colony. It is said to be the intention of the commissioners of the celebration to give the Canadian First Minister marked distinction in recognition of the fact that the Dominion is the only federated portion of the British Empire. The idea has been advanced that the provincial premiers should also be present in London, but we fancy this will hardly be acted on.

A representation worthy of the Dominion is all the more important because it is very likely that tariff legislation at the present session of parliament will be of a nature to promote trade with the United Kingdom. It is also desirable because the attention of the British people is being drawn towards Canada as never before. When one finds in the London Times appreciative references to the mines of Ontario, British Columbia and the Yukon, he may make up his mind that we are on the eve of a growing interest in our resources which will mean much in a material sense for this country.

But this is not all. It is fitting that Canada should be well represented at the jubilee celebration as a mark of the loyalty of this broad Dominion to the British flag and of the esteem and love which our people feel towards Her Most Gracious Majesty. The Queen has no more loyal subjects anywhere than are found in Canada. In no part of the world are liberty and equality so much the common lot of all men than here. We call ourselves subjects, but the subjection is a willing one. It is a mark of honor not a badge of servitude. Canada desires to mark her appreciation of the constitutional government of the sovereign and her love for the noble lady who for sixty years has almost typified in her life the maxim, which claims that the crown can do nothing wrong.

We print a letter from Mr. J. C. McLagan of the Vancouver World, denying that he is interested in the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company. As we never stated that he was, we are unable to comply with his request to retract the statement attributed to us. What we did say, was that he was engaged in promoting a road from the Coast to Kootenay. This was a matter of common report, and it was on the strength of that report that we made the above reference. We think Mr. McLagan has gone to a great deal of unnecessary trouble in getting a certifying Governor's seal to stop a story that he is not interested in it, for his own word would have been ample proof, and

in having the secretary certify that he has not been paid or promised pay for his support, for no one ever intimated anything of the kind. We did not say that Mr. McLagan might not properly be interested in the promotion of such a line of railway, but only that as he was, that fact ought to be considered in connection with his arguments. Does Mr. McLagan desire his letters to be understood as denying that he is or has been concerned in promoting a line from the Coast to Kootenay? If so, we will accept his word for it.

Much ado has been made in the Opposition press over a concession to Mr. Heinze of 1,200 inches of water from Beaver creek. That such a concession should have been made pending the passage of the general water bill naturally called for explanation; but the Opposition might well have waited for the explanation before condemning the concession. The facts of the case are that Mr. Heinze applied for the water a year ago, but his application was not acted on. When the water bill was introduced the Minister of Mines instructed the Gold Commissioners, who had the power of granting water rights, not to act on any applications without the direct authority of the Lieutenant-Governor in council in each case. Mr. Heinze, having got his machinery on the ground, pressed for his application, and it came in due course before the government. His agent was asked to wait until the water bill became law, but on his representing that the delay meant serious loss and inconvenience, the application was complied with on the express understanding that it should conform to the provisions of the water bill as it shall finally pass the house. There is surely nothing in this that calls for anything except commendation.

When any of the self-styled reformers of that day used to come to Lord Melbourne, Queen Victoria's first premier, with their complaints about everything being wrong and ask him what they were going to do about it, he used to answer: "Why can't you let it alone?" It seems to us that there are certain members of the local legislature who might very well adopt this as their motto. They act as if they were afflicted with political fleas, so restless are they, so desirous are they to twist everything round so as to have it come out the way from what it now is. Half the changes that are suggested in the legislature are not reforms. The first governor of New Brunswick, Sir Thomas Carleton, in his speech at the opening of the second session of the first legislature, said: "You passed a good many statutes at your last session and as it is more advisable that the people should grow accustomed to the laws and learn to understand them than that there should be frequent changes, I advise you to pass as few new statutes as possible at your present session." Wise Sir Thomas.

Mr. McInnes is somewhat in the position of the man whose title to fame in his native village rested on the fact that the Duke of Wellington once spoke to him. What the Duke said was: "Get out of the way." Mr. McInnes has the distinction of having been badly sat upon by the chief organ of his own party. He has another claim to distinction. He declared in the House of Commons that the members of the British Columbia government are "a band of boodlers and adventurers." What was it that the Toronto Globe said he was? A liar and a scandal-monger. He further stated that the value of the coke that could be made from the coal in the Crow's Nest Pass is \$40,000,000. There is no mistake about these cyphers except that one more might be added—namely, Mr. McInnes himself.

The evening organ of the malcontents, who form Her Majesty's loyal opposition in the local legislature, is not more than half-satisfied with its own party, and every day or so undertakes to read it a lesson. Last night it took up this role. The trouble with the opposition is that it is opposition and nothing more. For years its members have risen in their places in the house and thrown out the same pettifogging charges against the government, which their organs back up by a liberal use of adjectives, but nothing more. "Some say the opposition is too weak," complains the Times. We do not think so. It has simply nothing to work on. Its supporters out of the house keep nagging at it to do something, and hence its members keep up a volley of picaresque criticism.

Either there is an epidemic of lying among the papers in the Western States, which is not wholly outside the bounds of probability, or there is an unsolved mystery floating around in the nature of an airship, which moves only at night. It floated first around Oakland, Cal.; then it put in an appearance near Denver, and when last heard from was at Topeka, Kansas. It is said to be cigar-shaped and carries a brilliant head-light. No one has seen it by day, that is no one who will tell anything about it. The people who testify to having seen it at night are numbered by hundreds, including Governor Leedy of Kansas. It is rather unsatisfactory to stop a story at this point; but practically this is all there is to tell.

Mr. McInnes has done the mantle of prophecy and foretold in the house yesterday that Revelstoke will be the biggest city in the Province. But you can't always tell. This honor may be reserved for some mite, inglorious camp, which has not yet reached the dignity of a name.

Mr. McInnes spoke his little piece on Monday against the British Columbia Southern charter, but he got very cold comfort. The adjournment of the debate may mean that the matter will be allowed to die without coming to a vote.

Development of trade with the United Kingdom seems likely to be one of the chief objects aimed at in the new Canadian tariff. This is a wise conclusion on the part of the ministry, if they have been a long time coming to it. In view of its pretended belief that "the editor of the Colonist and his political masters" are persons of no account anyway, it is passing strange that the Times cannot find something else to talk about.

Sir Charles Tupper, in the course of the debate on the address, declared that it was not his intention to trouble himself any further about the Manitoba school question. The country is well rid of that issue.

We understand that matters in connection with the Crow's Nest Pass railway are progressing very favorably, and that the C.P.R. will begin active construction at an early day. It was \$40,000,000,000, not \$40,000,000, worth of coal that Mr. McInnes said would be made out of the Crow's Nest Pass coal.

We wish every success to Captain Yates' efforts to secure sufficient assistance to warrant the establishment of a line of steamers between British Columbia and Mexico and Central America. A very good trade could be built up, Mexico and the Central American states would undoubtedly prove good customers for Canadian goods. Our lumber and fish would find ready sale there, and there is a good market for all kinds of manufactured articles. This, at least, is the conclusion we have formed from an examination of several of the manifests of the steamer which plies between Seattle and Central American ports.

The proposal to repeal the Dominion franchise bill and permit the several provinces to fix the franchise for federal as well as local elections is justifiable on the ground of economy and because it is a violation of the maintenance of provincial rights. Our impression is that the Conservative government never really liked the law; but having introduced it and carried it into effect did not like to repeal it in the face of the demands of the opposition, for that would look too much like a surrender. So far as the actual right to vote goes, the proposed change will hardly affect any one in this Province.

An outbreak of natives is reported from the neighborhood of Delagoa Bay. The Limpopo river, in which the uprising has taken place, forms the northern boundary of the Transvaal, but its lower course is through the Portuguese territory of Gassaland. It enters the sea some miles north of Delagoa Bay. The statement is made that Great Britain has leased the bay from Portugal. Kuruman, in Bechuanaland, from which severe fighting is reported, lies not very far from the frontier of Cape Colony.

Most amiable evening contemporary, if you will kindly formulate all the unpleasant things you would like to say of the Colonist and its editor into a readable paragraph, we will be pleased to print it in order that your views on this very important matter may have some publicity and also that the public may form some idea of your gigantic grasp of public questions. You remind us of the boy at school who said to his companion: "I know I can't lick you, but I can make faces at your sister."

There was a discussion in the United States Senate on other day in the course of which a resolution was moved to condemn the general policy of Great Britain. The dispatches say that the galleries applauded when one speaker attacked the British government for its attitude on the Cretan question. Probably in no other deliberative assembly in the world could such monkeyshines have occurred, but the Senate of the United States is fast ceasing to be a deliberative assembly.

The majority elections in the United States this month show a very decided change from the political situation last November. The Democrats and Silverites are making large gains. It is very often the case in what are called "off years" for the verdict of the voters in the general elections to be almost reversed.

UNCLE SAM has a bill against the Sultan for \$150,000 for damages to missionaries, and is going to try to collect it. Perhaps he will succeed; but if he is not standing out for a principle he would find it more profitable to foot the missionaries' damage bill himself and let the Sultan alone.

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CANADA AT THE JUBILEE. Fitting it is that the Dominion should be represented by an adequate contingent of our citizen soldiery at the jubilee festivities, and strong as are sentimental reasons, they are not alone the arguments that should weigh in this connection. Our neighbors to the south are prominent in the world higher still against our products—the Old Country throws open her gates of commerce to the four winds of heaven, and leads us by a silk thread where our neighbors would drive us by hostile tariff walls and alien labor laws. Markets, which once secured we can only lose by our own fault and indifference, are waiting in Britain for many of our products in a good representation at the Jubilee in June next will be a national advertisement of Canada such as we cannot afford to be without.—Ottawa Journal.

OUR LIBERAL MINING LAWS. It would certainly seem that the mining laws of British Columbia are sufficiently easy for that district cannot be expected to comply with, instead of resorting to subterfuge and questionable tricks to defeat legal provisions.—Nelson Tribune.

A MISLEADING STATEMENT. TO THE EDITOR.—I observe by your leading article in the Colonist of this morning that you assert that the hoaxing line to that district cannot be a railway bill, as it concerns the Bute Inlet-Queensland project, is based upon the fact that I am peculiarly interested in the fact that the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Co. or the direct road into Kootenay scheme, and that my being so must necessarily be in the interest of the province. I made use of, or set forth, in the World in discussing the subject. How you came to resort to the use of such statements I cannot understand. Your doing so, however, I hope was ignorant of the actual facts. Permit me to say that I am not now, nor is any one, so far as the province is concerned, with the World, either directly or indirectly, nor have I ever been in any manner shape or form connected with or interested in the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Co. or do I expect either by myself or in any other way whatsoever to be otherwise than in the interest of the province as a citizen of this province. I now, as I always have done, believe the undertaking to be not only a provincial but a national enterprise, which deserves the very greatest of encouragement at the hands of the provincial and federal governments. As the attack on your part in the World is entirely unwarranted one, and the motives impugned contrary to the facts, I believe I am not asking too much that you should retract the further that you make through your editorial columns a retraction of the misleading statements I am thus referring to. In the scheme than as a citizen of this province. 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