

THE MAIN ISSUE.

Col. Prior and his advocates object to the school question being made an issue in this campaign, which shows that they are afraid of the school question. They cannot prevent it being an issue; it has necessarily forced itself on the front. Victorians must say whether or not they approve of the coercion of Manitoba. It must be remembered, by the way, that the very first word on the school question in this contest was spoken by Mr. H. D. Helmcken, who appeared to think that he was thereby doing his party and Col. Prior a service.

A FALSE PRETENCE.

Col. Prior made a rather amusing attempt last evening to correct Mr. Jeeves on the school question. Unfortunately for the Colonel, Mr. Jeeves is too clear-headed to be convinced by a garbled extract from the privy council judgment that the privy council ordered the Dominion government to re-establish separate schools in Manitoba. No man could believe that who has honestly looked into the question. The government are putting forward a false and wicked pretence, and are wanting to insult the highest court of the realm when they thus distort its judgment.

THEY WERE SUPPRESSED.

In the most obscure corner of the Colonist this morning appeared the following "explanation": "Through an inadvertence, on Tuesday morning last, the Colonist omitted four of the names appearing on Mr. Templeman's nomination papers. Opportunity to again examine the original document was not obtainable until yesterday, when it was found that these names had been overlooked. Capt. John Irving, T. W. Paterson, J. H. Falconer, T. Rowley and G. R. Giscombe. The Colonist aims to state facts, and hence this explanation."

No doubt very many readers of the Colonist failed to read the item owing to its obscure position, but we desire to give it the utmost prominence. Probably never before in the history of journalism in this province has a newspaper circulating among intelligent men stooped so low as has the Colonist in deliberately suppressing the names from Mr. Templeman's nomination paper of those gentlemen mentioned in the "explanation."

What are the facts? The three most prominent, most conspicuous, most striking signatures upon Mr. Templeman's nomination paper were those of Capt. John Irving, T. W. Paterson, and W. A. Dier. The Colonist says they were "overlooked." They could not be overlooked. If the nomination paper were displayed at the Colonist window the one signature that would first attract attention would be that of Capt. John Irving, and the other signatures were quite prominent. This is the truth. The Colonist deliberately and purposely omitted the names of the gentlemen above mentioned. It was done in the hope that Mr. Templeman's nomination paper might appear less formidable from an influential standpoint. The action of the Colonist in this regard was a contemptible, dirty trick, and that a paper supposed to have at least not lost all sense of honor should stoop so low is a disgrace to journalism. We repeat, the Colonist deliberately suppressed the names mentioned. There can be no mistake. We are prepared to prove this assertion by exhibiting the paper to any one interested.

MR. ROBINSON'S OPINION.

It is not surprising that the howlers at last night's meeting were averse to the reading of Mr. Christopher Robinson's opinion on the school question. Mr. McPhillips' reluctance to hear it is quite natural, for it completely dispels of the contentions which Mr. McPhillips as a legal light has been putting forward. Mr. Robinson's opinion is as follows:

"The restoration of the privileges of Roman Catholics in Manitoba is a question left open by the judgment, in the same sense that it is entirely in the discretion, both of the Governor-General in council and of the Dominion parliament, to what extent, if at all, they will act upon the appeal or upon the order in council, respectively, in affording a remedy. "It cannot, I think, be said that the mere fact of the right of the Roman Catholic or Protestant minority in relation to education having been affected by provincial legislation, entitles them, in every case, and all circumstances, to the restoration of such right, or to any relief. Their right is to appeal, but the result of such appeal must depend, as I have said, upon the judgment of the Governor-General in council and of the Dominion parliament, whose course would no doubt be determined by a sense of justice and right, and by a due regard to the letter and spirit of the constitution, in view of all the surrounding facts and circumstances in each particular case. "The expressions of opinion of the judicial committee in this matter are in no legal sense binding upon the members of the Dominion government, or of the parliament of Canada, so far as any action to be taken by either is concerned. "Both are at liberty to exercise their own discretion, and not the less because it is declared that a grievance exists. As I understand the judgment, it cannot be said, strictly speaking, to decide more than that the appeal will lie."

Of Mr. Robinson's rank as a lawyer we need not speak, for almost every Victorian knows that there is no member of the bar in Canada with a higher reputation. He is peculiarly well qualified to pronounce on this subject, for the reason that he appeared as counsel

for Manitoba when the question was argued before the supreme court at Ottawa. The supreme court's decision was in favor of the province, and when the privy council judgment was announced Mr. Robinson was asked for his opinion as to the effect of that judgment. The opinion is clear, and entirely disposes of the fraudulent pretence that the privy council judgment or the constitution obliged the government to take its present course. Let no one be deceived; the Dominion government is voluntarily proposing to coerce Manitoba. The privy council findings and the constitution are all against that course.

HOPELESSLY WRECKED.

Let Lt.-Col. Prior and the Colonist try to gloss over the matter as they may, they cannot hope to conceal the fact that the Conservative government is hopelessly wrecked. Neither Sir Charles Tupper nor any other political conjurer can restore the debris to any semblance of a ministry. Nobody knows better than Sir Charles himself that the task would be utterly hopeless. The seven men who have gone out will not go back on the old basis, and the men who have stayed in will stay no longer on no other basis. There are no others who can take their places with the slightest prospect of support from the people. It must be remembered that the duty is expressly laid on the Governor-General of requiring a stable government to be formed; he can accept no man as premier who is unable to give him some tangible assurance that he can find the necessary assistance to carry on the business of the country. One thing the people of Canada may depend upon with certainty—that Lord Aberdeen will stand no trifling with the country's interests in such a crisis. If the Conservative cabinet trouble is not patched up with reasonable promptitude His Excellency is bound to call upon the leader of the opposition to form a government. Hon. Mr. Laurier will in that event be quite able to show that he has a sufficient following and a sure prospect of support from the country, to prove that he is an eminently fit and proper person to become the head of the new government. The cabinet of which Col. Prior supposed himself to be a member has practically disappeared, and the Colonist himself will disappear to-day as a member of parliament.

"BECAUSE HE WAS A FOOL."

Col. Prior was asked last night why Clarke Wallace resigned, and he answered: "Because he was a fool." The Conservatives of West York, Mr. Wallace's constituency, have spoken very differently. The Col. was terribly indiscreet, but he no doubt gave his opinion honestly.

A CONTRAST.

Contrast these two statements: "I will not support any measure, I care not by what party introduced, which aims at interference with provincial rights; and, further, should I be elected and my endeavors to secure a measure of justice to my constituents and the province of British Columbia be ignored, I shall withdraw my support from that party."—William Templeman. "Whatever measure the Bowell government may see fit to bring down I am going to support."—Col. Prior.

DISHONEST, AS USUAL.

Col. Prior and his friends have tried to comfort themselves by circulating a garbled report of a speech made by Mr. Laurier in Montreal in reference to separate schools. Of course they are dishonest enough to suppress what Mr. Laurier said in regard to the relative positions of the Dominion and the province. Mr. Laurier has said distinctly and emphatically that he does not believe in the coercion of Manitoba, and would not propose any such course. Mr. Tarte has pronounced himself equally opposed to coercion, pointing out at the same time that it would be impossible, even if they desired, to force separate schools on Manitoba against the will of the people there. He said that would mean civil war, which nobody wanted to see. Yet the course which would in Mr. Tarte's opinion lead to civil war is precisely the course which the government has decided on, and which Col. Prior endorses blindly. If the Manitoba people are ready to restore the separate school system of their own free will, then no outsider will try to prevent them. The point is simply that Manitoba must not be coerced, and on that point Mr. Laurier has expressed himself so plainly that his words cannot be successfully represented.

LIKE MASTER LIKE MAN.

Such a dirty combination as the Ottawa ministers have shown themselves to be (see Ottawa Journal, Conservative) is well served by such a dirty organ as the Colonist. Nobody could have expected that paper to face inevitable defeat with any marked degree of magnanimity, but even its past record could hardly have led the public to expect that it would descend to such a depth of meanness as it has reached. Witness its brutal attack upon Mr. Archer Martin, whose sole "offense" was an attempt on Friday evening to exercise a privilege

which Mr. Chairman Baker had announced would be freely accorded, namely, the asking of questions. Mr. Baker saw fit to repudiate the promise, and Mr. Martin in protesting against the unfair treatment was well within his rights. His letter, published to-day, makes that point perfectly clear. Mr. Baker was the only man whose conduct could be found fault with, and it need only be said in reference to it that he showed the peculiar characteristics of Mr. E. Crow Baker. As for Mr. Martin, he should congratulate himself on having been in the first place the victim of Mr. Baker's offensive unfairness, and in the second place on having become a mark for the Colonist's vulgar malevolence. The man marked out for obloquy by the dirty Ottawa combination's dirty organ is sure of the respect and esteem of the public.

MR. LAURIER CALLED IN.

To-day's news from Ottawa is in complete harmony with the predictions in this morning's issue. It was plain to every person at all acquainted with constitutional usages that almost insuperable obstacles stood in the way of either Sir Mackenzie Bowell or Sir Charles Tupper forming a new ministry. The Governor-General's plain duty in that case was to call upon the man who had the best prospect of being able to carry on the government of the country. That man was, of course, Mr. Laurier, and no one will be surprised to find Lord Aberdeen firmly proceeding in the manner prescribed by the constitution. There need be no doubt as to Laurier's ability to perform the task which he has apparently undertaken. His party is united and harmonious, ample material is at hand for the formation of a ministry, and there appears to be no serious obstacle in his way.

CAUSE FOR GOOD FEELING.

The result of to-day's election is yet unknown, but whatever it may be the Liberals have good reason to congratulate themselves on the fight they have made. It has been on their side, a conspicuously clean and honorable one, and they have been fighting for a principle that must have been dear to the heart of every public-spirited Canadian. They have taken the stand that the rights of the provinces must not be trampled on by any body of men for the purpose of furthering selfish interests, a position of which they could well afford to feel proud, no matter whether victorious in this particular contest or not. The men who supported Mr. Templeman have nothing to reproach themselves with either in the position they took or in their manner of conducting the contest.

MR. PRIOR THE FRIEND OF THE FARMERS.

To the Editor: A short time ago there was a plowing match in Saanich, B.C. Messrs. Nicholles and Prior were asked to donate a plow each as prizes. Both agreed. Mr. Nicholles won the first prize in the professional contest and secured a first class Canadian \$25 plow from the former firm. Mr. Meunier, Jr. won the first prize in the amateur event and went to Mr. Prior for his plow. Mr. Prior offered him an inferior American short-handled Oliver chilled plow, fit only for use in circus rings. Mr. McMillen protested, and said he wanted a more modern plow, whereupon Mr. Prior said he could either take it or leave it. Mr. McMillen said he would leave it, as it was not worth freight from Victoria to Sidney. Another illustration of Mr. Prior's real opinion of the farmer and workman. SAANICH.

BROKEN UP.

The developments at Ottawa as narrated in our dispatches to-day have sealed the fate of the Bowell government. They are but the outcome of a long-standing feud in the administration, which the ministers have contrived to keep partially hidden. The crushing defeats suffered by the government in the bye-elections have caused the open outbreak of hostilities. The Ontario wing, led by Mr. Haggart and Dr. Montague, have never taken kindly to Sir Mackenzie Bowell's leadership, and they have only passively approved of the proposal to coerce Manitoba. When the Quebec constituencies, which were expected to support the government on the strength of its coercion programme, went against it, the Ontario men practically said: "It is useless to sacrifice us in Ontario for the sake of Quebec, which is going against us anyway. Better give up the coercion programme and get a new premier, unpledged to any such course." Their choice was Sir Charles Tupper the elder, Sir Mackenzie Bowell has the support of the Quebec contingent, and his particular friend, Sir Adolphe Caron, retaliated on Dr. Montague with the story which appeared in the Toronto World, as the dispatches show. Dr. Montague says this is the end of the Conservative government, and he is no doubt right in that. What Sir Mackenzie Bowell and his wing of the party will do remains to be seen, but it is obvious they can do nothing that will save the government. It is now too late for them to drop the coercion programme, even if they had a mind to break through their pledges to Quebec. Judgment has come upon the administration for its crooked course.

PROTECTIONIST CONSISTENCY.

To the Editor: Mr. James Angus in a letter to the Colonist this morning commences by saying: "It seems Mr.

Templeman and his friends are free traders in talk and monopolists in reality." Now, Mr. Editor, it is a fact that many prominent Conservatives, including a close relative of Col. Prior, while preaching protection against China and Japan are the Chinamen right here in this city. I can give you the names of prominent military men, some leading lights in the legal profession, E. & N. railway officials, and many other rank Conservatives who shout for protection, yet when they want a suit of clothes or a lady's jacket they make a straight shoot for Cormanor street. Why? Because the can save, or think they can save, a few dimes on a suit of clothes. Hurrah for protection. KUMTUX.

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

Events of Interest in the Amateur and Professional Field.

THE RING.

Chicago, Jan. 6.—John L. Sullivan has been knocked out for the second time in a fair fight. It happened at La Salle, Ill., on Saturday night. Sullivan and Paddy Ryan are travelling with a dramatic company, another member of which is a large billy goat named "Dan." Sullivan had great delight in bantering the goat and watching the frantic efforts of the latter to resent it. John would slap Dan, pull his whiskers, and other indignities that fairly drove his goat into a rage. When he could think of nothing worse, Sullivan would turn Dan over on his back, where the goat would lie helpless. His spreading horns preventing him from turning over. Then Sully would spit in his face.

Dan's feelings toward the ex-champion became such that he would snort with rage at the sight of John. But his day of reckoning came. When the show was at LaSalle Sullivan was seated in a dressing room near the stake, putting on his shoes, when the door opened, and Dan, who was standing near by tied to the wall, as usual made a plunge and snapped the rope. Before Sully realized that he was in any danger, Dan had struck him with the force of a trolley car and the big fellow was knocked into a heap in the corner of the room. Sullivan tried to rise, and the goat gave him another bump so hard that the big pugilist could not even call out. He lay on the floor and gasped. A member of the company walked in at that moment and Dan says him one in the stomach that laid him completely out. Sullivan by this time gained his wind and he let out a lusty bawl that brought reinforcements to subdue Dan. Sully for a time was wild with anger, and nothing short of murder of the goat would satisfy him.

He finally changed his mind, however, and now says that Dan can whip any goat on earth and he is ready to back him.

Kerguelen's Land, or the Island of Desolation, in the Antarctic ocean, has this claim to distinction, that it possesses a kind of cabbage found nowhere else in all the world. If you want Kerguelen's Land for it, this, in point of fact, the crews of whalers and other ships are only too pleased to do, for boiled with beef or pork it is useful as a preventive of scurvy. The root-stock has a horse-radish flavor, and the heart of the leaves tastes like mustard-andress, only coarser. Captain Cook called attention to it. Fortunately it flourishes in abundance on its lonely rock.

The city marshal of Biddeford, Me., broke into a room in that place a few days ago for the purpose of arresting some one in the act of committing a horrible murder with an axe. He almost frightened to death two stars of an amateur theatrical troupe of the town who were rehearsing for Christmas the principal scene in a thrilling border tragedy.

Bar Harbor, Me., seems to be willing to be virtuous when it comes ashore. Since all the summer visitors left, which means pretty much the whole population, the saloons have been closed and the law enforced, and now the Sunday law is being fixed to compel the stockkeepers of every kind to shut up shop over Sunday.



A NOTABLE CENTENARIAN.

A Guernsey Woman Who Can Work at the Age of 103.

One of the oldest subjects of the Queen is Margaret Ann Neve, who lives in the island of Guernsey, and who has attained the age of 103. A relative who contributes an account of the veteran to the Leisure Hour tells that she was born on May 18th, 1792, and every day goes through more than many only half her age. She has travelled a good deal in her time and her last long journey was taken when she was 82. She then went to France to see Napoleon's monument and also to Russia. On her long journey to Poland her only companion was her sister, who was then 80 years of age. Once a week Mrs. Neve has a luncheon party, and one of her favorite guests is her great nephew, not quite three years old, and rather more than 100 years younger than she. Mrs. Neve walks about the house and ground entirely by herself, and not long ago went up a steep ladder into a loft to look for something she wanted, and to see what was there. She frequently goes out to the meadow to see the cows, and calls them all by their names and feeds them out of her hand. Quite recently a photo of this interesting old lady was sent to be shown to the Queen, who asked if she might keep the likeness as that of one of her oldest subjects. When visited recently, Mrs. Neve was in the garden weeding and pulling up butter-cups, a task which she continues for an hour and a half. After gardening she generally goes indoors and reads for an hour and a half, history, as a rule, often in French or Italian, both of which languages she knows as well as English. Milton and Dante, however, and still are her favorite books. Sometimes she enjoys a little German or Spanish, and she reads her French testament frequently. When the light is good in the morning she reads without glasses of any sort.

Weak and Nervous
Whenever the body has been weakened by disease, it should be built up by Hood's Sarsaparilla. Read this: "About two years ago I suffered with a very severe attack of inflammation of the bowels. When I began to recover I was in a very weak and nervous condition, and suffered intensely with neuralgia pains in my head, which caused loss of sleep, and having no appetite, I became Very Thin and weak. For a friend who had used Hood's Sarsaparilla with great benefit, kindly recommended me to try it. I did so and a perfect cure has been effected. I am now as well as I ever was, and I would not be without Hood's Sarsaparilla in my house for anything." Mrs. G. KERR, 245 Manning Ave., Toronto, Ont.

Hood's Sarsaparilla
Is the Only True Blood Purifier prominently in the public eye today. Hood's Pills easy to buy, easy to take, easy in effect. 25c.

ROYAL Baking Powder
has been awarded highest honors at every world's fair where exhibited.

Miss Annie Buckley, with the Joe Caverton Company, appears at the theatre this evening. He is the daughter of E. J. Buckley, an old time Victorian.

THE CUBAN PATRIOTS

Nearing the End of Their Long Fight for Freedom—Havana in Arms.

People Are Flocking to the Insurgents, Who Are Pressing the Spanish.

The advance bodies of the Cuban patriots are misleading the end of the Cuban insurrection is to hand, and the result, it would seem, must be in favor of the insurgents, whose armies, under Maximo Gomez, Antonio Maceo and Quintin Baldera, are nearing this city from three different directions. This fact, so frequently denied in official circles in the past two weeks, is now generally admitted, although all sorts of lame explanations of the triumphant advance of the Cubans are put forth in the hope of quieting public excitement. The advance bodies of the patriots are at Tapaste, eighteen miles from Guaynabaco, practically a suburb of this city, last night, and it is said that Cuban scouts have been sighted to-day from the lines defending Havana. Step by step General Canales has been driven back before the advance of the victorians army, until here preparations are being completed on both sides for a final and decisive struggle. General Baldera and his column camped last night at San Jose de Las Vegas, a short distance from Tapaste, and his forces were said to be on the Guamo, to take up a position assigned them for the siege of Havana.

Another report has it that Baldera will try to pass Mount Bejucal to Kincon, and from there to Santiago de las Vegas, to cut the railroads leading into Havana. It is claimed that Baldera will camp the evening at Vento farm, within rifle shot of the outposts of the Spaniards. The main body of the patriot and insurgent columns, under General Gomez, was reported this morning to be at Duran, moving in the direction of Gira Melana, the head of the railroad leading from the province of Pinar del Rio into Havana. Other portions of Gomez's column, now said to number 800 men, were sighted to-day at Guaynabaco and San Felipe, only slightly to the eastward and northward of Gira Melana. The third insurgent column, under General Maceo, was announced this morning to have passed Geiba Mesa, and should now be in the vicinity of San Antonio, Pinar del Rio, and the Nazzaren, Providence Xuma and plantations in the Guines district, through which the insurgents have just passed, have been completely wiped out by fire. The most consternation prevails in government circles, and military authorities seem to have fallen into a complete state of helplessness. The government officials are blaming the different Spanish generals for the condition of the city, but it is very generally held that it was the Spaniards' plan of campaign—the wild scattering of his forces all over the island—which is mainly to blame for the crisis. Incapacity and treachery, supplemented by sickness and desertion of Spanish soldiers, who in spite of all details, have deserted in considerable numbers. Stories are afloat here of a wholesale republican movement at work among the soldiers from Spain, which, it is claimed, will yet bear fruit.

New York, Jan. 4.—A special to the Herald from Key West says: "Startling advices have been received from the city of Havana to the effect that the whole of the province of Havana is up in arms against the government. While no details are given of actual engagements, the report says that the government troops are falling back everywhere in the disaffected western region before the triumphant rebel army. To allay as much as possible the panic excited by this condition of affairs, the chief officials in the capital are sending out in every direction, false dispatches about the situation. That these attempts at stifling facts are far from successful is shown by the wide circulation which has been given to the rumor that the general crisis in the revolution has been disclosed and that, far from holding the insurgents back, they have been organized. Military authorities have been outgeneralled, have allowed their foes to turn the flank of the main portion of their forces, and have thus found themselves in a military dilemma of the most humiliating character. Not only are highly imaginative reports of Spanish victories disseminated, the Havana advices state, but the vigilance of the censor has been redoubled and all telegrams and cables and messages are subjected to rigid examination that the news furnished by the authorities at the peace may not be alarmingly contradicted by the reiteration of actual facts relating to the crisis."

Another report received is that a conspiracy to destroy the government buildings in Havana by dynamite has been disclosed and the plot and conspirators frustrated. Havana, Jan. 6.—Havana has spent a day of nervousness and anxiety, and has been in hourly apprehension of an attack by the insurgent army, or a part of it. Yesterday the bands commanded by Nunez and Hernandez were seen at Marangua, a village not more than 12 miles from Havana.

Ours is the densest planet of the lot, if Dr. Backlund, who has made a new determination of the mass of the planet Mercury from the motions of Encke's comet, is right. The result is that Mercury is only two thirds as dense as the earth instead of being denser, as hitherto supposed.

A countryman went to a lawyer, laid before him a case in dispute and then asked him if he would undertake to win the suit. "Present—So you really think it is a good case?" "Lawyer—Undoubtedly. I am prepared to guarantee you will get a verdict in your favor." "Present—Well, then, sir, I don't think I'll go to law this time, for you see, I have just given you my opponent's case, and not my own."

Miss Annie Buckley, with the Joe Caverton Company, appears at the theatre this evening. He is the daughter of E. J. Buckley, an old time Victorian.

Ontario Cabinet a Body Ag... ba's O... Col. Prior's Seat Any, is Gon... Premier... He Could Not Re... to Attend... ment's... The Eyes of the Arc on Vie... Ele... Will She Protec... Provincial... Indep... Ottawa, Jan. 5... ment is a thing of now required is t... Lord Aberdeen t... zie's resignation... Laurier... Last evening th... sent in their re... Poster, Montague... and Wood. They... selves willing to... but refuse to hav... the present adm... are standing by... Caron, Unmet, L... Ferguson. No one... make seven, so t... one side and sev... being one vacate... controllership and... shing. Two of t... Bowell, have no... Ferguson, while t... portfolios on the... ter Wood. At a... proposed by the... tion with this tor... of the leading pr... ion have to be de... representatives... Quebec, New B... take the place of... Mr. Dickey, in N... not a man to fill... The Eastern Tow... not permit any o... take the portfoli... Ontario, it has d... the coercion of... The great ques... all these circum... about the Columbia go... morrow? As Col. Prior... legislation, whic... Wallace out of... has since compl... disposed of by... ought he to be e... willing to give u... a year, and he... secretary's job a... directors, who m... for him to give... have no longer... ing against him... tion which offer... in existence. Bowell will hav... the government... Col. Prior was... controllership, a... ed office. He... privy councillor... he has done so... to it than if he... it. All argue... question which... disposed of by... that it is a gr... stitution to ma... else but an ur... be set at rest, a... left him but his... far as the ins... concerned, but... net minister, w... reason would it... against Manito... province in the... cally declared... should be mai... provision left a... educational law... Leading stati... will not believe... would occupy s... the confederati... facts, as a piec... a sister provin... crown who is... afternoon that... Prior could be... ministers think... will assist them... says, the electi... nary one, and... Col. Prior, to d... ought to retire... here, even if th... eral of the ad...