

# The Colonist.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1892.

## CHOOSE GOOD MEN.

Good work was done at the Citizens' Association meeting on Monday evening. It was good to see people talking and thinking about the civic elections, and it was good to appoint committees to select candidates for the different wards.

It is better to do the work of selection in this way than to have candidates here, there and everywhere selecting themselves. A committee of five disinterested men is much more likely to make a good choice than a committee of one, and that one so greatly prejudiced in favor of his candidate that he is most unwilling to see his claims fairly canvassed and his qualifications impartially discussed.

There seemed to be at the meeting some misunderstanding as to what constitutes a "business man." Everyone will have to admit that the man who fills the office of either mayor or councillor must be able to do business. He must, to use a common but very expressive phrase, have a business head on his shoulders. Such a man is a man of business, whether he is a merchant, a lawyer, a doctor, a carpenter, a mason, a blacksmith, or a man of leisure with nothing particular to do. Business men, that is, men able to do business, are not confined to any particular class. They are found everywhere and in every position, and if a bull can be excused, of both sexes.

What the citizens do not want in the Council are incapable men, muddle-headed men, men who are pretty sure to make a mess of anything they undertake to do. It is no matter how respectable such men may be, or how honest, the City Council is no place for them. Neither are ignorant men wanted in the Council. The man who does not know clearly what he is wanted and how to get it is very apt to be obstinate when he ought to be yielding, and ready to give way when it is necessary to make a firm stand. Then the ignorant man is not long before he sees that his want of knowledge makes him helpless and wholly dependent upon others who are better informed than he is. He is compelled to go where he is led, for he is not fit to act independently.

We are not now thinking of book knowledge, but of business knowledge, for there are men whose heads are crammed with information derived from books, who are in matters of business almost as helpless as children. Then again there are men who can barely read and write, who quickly see the bearing of a question, and who do not take long to form a sound sensible opinion on its merits, and when it is formed they have the energy and the confidence in themselves to act upon it promptly and firmly.

The electors should choose the best men without favor or affection. The candidate whom the elector is satisfied will make a good councillor should get his vote whether he likes him personally or not, and he should not encourage an unequal man to come out, and should not vote for him if he does come out, if he were his kindest neighbor or his best friend. Men are sent to the Council to do certain work, and no one but a man who gives evidence that he is able to do that work should be sent there. It is not an act of friendship but quite the reverse to place a man in a position the duties of which he is not able to perform. And in voting for an unequal man the elector does the whole community, himself included, an injury.

It is to be hoped then that the committee of the Citizens' Association will make their selection impartially and with good judgment. If they can induce good men to allow themselves to be put in nomination they will do the citizens a service of incalculable value and will deserve both their thanks and their support.

## SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

It will soon be the duty of the electors to choose a new Board of School Trustees. We trust that capable men will be put in nomination. It is said that the School Trustees under the law have very little power. This is quite a mistake. They have a great deal of power. So much power that they can, as they perform their duties, well or ill, make the city schools good or bad. The power of employing and dismissing teachers is wholly in their hands. This power makes them masters of the situation and places upon their shoulders a very heavy responsibility.

People may say what they like about systems of education, but the experienced educationist knows that it is the teacher and not the system that makes the school. With a good staff of teachers the children of the city will be well taught under almost any system, but let the teachers be inefficient, the children will be ill-taught if the system under which they teach be the best that was ever devised. Since the Trustees have the selection of the teachers they need not care much who it is that prescribes the system.

But it takes experience and knowledge and a disinterested desire to advance the cause of education in the city to select good teachers. It often happens that a man takes more care to get a skillful man to shoe his horse, or to take care of his garden, than he does to provide a good teacher for his children. And school trustees often allow other considerations to influence them in their choice of a teacher than proved ability to teach united with unblemished character.

It is hard to realize the importance of choosing good teachers for even the youngest children. Almost everyone knows from his own experience how much good a judicious, faithful teacher can do a child, and it is also known that an injudicious, unfaithful teacher can do the children under his or her care irreparable injury.

If, then, the selection of the teachers were

the only, as it is the most important, duty of the trustees, the parents of the children and others who are interested in the cause of education should see to it that none but intelligent, earnest, public-spirited men, who are able to perform the duties of the office well, are elected. We hope that general interest will be taken in the nomination and election of school trustees. If the candidates see that the electors are desirous to place the oversight of their schools in the hands of good men they will be stimulated to do their duty in such a way as to deserve their approval.

## A CONTRAST.

The worshippers of wealth who read the newspapers have lately discovered that money cannot buy everything. They see that Jay Gould's ninety millions have not been able to buy him a good name, or, now that he is dead, a good word or a sincere regret from any honest man. There are in New York city to-day thousands upon thousands of poor men who, when they die, are more sincerely mourned and infinitely better spoken of than Jay Gould, the maker of millions. It was only the other day that a countryman of Gould's—a simple, sweet-natured, but poor man—died, the poet Whitier. He was honored not only by his fellow-citizens, but by men of all English-speaking countries. And why? Because he loved his fellow-men and tried to do them good. Very few know, and still fewer care, whether Whitier was rich or poor. The world honors him for what he did and for what he tried to do. His memory is fragrant, and will continue fragrant for many long years to come. Who would exchange Whitier's fame for Gould's millions, and with them the name he has left? There is as much difference between the impression which the two men have left on the world as there is between a blessing and a curse. Here is evidence that the dollar is not all mighty.

## EASTERN OPINION.

The attitude which President Harrison assumed towards Canada in his message is commented upon with more or less severity by the newspapers of the Eastern provinces. Those papers, too, express surprise that the views of a man in Mr. Harrison's position on national subjects should be so narrow. The Toronto Empire says with regard to the message:

The only notable feature of that document is its reference to Canada, couched in the most truculent terms, and breathing a distinct menace toward this country. We could well afford to treat with considerable equanimity the threatening of a beaten man, who heads a beaten party, if it were quite clear that the hostility was entirely confined to that man and to that party. There can be little doubt, however, from the mutterings of many Democratic papers and the existence of the famous tail-wagging section in Mr. Cleveland's following, that the controllers of the new Congress may lend too willing an ear to the rampant utterances of the retiring President. The bitterest reflection for Canada, in the whole matter, is the consciousness that not a few of these unfriendly demonstrations on the other side find their warrant in the public views and conduct of some of our own politicians.

We find it very difficult to believe that Mr. Cleveland will take as narrow and as stupidly selfish views of the relations between the United States and Canada as Mr. Harrison does. He is a large-minded man, and he has enlightened views as to what are the interests of his country, and he will not, we think, be induced by the tail-waggers and the Anglophobists generally to adopt a policy which besides being small and spiteful, will not promote the welfare of the States.

The annexationists and blue-ruin howlers on this side of the line must now see that their flunkeyism to Uncle Sam has gained for them his dislike and contempt. The first reply which he made to their unpatriotic and unmanly advances was the McKinley bill, and as that did not teach them loyalty or self-respect he, through President Harrison, gives them not one but several slaps in the face. We must say that they have got their deserts. It may be that the American Government came to the conclusion that all Canadians are like the few flunkies who found their way to Washington, and that the best way to make an impression on them was to strike a haughty attitude and to assume an insulting tone. They will find—if they have not done so already—that they have made a serious mistake.

## THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

The new Government begins its work under favorable auspices. For the present, at any rate, it has few difficulties to face. It has a good working majority in Parliament, and the country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is favorably disposed towards it and ready to treat it not only fairly but indulgently. The policy to which it is committed is one which the people have sanctioned not once, but several times, in the course of the last fourteen years. That policy is to all appearance quite as popular now as it was when it was established.

The ordinary affairs of the country will no doubt be vigorously administered by the Thompson Government. The wants of every province of the Dominion will be inquired into and, as far as possible, supplied. If unforeseen difficulties arise the people believe that Sir John Thompson will meet them courageously and deal with them in a discreet and judicious manner. He is not what is called a dashing statesman, but he has a large fund of practical common sense; and he is not likely to do anything impetuously. With a clear-headed moderate man at the helm, who is always master of himself, the people of the Dominion may rest assured that their affairs will be prudently and wisely administered.

The nature and the attitude of its opponents make it easy for the Government to

carry out its policy. The Opposition, as long as it remains in its present disorganized and demoralized condition, will give the Government no trouble. It is weak in numbers, and weak as it is numerically, want of principle and want of union make it weaker still. It has really no policy, and there is no community of feeling among its members to bind them together. It is not often in a self-governing British community that a political party is found with so little strength, moral or political, as the Liberal party of Canada possesses at the present moment. It may be said to have almost no influence in the country and there is not the slightest indication that it is likely soon to become any stronger. Its course for the last four or five years has been little better than a series of blunders each of which helped to lower it in the esteem of the people.

With its general policy marked out for it, with the great majority of the people in its favor, and with an Opposition that by its mistakes has reduced itself to insignificance, the course of the present Government, for a few years, at any rate, ought to be a prosperous one. When new questions arise, or old ones become formidable, the Government, or we are very greatly mistaken, will be able to hold its own and perhaps gain a little.

## BRITISH POLITICS.

Times are quiet just now in political circles in England. The lull, however, may be the calm that precedes the storm. Very little is heard of Home Rule in Great Britain, though it is never absent from the British politician's thoughts. There are many conjectures as to the nature of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule bill, but very little is really known about it. The venerable Premier has kept his own counsel wonderfully well. He may have given hints to a select few, but it is evident that he has not been as full communicative. There is talk of a draft bill being in the hands of the Home Rulers, but if that were the case the newspapers would before this have received some hint of its leading features. The alleged revelations of the Baltimore Sun made a stir for a few days, but it was soon found that they were the creations of the fancy of an enterprising newspaper correspondent and not revelations at all. From hints that have fallen from leading Liberals it is believed that the principal difference between Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill of 1886 and his bill of 1893 will be that in the latter he retains the representation of Ireland in the Imperial Parliament.

This shows that the new scheme will more closely resemble a federation than the old. Nothing is said of having a separate representative body for Ulster or of any arrangement for the protection of the minority. Lord Ripon, at the Eighty Club in London, hinted that in the new bill provision would be made for dealing with any resistance, active or passive, on the part of the people of Ulster. This was to be expected, for if the Irish are given power to make their own laws, power must also be extended to enforce their operation. And this is where the difficulty will come in. At present it appears that the extension of Home Rule to Ireland will not bring peace to that unhappy country, but the reverse. The people of Great Britain seem to be coming round to this opinion, for there is very little enthusiasm for Home Rule, even among those who supported it at the general election. The feeling in its favor appears to be in the process of cooling. The by-elections that have taken place lately have been the reverse of encouraging to the Government.

It has lost one seat, and where its candidates have been returned it has been by decreased majorities. There are those who believe that Mr. Gladstone will not endeavor to carry his Home Rule measure during the coming session. His majority is very small, and small as it is, it is not to be depended upon. Some of the English Liberals, we are told, are only waiting for a pretext to oppose Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule bill. To men in this frame of mind a very small excuse suffices, and the Government cannot afford to lose many votes. A very few defections will place Mr. Gladstone in a most ticklish position, and he has to deal with able opponents whose following is very nearly as strong as his own. The prospects of the Gladstonians are, therefore, not by any means bright.

## SCHOOL PRIZES.

The Christmas examinations of the public schools will soon take place. The children are naturally looking for the customary prizes. It is right that the deserving should have them, and it would be a thousand pities to disappoint them. But there is no prize fund. The trustees have no money with which to buy prizes, and it is too much to expect that the teachers will pay for them out of their own pockets. Can the money be needed not be raised by public subscription? Will not the lovers of children and those who desire to encourage education give a few dollars for so good a purpose? Who will take an active part in collecting the money? There are hundreds in the city who, we are very sure, would give a trifle to a prize fund rather than that the youngsters should be disappointed. It is late to set about getting the money now, but better late than never.

## PROVINCIAL LAND SURVEYORS.

A special meeting of the Association of Provincial Land Surveyors will be held in the Council chamber at the City Hall at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Members are requested to attend, as business of importance is to be transacted.

## Sons of Erin.

The first regular meeting of the Sons of Erin was held at Pioneer hall last night. Dr. Sprague, president, in the chair. A good deal of miscellaneous business having been disposed of, an excellent programme of music was enjoyed. There were nearly 100 members present.

# E. M. JOHNSON

37 Government Street, Corner of Broughton.

ESTABLISHED 1879.

## Real Estate Agent, Conveyancer and Notary Public

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## FOR SALE.

1½ Miles from Vernon, Okanagan Country, 960 ACRES, adjoining the estates of LORD ABERDEEN and the BARNARD BROTHERS. 840 acres ploughable prairie; 320 acres grazing; 400 acres under cultivation, Dwelling House, Frame Granary and Stable. 23 Cows, 12 Horses, Reaper and Binder, Plough Harrows, Sulky Ploughs, etc., etc. Creek of water on the land. First rate black soil. \$25 PER ACRE, INCLUDING EVERYTHING.

## SHEEP FARM,

2,000 acres, more or less 30 acres; 1,000 acres grazing, 3 houses, barns, Orchard of 350 trees, pigsties, poultry houses, 2 horses, 2 oxen, 1 cow, 30 pigs, 250 sheep (about), wagon, cart and farm implements, 21 2. 0. per acre, including everything; over 3-5 of purchase money can be left on the property for 4 years at 7 per cent per annum. 135-1

AN IMPROVED ESTATE—480 acres more or less; 250 acres cleared; 250 acres alluvial deposit, with clay subsoil; 80 acres alder, maple, cedar and balsam, vegetable deposit, clay subsoil; 150 acres lever park-like land, some pine woods, etc.; water power Sawmill, in full running order; Houses, Barns, Blacksmith's shop, Poultry Houses, Orchards, etc. 0-3

Corner lot on Tramway line, Victoria West, \$1,200. 133-1

151 acres, Alberni, sawmill and water power, dwelling, stables, 20 acres plowed, opposite Anderson & Co's townsite, a fine speculation, \$6,500. 130-4

98 acres, 30 cropped, 25 chopped, log house, 2 barns, stable and outbuildings, half mile from school, near railway, \$3,500. 128-4

House and 2 lots, Pembroke st., easy terms, \$1,000. 110-1

324 acres farm land, about 70 acres in clover and timothy, small house, well, good spring, etc., 0-5

4 building lots, Cedar Hill Road, near the gold mines, \$1,500. 135-2

7-room house, conservatory, out-houses, modern conveniences, etc., ½ acre of land; facing the sea; beautiful view of Straits and Olympians, \$6,000—terms. 137-1

6-room house, bath, etc.; corner lot, Henry and Turner streets, \$3,500. 136-4

5,000 acres timber land—22 GRANTS—Estimate, 30 M per acre, principally cedar, with hemlock, spruce and balsam. 144-4

320 acres, Alberni; 100 cleared; house, barn, ditching, etc. Cheap, \$6,500, on terms. 144-3

Building lot, Victoria West, 50x90, \$500. 142-2

97 acres, South Saanich; dwelling, barns, stable, out-houses, etc. \$4,200. 142-3

40 acres, South Saanich. \$1,400. 142-4

Building lot, 60 feet by 132 feet, Chatham street, near Blanchard. \$1,650. 141-2

10 acres; house, stables, sheds, etc.; all fenced; near the junction; good orchard land. \$3,000. 140-2

7-room House and double lot; a bargain. \$1,400. 139-1

237 acres, Soanemo Lake. 138-5

## P. O. BOX 188.

## ORIENTAL ADVICES.

Opening of the Japanese Diet—Extension of the Imperial Navy Necessary.

Inundations in China—Arrivals of Shipwrecked Mariners—Railway Opening—Populist Riot.

YOKOHAMA, Nov. 28.—The imperial diet was to formally open to-morrow, a slight delay having been caused by the preparation of the budget. The diet assembled for preliminary session on the 25th. A member of the House of Representatives, Min-aya, was assaulted by one Sohi while on his way to the parliament buildings, and received a slight wound from a sword. His assailant was arrested.

The present state of the political parties in Japan are said to be of one great vacillation. At Kogohima, on November 22, a collision occurred between the members of the Popular party and some of the pro-official party, in which ten men were wounded. On the following day one of the Populist party was stabbed and fatally wounded in an altercation with one of the opposite faction.

Count Itagaki, leader of the Jiyu party, has published an article treating of the extension of Japan's navy. He holds that Japan must abolish her present form of limited defence and substitute the plan of defence of the country as a whole. To construct fortifications at various points on the coast or mainland with several naval headquarters he considers incompatible with the geographical construction of Japan. He estimates that to construct men-of-war to the extent of 100,000 tons would cost \$50,000,000, estimating the period of completion at ten years. Were these vessels ordered from abroad about \$5,000,000 would flow out of the country each year, but at agriculture, cotton spinning and other industries are increasing in volume every year, Count Itagaki takes the view that the balance between exports and imports would not be upset.

Funeral services over the remains of the late Count Yamada, privy councillor and lieutenant-general of the army, were held at Tokio on November 17.

The fire on November 11 destroyed 600

natives at Tokio. Seventeen firemen were injured.

A telegram was received by the home department on November 8, from Teyhnamken stating that a portion of the limestone mine at Nagayamura had fallen in, burying six miners and thirty coolies, who were crushed to death.

HONG KONG, Nov. 18.—The inundation by the overflow of the Yellow river was deeper and more extensive than in 1889, but the distress which ensued is likely to be less than in former years. The millet crop is well above water, and will be safely harvested.

Mr. O'Connor the new British minister to China, arrived at Hong Kong November 2. The first section of the imperial railway from Kyngh to Lanchow, a distance of 77 miles, has been opened.

The German steamer Tai Yick arrived at Hongkong on November 16 from New Chang, having on board the master, two mates, one apprentice and sixteen sailors of the Japanese bark Chikoya Maru, which was wrecked on Barren islands on November 10, at which time one of the crew was drowned.

## FROM SEATTLE.

SEATTLE, Dec. 14 (Special).—The house of Charles K. Brown, builder and contractor, corner of Tenth and Cedar streets, was entered by robbers on Sunday night, the inmates being chloroformed, \$252 and a gold watch being stolen. The matter was reported to the police on Monday morning, but they have suppressed the facts. To-day your correspondent learned of the affair, investigated it and found it to be as above. The police have not captured the burglars. This is the last of a long list of robberies this winter. In every case the police have been unable to locate the criminals. They are now suppressing the reports of all the crimes to save their reputation.

Emil Hintz, an employee in a slaughter-house near here, dangled too close to a steer to-day, the result being that the steer tossed him and disorganized his inferior department. He was taken to Grace hospital.

Mattileon, charged with the murder of George Richards, of Mercer island, in June, was on trial in the Superior court all day. He admitted the killing, but pleaded self-defence.

Margaret Smith sued John Hannon for \$10,000 for breach of promise. The jury, after being out for two days, returned a verdict to-day giving her five dollars.

The fire on November 11 destroyed 600

## WORSE AND

The Circumstances of Panama Canal as by Witness

A Dirty Business—How Money Expended Traced

PARIS, Dec. 14.—The examined by the Panama to-day were M. Rouvi

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