

THE B. C. SOUTHERN RAILWAY GRANT.

There has been a material modification in the tone of the press regarding the B. C. Southern land grant. To Mr. Blair it was "appalling," and immediately after his opinion had been publicly expressed all his admiring political friends discovered it to be "appalling," too, although it had been legislated upon for a series of years, and the facts must have been familiar to them long before Mr. Blair ever came to the Province. The Victoria Times, however, after promising what threatened to be a "revelation," is very mild indeed, and as a result of the more mature consideration of the editor remarks: "If the British Columbia Southern Company had gone to work and earned the grant by building the railway, we do not suppose there would have been any great objection to its possession of the property."

There is, therefore, nothing so very "appalling" about it after all; but that there might be some excuse for justifying the former hostile criticism that had been indulged in, the Times says: "If the inner history of the concern were written in detail, it would probably be found that the efforts of the company were far from being confined to the securing of money for road-building purposes." That is scarcely a manly way of dealing with the matter. The Times confessedly knows nothing about the "inner history" of the company, and yet it says if it were known it would "probably" reveal other reasons for the road not being built. We fear that representations not more substantial in fact than these, must have been made to Hon. Mr. Blair by over-zealous friends, when in this Province, to cause him to take the position he did.

We are not familiar with the "inner history" of the whole affair, but it will "probably" be found when all the details are made known that the several charters now being applied for to build railways, covering very much the same territory as is proposed by the B. C. Southern, have had a great deal to do with the "appalling" effects which were produced by an examination of the legislation bearing on the matter, as well as with the startling suddenness and unanimity of expression of opinion which followed in a section of the press politically supporting the Honorable Minister of Railways.

With respect to the land grant under the legislation of 1894, the Colonist finds that by reason of a clerical error the act does appear to include the whole of the line to the Coast as carrying with it a subsidy; but we proceeded on the general understanding at the time of and since its passing. In using the expression "a clerical error" we mean that the act does not convey the intention of the Legislature at the time it was passed. Section 2 provides that "the grant in favor of the B. C. Southern Railway Company is hereby extended and applied to the several sections of said railway as described in sub-sections (a), (b) and (c) of section 6 of the 'British Columbia Southern Railway Act, 1894.'"

Now it is certain that it was not intended, and not so understood, that section (c) should be included, and therefore an error in printing or transcription was made. That that is a true statement of the case is evidently not only what was stated in the House at the time, which will be in the remembrance of the members who sat in the Legislature, but from the fact that the promoter of the railway in question had not been aware of the effect of section 2 at its reading, and have never, so far as we know, made any representations not in conformance with the original understanding referred to. Moreover, at the last session of the Legislature a land grant was given to the Columbia & Western railway, which, under the act as it stands, would have belonged to the B. C. Southern Railway Co.

No protest was made, and no objection raised on the score that the land grant to the Canadian & Western already belonged to another company. In fact, it was taken for granted that no such legislation existed. The Colonist, therefore, while technically in error when it contradicted the statement of Mr. Blair, regarding the extent of the land grant, was nevertheless substantially and practically correct. Mr. Blair was substantially, though not literally incorrect in his main statement, but as to that we attribute no motives, and attached no blame except on the score of his having been misinformed. Coming, as he was, a stranger to the Province, he could not be expected to be acquainted with all the circumstances connected with any matters of purely local interest; and he certainly was imposed upon in this instance by some of his friends, who were not wholly disinterested in endeavoring to create prejudice against an existing railway charter which appears to stand very much in their way. It is quite apparent from the editorials in the Times and the Province that they did not themselves seriously accept the statement of Mr. Blair that the land grant to the B. C. Southern was 15,000,000 acres; and what is more, the Times admits that the road had been built under the terms of the existing legislation, which it must be remembered was passed in 1894,

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

It is announced that the Postmaster-General, accompanied by his Deputy, Mr. White, will attend the International Postal Convention which is about to be held in Washington. The occasion will be an important one, inasmuch as there is so much in the ramifications of the system in vogue in the various countries that it is possible for something to be learned and profited by. Improvements and economies in parcel postage are, among other things, unquestionably to be attained, while, as far as concerns this country, lower rates and augmented facilities are, or ought to be, possible of early attainment. It has not unfrequently been replied, when representations have been made asking for a more extended and efficient service in Canada that the cost would be more than the country could afford or that the conditions warranted; but liberal postal facilities are undoubtedly one of the most efficient aids to the education of the people, besides being a potent factor in business and industrial development. For these reasons it is urged that all over the land the processes of collection and transmission be made as perfect as possible, and the Canadian representatives who visit Washington in the interest of reforms and improvements will no doubt endeavor as much as possible to profit by what they see and hear.

In regard to the plea that the revenues of the department would not warrant the incurrence of the expenditure involved in more extended facilities, it may be said that outside the Post Office there are departments which are not expected to be money making, or even to pay their working expenses, and why so in every way beneficial a branch of the service should be considered exclusively from the point of view of a revenue contributor it is difficult to see. Appropriations are given without a grudge to much less important and generally useful services, and we doubt not that it would be possible to make an advantageous departure in the direction just indicated. The more distant provinces, as, for instance, British Columbia, have special requirements for services which may not at the moment make returns such as economists of the more rigid school may conceive to be due from them; but they are doing a work that will eventually, and that ere long—till to the great advantage of the Dominion.

DEPRESSION IN JAPAN.

The world has, for some time, been amazed at the wonderful development of Japan, whose trade and whose industries have grown in a most remarkable manner of late years. The Japanese were formerly heavy consumers of English manufactured goods, particularly cottons. Indeed, in 1882 they had only 1,500 spindles running, the total production that year being 70,000 pounds of cotton yarn. Ten years later in 1892 the product had increased to over 80,000,000 pounds. And this was due to the substitution of labor saving machinery for the hand labor that had been previously employed.

Not satisfied, however, with supplying their own demands, the Japanese, with their natural enterprise, turned their attention in the direction of supplying the Asiatic markets and of competing with Great Britain and the United States for what had been practically their exclusive field. As a consequence, in 1892 they operated forty mills twenty-two hours per day during 292 days of the year with an output of 122,000,000 pounds of yarn made up into fabrics of the most beautiful design and sold at extremely low prices. These were marketed in China, Korea, India, Siam, and Australasia, while their silk and high-class cotton goods found extensive purchasers in Canada, the United States and Europe. They also turned out a variety of other articles, whose presence upon their own markets caused alarm to European and American manufacturers, even Germany exhibiting dissatisfaction, if not alarm, at the prospect.

But, at the opening of 1897, what do we find? That the import and export trade of the land of the Mikado is most depressed, not less than 40,000 bales of raw silk lying in one warehouse at Yokohama, with no one to buy it. Every branch of trade is depressed; money is scarce and only to be obtained at enormous rates of interest. Numerous extensive and well appointed factories and workshops are closed, spindles are idle, and for thousands of people there is neither work nor any immediate prospect of it. This condition of things is not likely to be more than temporary; but it will doubtless have the effect of inducing the Japanese to hasten a little more slowly.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

In a recent letter Mr. Alexander Del Mar, a well known American authority on financial subjects, said that the rapid increase of the world's product of gold will prevent the revival of the agitation for the free coinage of silver, which was so prominent during the late presidential campaign. Mr. Del Mar says that, since the demonetization of silver, the mines have turned their attention so largely from the production of silver to that of

FLOWERS AND VASES.

REMARKS BY ONE WHO ENJOYS MAKING BOUQUETS.

The Arrangement of Flowers—An Old Time Nosegay in a China Bowl—What to Do With Chrysanthemums—How Heliotrope is Most Effective.

Although we of the present generation have learned something from the Japanese in the art of arranging flowers, there have, mothers and aunts who still arrange nosegay bouquets exactly as

did their grandmothers before them. These old-fashioned nosegays, in a bouquet limited to but one or two varieties of flowers. With respectful obedience to the shade of a certain great aunt—a maiden lady with a tangled garden, but in bouquets in her parlor I confess that on occasions I do love to arrange an old time nosegay—principally roses of every color that in the garden grow—and I put it in an old china bowl.

And then, sometimes on the polished top of an ancient "chick," I do love to see the reflection of a conventionally arranged mass of snowballs, lilacs, bleeding hearts, feathery "sparrow grass" and half yard lengths of ribbon grass. There are some flowers that appear at their best intermingled with other varieties, notably our wild flowers, while most fruit blossoms and that pot of fashion and queen of blossoms, the chrysanthemum, one of the "eight princes in the flower kingdom of Nippon," should be given a vase or a bowl by itself.

Let each maid within the garden live up to her own light, yet allow me to obtrude certain simple arrangements that have proved satisfactory to a lover of bouquet making in the land of sunshine and flowers, southern California. As clear glass detracts not at all from the beauty of fine flowers, I usually put my finest roses in undecorated, clear glass vases, in which also hydrangeas and carnations look well, although for the hydrangeas the water must be changed frequently. Heliotrope discolors the water. A mass of this delightful bloom is most effective in a plain brown jar, arranged sometimes with pink Dutch roses or with Marechal Niel roses. A Chinese ginger jar, unstriped of its wicker net for wild flowers, for daisies and for red roses, is especially pretty in an old blue and white "chippy" pitcher or bowl. Marechal Niel and the other yellow roses are lovely in dark brown pottery; red roses in the same, and also in dull blue. In a vase of flowers the best in vases with straight lines. Heliotrope requires severe, long necked vases. Shal-

low roses look best in tall, old blue Japanese pottery are pretty for violets and pansies. Never put wild flowers in elaborate vases. The foregoing sympathetic remarks on the arrangement of flowers are those of a writer in Domestic Magazine, which also furnishes the graceful examples of vases. The writer concludes with this useful item: If one must practice economy in cut flowers, it should be remembered that diagonally cut stems retain the life giving sap of the flower the longest. To freshen flowers, clip the stems diagonally, cover with a paper funnel and set in a cool place overnight. Do not crowd flowers into a vase. When they are unusually fine, arrange them loosely that their perfection may be apparent.

Small hints are taking the place of the picture hats. The reign of the high top hat has decidedly come to an end, and its place is taken by quills and wings. All the best tailor made gowns this year have what is called the plain skirt. The colors best adapted for tailor made costumes are the browns, greys, dark blues and greens in their varying shades. Braiding is a favorite trimming this season. Simple bodies of chiffon or tulle are embroidered with beauty with gorgeous embroideries, fastened with diamonds, pearls and other jewels. Traveling sets, including belt, bag and purse, are now made to match in all the fashionable leathers. These are light in weight and mounted in silver. The wearing of gems has never in the history of this country been so widespread and extensive as at the present time.

VICTORIA COLLEGE.

Progress Shown in All Studies, and Satisfactory Increase in the Attendance.

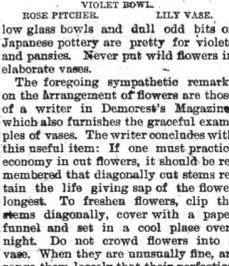
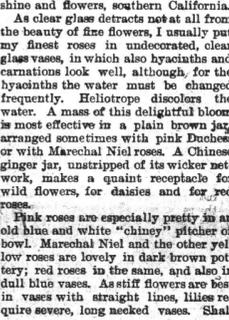
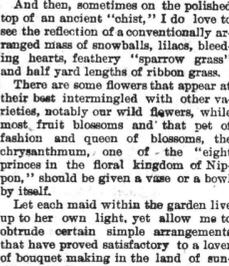
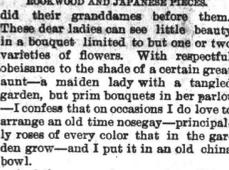
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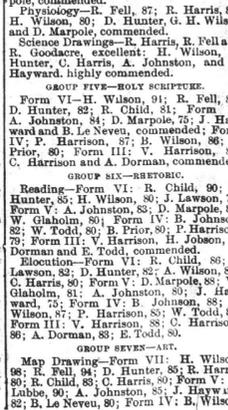
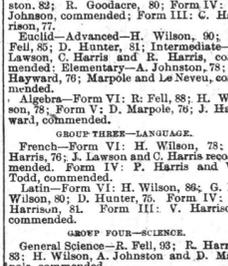
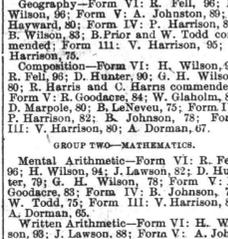
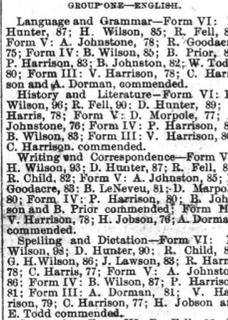
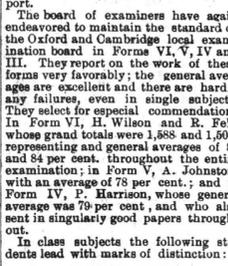
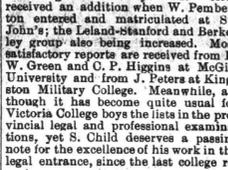
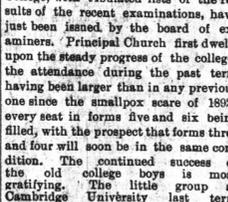
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THE IRISH L.

Causes Intense Terror Not Allow U.S. in Cu. in Cu.

Sentiments of Loyalty Schools—The Czar's Biotic

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Lakes of Killarney, w. of the week, is estimated that about a week of noises were heard in time, which the peas describe as resembling a bancheon. These peeps aroused a feeling among the peasantry, who endeavor them. Subsequently, however, caused universal among the peasantry, ly convinced that their natural connection be false. A great mass of seven hundred acres which has already silted has begun to slide and dred of a still more terrible. The Spectator, in position of the United States as effected by the after remarking that government has had prize in the attitude powers, proceeds to exhort the European and United States, and poor great financiers of Paris bonds are alarmed that Spain may be a bitter end, might suspend payments subsequently they French government to Washington and Madrid, William, it is said, al for apart from his dreary pension, the Emperor of Brazil is not in conformity to the Spanish decree, the United States being negroes or Red. The Spectator the many in maintaining of Spain, being ac family reasons, not Regent, who is rich, and her son, a by a popular revolt of Cuba. The Emperor is ready to counsel Peru be moderate and a Spain could not be a war." The Spectator continues could conceivably and might, if it could defeat a single European, might remain neutral. All that the United States allowed to order Spain without remonstrance, Europe, which might of the combined fleet and the landing of a the French war. The Spectator is de attacks on U. S. A. which have appeared, surprised by the court pointing out the grave which the English surrounded by Emperor, cruelties, grand dukes, and napping the fact that a distracted infant was It is further stated highly delighted at the which sums up the tion in Russia. A special dispatch to the Cologne and the court with the object of much of the work Eastern Canada, asking for information regarding lands in Manitoba. The greater number of letters from the United States are sent by Michigan farmers, who seem to be dissatisfied with their lot. J. B. Luzzon will probably be the Conservative candidate for the legislature in the vacancy for St. Boniface caused by the retirement of Mr. Prudergast.

NEWS OF THE DOMINION.

Archbishop Fabre Dead. QUEBEC, Dec. 30.—Archbishop Fabre died to-night. The Rt. Rev. E. C. Fabre, archbishop of Montreal, was for many years a canon of the Montreal cathedral, under the episcopate of Bishop, subsequently Archbishop, Bourget, and was characterized by his general liberality, large-heartedness and catholicity of spirit. He was brother of Senator Fabre, who subsequently became Canadian agent in France, and who previously was editor of the Liberal newspaper, L'Evenement, of Quebec.

Chaplain Election Annulled. QUEBEC, Dec. 30.—The Chaplain election was annulled to-day.

Member of Parliament Unseated. CHARLOTTETOWN, Dec. 30.—Edward Hackett, member for West Prince, was unseated to-day for bribery.

A Victim of Paralysis. TORONTO, Dec. 30.—John Gourlay, treasurer at Arthur, died suddenly of paralysis.

Heavy Failure in Walkerton. WALKERTON, Dec. 30.—The failure of Mr. Messenger has created a financial panic, and may result in disaster to various financial institutions in this part of Bruce county.

Bishop of Algoma's Consecration. QUEBEC, Dec. 30.—The consecration of Rev. Canon Thorneley, D.D., bishop-elect of Algoma, takes place in the cathedral on January 6.

A Sick Man's Sufferings. PARIS, Jan. 2.—D. G. Hogarth, insurance agent of this town, was found by Mrs. Hogarth on her return home lying in bed, where he had been for eight days without food or water, unknown to anyone and utterly unable to move or help himself in any way. His illness was caused by the bursting of a tumor in the stomach. He is, however, doing as well as could be expected and is likely to recover.

A CHAPLAIN SUSPENDED. Rev. Father Cloutier who is in the East with Archbishop Langlam.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 2.—A telegram has been received at the Bishop's Palace, St. Boniface, from Ottawa, suspending Rev. Father Cloutier as chaplain of the Stony Mountain penitentiary. Father Cloutier is at present in the East with Mr. Langevin. Politics are supposed to have something to do with the suspension. A protest has been entered in the courts against the election of W. P. McCreey as mayor of Winnipeg on the ground of insufficient property qualification.

The provincial department of agriculture is daily in receipt of letters from people living in the United States and Eastern Canada, asking for information regarding lands in Manitoba. The greater number of letters from the United States are sent by Michigan farmers, who seem to be dissatisfied with their lot. J. B. Luzzon will probably be the Conservative candidate for the legislature in the vacancy for St. Boniface caused by the retirement of Mr. Prudergast.

Ball

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