

## THE RETURNING CONQUEROR.

Premier McBride is coming back to his own, "a bigger man than ever," one of these days. It is not very certain when the great one will arrive. He has probably withdrawn himself temporarily into a retreat to ponder over the glories he achieved as the valiant champion of British Columbia's rights. But in the meantime another great one—great in the reflected glory of his renowned chief—one who would also be described on sight by Premier Whitney of Ontario as "neither frank nor candid"—is preparing the way for the advent of the master diplomat. The currents which it is hoped will galvanize into a semblance of life the reception movement have been set in motion. As the Times predicted, there is to be a "great popular demonstration" in honor of the victorious champion. It will be the beginning of the campaign the Premier had in mind when, like the hero in the melodrama, he loftily pushed aside an additional subsidy of two hundred and fifteen thousand dollars a year, contemptuously rejected all overtures for a reconsideration of the terms offered, pulled his coat collar tragically up over the lower portion of his classic features, and stalked with the air of a conqueror from the presence of the assembled premiers.

Of course when Hon. R. F. Green, the minister who makes all the bargains that redound to the financial benefit of the province and render us independent of additional federal subsidies, touches the wires, all the "boys" will be expected to rise up and "holer" in honor of the returned premier. Tidings of the success of the "demonstration" will be telegraphed to the uttermost parts of the province, and the way will be prepared for the event our provincial representative had in mind when he refused the terms the premiers offered and rejected all overtures for further consideration of the matter.

## TURNING HANDSPRINGS.

We have been reading a good deal lately about the value that attaches to the utterances of public men or of public journals. What is the subtle essence that gives value to the statements of public men or of newspapers? Is it the records of the men or of the newspapers—the character they have gained for uprightness, for integrity, for reliability, for consistency, for truthfulness, for sincerity, for devotion to what they believe to be the true interests of the country, the communities or the constituency they serve, regardless of all selfish impulses? This is an issue which has been raised, in a rather foolhardy, reckless spirit, we believe, by our contemporary the Colonist, and we propose to accept the challenge. In the light of the history of that wayward journal and of the forward records of some connected with it, we believe wisdom should have counseled discretion in the discussion of such an issue as the value that properly attaches to the opinions of either public men or public journals. A few weeks ago the Colonist said in regard to the labor question: "We observe on the part of several political newspapers in the province either a desire to evade the subject in a direct and definite way altogether or to oppose the suggestion of introducing Chinese, under a special arrangement for a limited period. This attitude is obviously in fear of the labor vote, or an attempt to curry favor. The exigencies of the situation, however, are too important to be played with. The labor question, as it immediately affects us, should be dealt with in view of the requirements as a business matter—without reference to politics or the effect it is going to have on the next general election. In fact, if the professional politicians will keep their hands off altogether, the matter will find a satisfactory solution in a short time."

A few days later our contemporary recanted, and with all the zeal characteristic of a perversity went to the uttermost limits of intolerance. It announced that it would not only oppose its formerly expressed convictions, but, having swallowed its convictions and bolted its words, it would not even permit correspondents to discuss the subject of the reduction of the Chinese headtax in its columns. With emphasis it remarked:

"The Colonist will be very glad to receive suggestions as to how this demand (for labor) can be supplied, but we draw the line at suggestions for the lowering of the Chinese headtax. This must be a white man's country."

This morning in an article denouncing pessimists and depicting in rosy colors the future that lies before British Columbia, and more especially Vancouver Island and Victoria, our contemporary says new markets are opening for everything we can produce. The Grand Trunk Pacific people have declared that they intend to make direct connection with Victoria, and that there is a letter from James J. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, in possession of a private citizen stating that his company proposes to construct a line of road from Winnipeg to Victoria. Readers of our contemporary will remember that it opposed with all its might the proposition when before the Dominion Parliament to grant a charter to Mr. J. J. Hill for the construction of the Great Northern Railway. It pointed out the evils, not to say the absolute ruin, that would result to business in British Columbia if Mr. Hill were permitted to carry out his

malevolent scheme of diverting trade from Canada to the United States. It assailed with virulence the British Columbia members of Parliament who supported the principle of free trade in railways. It insisted that our duty was to preserve a monopoly for the C. P. R. It attacked the government for bringing forward the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme, which it is now admitted will do so much for British Columbia and will not cost the province one cent to build. In a moment of forgetfulness our contemporary expresses its real opinions about all the magnificent things that are going to be accomplished for British Columbia by the Liberal government it denounces when its partisan spirit gains the upper hand. But of what value are the opinions of such a journalistic strumpet? They are simply a subject of bitter comment even in the circles of the truly loyal Tory.

## NO FINALITY.

Neither the London Times nor the New York Times has a great deal of sympathy with the aspirations of labor. Correspondents of both papers have been studying the situation in New Zealand, the Ultima Thule of socialistic reformers, and they have arrived at the conclusion that labor is almost as far from being satisfied there as in any other portion of the globe. There is nothing very startling or very new in this discovery. It is not given to all men to be perfectly satisfied with conditions as they exist this side of the final divide. There was never yet an individual of the aspiring "capitalistic" class, whether a small operator with a hundred thousand or so or a John D. Rockefeller with a hundred million or so, who did not want more. It is true there are a few who accept with equanimity the conditions in which it has pleased Providence to place them, having sufficient for the day they look forward to the time when nothing will really matter; and of course they are the only persons who take out of this fleeting life all there is in it.

But the restless and the ambitious are the ones who make the world move, who insert the fulcrum and shake the earth upon its social foundations. Having surmounted one barricade in the path of progress, they press on to another. These are as prominent in New Zealand as in the most backward country in the world. Was it ever expected that they would be satisfied with what they had gained? Is such an expectation in accord with experience? Therefore, we are disposed to opine that the moralizings of the New York Times on the findings of a correspondent of the London Times are somewhat unreasonable. Our Eastern contemporary says:

"The advocates of that variety of state Socialism which is the goal of labor politicians have for some years been holding up New Zealand as the promised land in which all the blessings of legislation on the lines of 'labor' have been realized and none of the evils apprehended from it have come to light. In New Zealand, the philosophic and sentimental Socialists keep telling us, the labor lion lies down with the capitalist lamb, and a little child leads them into 'compulsory arbitration.'"

"This beautiful delusion has been dispelled by a correspondent of the London Times, who shows that neither party is really satisfied. The Australian Minister for Agriculture, returning from a visit to New Zealand, has reported that he found the Arbitration Act working to great advantage. The Secretary of the New Zealand Federation of Employers tells the correspondent that the employers do not agree with this view. The workmen, according to this authority, are 'assailing the employers, threatening to ignore the act altogether, and to return to their old methods; there has never been any greater friction in labor matters than at the present time.' From the employers' point of view the act has not made for better work or for improved methods, and it has not fostered trade. On the other hand, it has seriously increased the cost of production. This increase has been such that in those articles which New Zealand might be expected to export, such as clothing, woolens, timber and coal, she is unable to take advantage of her natural facilities. The history of the court has been increased importations and decreased local output."

"Thus far it has not been necessary for the Court of Arbitration to deal with the question of reducing wages by reason of a reduction of profits, which would be the crucial test of its acceptability to 'Labor.' Nevertheless, 'Labor' is not at all pleased. The Seamen's Union and the Otago Trades and Labor Council have in turn denounced the court."

"State Socialism has not yet, however, had its perfect work, even in New Zealand. Thus far 'Labor' has had everything it demanded. Its additional demands, as formulated at the recent 'conference of Trades Councils,' are as follows:

- (a) Nationalization of land and of mineral wealth.
- (b) Nationalization of marine, coastal, and intercoastal services.
- (c) Government state clothing and boot factories, flour and woolen mills, bakeries, ironworks and shipbuilding yards.
- (d) Nationalization of kauri gum industry.

(e) Raising of unimproved values.

(f) Stoppage of sale of crown lands and revaluation of crown lands held on lease.

"When this programme goes into execution, New Zealand will supply some valuable information on several economic questions."

Of course it is an incontrovertible economic fact that as the price of labor advances the cost of products into which highly paid labor enters must increase, provided some other economic fact, such as the invention of labor-saving machinery, does not interpose itself. And facts are stubborn chiefs which cannot be ignored in these days of keen industrial competition. Still if New Zealand is going to supply the world with some useful economic information the experiments of her socialistic inhabitants will not have been vain.

## OUR "DEAR" PREMIER.

What is a million and a few odd hundred thousand dollars to a government such as that of Hon. Richard McBride? Has it not given away to favorites of some of the ministers property potentially worth many millions within the last couple of years. It has divided up about equally between the C. P. R. and the Kalen Island adventures of both sexes a portion of the people's heritage whose value we shall more clearly comprehend within the next decade. Therefore it is no wonder the leader of the government regards with contempt a few millions of dollars that might be applied to the relief of the people from the grinding taxes that have been imposed within the past few years, preferring a cry that will save the administration from extinction to the better terms programme recommended by a Conservative provincial premier who was naturally irritated and characterized Mr. McBride in terms the people of British Columbia know to be applicable and appropriate.

It is impossible to say what may be the outcome of the inter-provincial conference. But for the attitude of Premier McBride it would have borne fruit. The federal government was plainly sympathetic, and would doubtless have been disposed to submit to parliament some measure embodying the views of the conference if such views had been harmonious. But in the light of what has taken place and because of the outspoken opposition of many influential men and newspapers, an antagonism evidently intensified by the play-acting attitude of Premier McBride, it may be that the question of better terms may be left in abeyance for the present.

As illustrating the attitude of the press irrespective of party politics, and emphasizing the point that any government in the future will be very careful about meddling with a matter which public opinion in the East appears to hold should be left alone, we quote from several prominent newspapers. The Montreal Gazette, the leading Conservative newspaper in Canada, says:

"The conference of provincial ministers at Ottawa has adjourned after doing some things that should strengthen the hands of those who hold that no change should be made in the financial arrangements between the Dominion and the provinces provided for in the British North American Act. The resolutions effectively destroy the one argument of those who have favored giving the provinces something for the sake of peace, namely that a settlement arrived at now would be final. The members of the conference could not agree on what they should ask for each other. One of them, Mr. McBride, of British Columbia, left because the majority would not endorse claims that are mildly characterized as extreme. The new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, which have been lavishly endowed by the Dominion, also wanted more. It was decided that there should be a yearly meeting of the provincial prime ministers, to consider matters of common interest. Practically the only purpose of such a gathering would be to make plans for getting more money out of the Dominion. There is no other business that could warrant such an ultra-constitutional convention. Matters of common interest to the provinces (outside of these raiding schemes) are looked after by the parliament of Canada acting within its constitutional powers. There has been shown in the more independent section of the press, Liberal as well as Conservative, a strong feeling of opposition to the demands of the provincial ministers and legislatures. It should be strengthened by what has resulted from this latest conference, which is that just to meet the improvident outlays, the provinces imposed first one tax and then another, their desire to spend growing with each new draft that debilitated them to spend, so accession to their present demands would be followed by wilder spending and calls for more of the federal taxpayers' money. The interests of the Dominion and the practice of economy by the provinces will be promoted by a refusal to accede to what the provinces have no justification in asking for."

Halifax Chronicle: "Mr. McBride is the youngest of the premiers conferring at Ottawa, and his present attitude in holding up the claims of the provinces may be excused on that account. His obduracy, however, while it may be a pretty grand stand play, may not be profitable eventually for British Columbia."

Premier McBride, bearing his honors faithfully, has set his foot upon his native heath. All things are ready for a glorious reception in Victoria. We can hardly credit the rumor, however, that the editor of the Colonist is going to head the procession of adulation beating the big bass drum. We are sure he could do better with a wind instrument, preferably of brass.

We say that whatever the demonstrated advantages of any schemes of water supply for the city of Victoria, when it comes to a final choice the Colonist will be found supporting with characteristically specious arguments the acquisition of the Goldstream system. Make a note of this against the day when a choice will be necessary.

Premier McBride will make a speech when he returns home and the "boys" have received him with becoming honors. He will give his version of the negotiations, and it is pretty safe to predict it will be neither a frank nor a candid story he will tell.

George Bartley, of the North Vancouver Express, arrived in town last night on a business trip.

Justification can be pleaded, because one of the provinces positively refuses to accept the terms which have been arranged tentatively between the Dominion authorities and the provincial premiers.

"If the proposed new arrangement is not binding upon British Columbia it is not binding upon any other province. If British Columbia is free to agitate for still better terms the same right must be granted to Manitoba, Ontario or any other province. This probably means that we shall see the provinces going back to Ottawa in a few years' time with elaborate arguments in support of a new deal which shall still further increase their revenues from the Dominion exchequer. By that time, no doubt, the Dominion revenue will be much enlarged; and it will be the easiest thing in the world for the provincial mathematicians to figure out that the Dominion should turn over a larger percentage of these returns to the provinces."

"Certain newspapers and public men have taken strong ground against the wisdom of increasing the provincial subsidies. Chief among these is the Montreal Gazette, whose opinions were quoted in these columns the other day. The argument is that it is fallacious to imagine that the people of a province can be benefited by enlarged grants from Ottawa because they themselves have to supply the money. It is simply taking the money out of one pocket and putting it in another. Further, it is argued that nothing will so tend to induce a desired spirit of economy in the administration of the provinces as the certainty that continuation in extravagance means direct taxation. There is considerable force in these contentions; and they gain strength if there is no finality in the arrangement arrived at."

Ottawa Free Press: "A game of selfishness unworthy of the head of a provincial government was that of which the premier of British Columbia played in the provincial conference which has just closed. So extreme were the demands of Premier McBride upon the Dominion treasury that the other premiers appear to have become ashamed of him. They were even willing to attempt to secure more for British Columbia than they asked for their own provinces, but this did not satisfy the ambitious young politician from the coast, who finally, failing to impress his claims upon them, withdrew from the conference."

"The attitude of Premier McBride may possibly make more clear to the public the real nature of the whole business of extra grants. The contention of Premier McBride was that his province contributed more to the federal treasury per head than any other of the provinces. This statement is, at least in part, fallacious. British Columbia takes all of the customs duties paid at its ports of entry as much money paid by the provinces into the Dominion treasury by its people, when, in reality, a considerable portion of the goods are consumed by the people of the whole Dominion and the tax is paid by the consumer. Possibly British Columbia's contribution to the federal treasury is larger per head than some of the other provinces as a result of the enterprises in which the people are engaged compelling them to consume a greater quantity of dutiable goods than people of other parts of the Dominion, but British Columbians have compensations for this in various concessions and also in the Canadian Pacific railway which brought them into contact with other portions of the Dominion. Yet no province can expect to get out of the federal treasury the amount it pays in, for there must be something left for the general fund which is absorbed in the usual order of expenditure. British Columbia should have been satisfied with a reasonable allowance, but apparently the need of an election issue has weighed heavier upon Premier McBride's thought than the justice of his claims as viewed dispassionately from a provincial and federal standpoint."

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## BULLS AT LARGE.

To the Editor:—Might I ask your assistance in endeavoring to abate a very great nuisance and a great source of danger for some time back, especially during the summer months, in the district of South Cowichan and Shuswap? I allude to the running at large of bulls. This is an opportune time to agitate for the suppression of this nuisance, as the late trial at Duncan ought to show how those entrusted with the carrying out of the law enforce it. I was tried and acquitted on a charge of unlawfully, etc., killing a bull which attacked me, a bull which 12 days before had "freed" my little daughter and would most undoubtedly have killed her had she slipped or fallen down through fright, the bull being right underneath her, bellowing and tearing up the ground, trying to get at her. I was, thank God, near enough to hear her cries for help and go to her assistance, or we can't tell what might have happened. This was the bull which was the subject of the trial. I did not know the owner until after the shooting, and then I applied for a summons. The stipendiary at Duncan refused to take my information until I requested him to give me his refusal in writing. This had the desired effect, and I took out a summons for the 30th June, the day of the attack on my child, and another for the 15th July, the day the bull was shot. The act prescribes a penalty not exceeding \$50. The defendant was fined \$25 for the first offence and \$25 for the second offence.

The provincial constable announced that all we had to do about bulls was to give evidence at Duncan, 16 miles from them. Well, on 4th September I found a bull at large in my potatoes. I reported him and received a summons to attend and give evidence at Duncan, 16 miles from me. I drove up there and proved the case. The owner of the bull said that his bulls were at large two days instead of one. The stipendiary said, "This is a very difficult case. I shall give judgment next week." The judgment, when given, was \$250, this being the third offence. I applied for the very small amount laid down in section 871, Criminal Code, which is \$5 per day for a witness and 10 cents per mile (one way). After waiting for over a month I was offered the municipality of \$5 cents. "This is all that they will allow," said he. What farmer is going to give his day and horse's day for 50 cents?

It looks very much as if the police and their clique don't want to be bothered by carrying out the law regarding bulls. If it is not so, let them give a better reason. Apart from the danger, there is another question. How is a farmer to improve his breed of cattle with all these nonpareils of the law? Ordinary fences will not keep them out, and, besides that, why should a farmer not be able to let his cows run on his unfenced land? He cannot let them out or his breed will be contaminated, and if he keeps them in his unfenced grazing is lost. The farmer who wishes to keep a pure bred class of cattle ought to be protected and encouraged; improving the cattle tends towards the welfare of the country. On the other hand, a careless farmer who does not care a straw what kind he has, as they mostly cost him nothing, I say he ought to be compelled to obey the law and cease flooding the country with his rubbish and endangering the lives of his law-abiding neighbors.

I. F. LENOX MACFARLANE, Major.

## THE LABOR PROBLEM.

To the Editor:—As the columns of the newspapers seem to be full, in fact, brimming over with suggestions, some logical, about the labor question, I would like to participate in this important discussion.

A large number of writers seem in favor of "labor" and "wages," and in bringing down from England a large number of boys and girls. May I say that that is no solution to the question at all. It would be to suppose, about ten years before, these children could do men's or women's work. What is to become of labor during those 10 years? I prefer the British working man to the "Oriental," but this is not a question of what they prefer; it's what we can get. Surely the people of England know, as well as the Hindu knows, that labor is scarce in this country; then what is there to prevent them coming in as large numbers as the natives of India?

We will all admit that the British working man is the best we can get; but what does a man do when he is unable to obtain the best? He takes the next best, or just the same as we will do in regard to the Hindu. While a large number of writers are in favor of British labor, do they think a little, or at all, about what is to become of the 1,500 Hindu who are already in this province? Although, at the present time, many men are loud in their assertions that the Hindu is a good, but the time will come when there will be no other unskilled laboring men but the Hindu, then we will see the "Jewish scourge of Galilee," the fanatics of Russia, and the drugs of China—Capt. Wolley's own words—do not get work.

Another matter we must remember is that if we obtain British labor we do not want those who are on the verge of starvation and who are living on 9 cents a day, to quote the nightgown from Pier Island, but strong, healthy, honest, law-abiding men and women. It is far better to have a willing worker from India than the people from the slums of London.

Leaving this side of the question for a while, we will now turn to the domestic portion. Some say, "Get the English working woman out to do the house work," say who? Can you get a better than the Chinaman? John may be wily to some extent, but he will always do his work.

In conclusion, having looked at this important question from several sides, I say that no man can do better than advocate by voice and with pen the Hindu entry into this country. Thanking you for the space which I have occupied, Mr. Editor, I am,

Ganges, B. C., Oct. 23rd.

ELECTION CASE DISMISSED.

Regina, Oct. 22.—The appeal case regarding the controversial elections act against the decision of Judge Prendergast, who threw out the petition against the return of Hon. J. E. Lacombe to Prince Albert on the ground that the organization of Saskatchewan, the law was not made applicable, and under which all protests pending against two-thirds of the members of the legislature are rendered null and void, was dismissed by the full court to-day. The decision was not unanimous.

## NEW CATHEDRAL DEDICATED.

Edifice at Pittsburg Cost Three and a Half Million Dollars.

Pittsburg, Oct. 24.—The new St. Paul's Roman Catholic cathedral, representing a cost of \$3,500,000 and over three years' work, was dedicated to-day by Monsignor Domènec Pádellos, papal delegate to America, assisted by Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, Archbishop Farley, of New York, and Ryan, of Philadelphia, and a score of other high dignitaries of the church. Ideal weather conditions served to bring to the ceremonies a crowd which even the big cathedral would not hold.

## There Isn't

A MEDICAL MAN OR A FOOD SPECIALIST IN AMERICA BUT WILL SAY THAT

**"SALADIN"**

**CEYLON TEA**

ARE THE PUREST, MOST HEALTHFUL AND MOST DELICIOUS OF ALL SOLD ONLY IN LEAD PACKETS.

**KELLY, DOUGLAS & CO., WHOLESALE AGENTS.**

## DIED ON VOYAGE.

Captain of British Ship Blythwood Passed Away When Nearing Coast.

With flag flying at half mast, the British ship Blythwood reached the Royal Roads from Haiphong, China, yesterday evening. A short distance off shore Capt. Pritchard, who had been alling for five weeks, passed away. At the time of the captain's death the ship was in sight of land, and consequently the body of the deceased was brought to port, and will here be given burial. The deceased master was well-known in Victoria, and has many friends here. When unable longer to attend to his duties aboard, command of the vessel was taken over by the mate. The Blythwood was 75 days on the voyage, the death being the only important incident of the passage. Her arrival here recalls an accident which happened to some of her crew when last in the Royal Roads. In company with officers from Work Point garrison they had gone out for a sail in the Straits when their boat capsized and two of the army men were drowned. The body of Capt. Pritchard will be brought ashore here to-morrow. The vessel will then proceed to Tacoma for cargo.

## Saved the Life of Columbus

When Christopher Columbus was in Jamaica he would have died but for the herbal medicines the natives brought him. There is no doubt that aboriginal tribes knew more of the medicinal virtues of herbs and roots than is sometimes conceded. When Captain Cook discovered Australia he was amazed by the freedom from disease which the natives enjoyed, in consequence of using certain roots and herbs as medicines. It was in this country that the herbal remedy Bileans was first produced. Their use spread as their value was made more known till to-day all over the globe Bileans are a household remedy.

Miss E. Reed, of Kingston, Ont., says: "I suffered terribly with acute indigestion all last winter. Pain followed all food, with wind, spasms, irritability, etc. My sleep at night was fitful and broken, and my strength failed. Bileans were introduced to me, and I found relief from the first dose, which was very short time. They have now cured me." Bileans cure constipation without causing griping, cure piles, biliousness, indigestion, sick headache, etc., and give strength and energy to run down systems. All druggists sell 50 cents a box, or post free from the Bilean Co., Toronto, on receipt of price.

## JAP WAS WILY SCHEMER.

Okawa, Who Chartered the Sultan Maru, Laid Clever Plan to Make Money.

With the exception of six or seven men all the Japanese who were landed from the schooner Sultan Maru at Beecher bay have been apprehended by the provincial police and turned over to Dr. Milne, who is having them fumigated and confined on board the vessel under guard. Forty-seven have been captured, and it is believed that there are only about half-a-dozen still at liberty.

The secretary or chancellor of the Japanese consulate at Vancouver is in the city investigating the affair, and has so far made several interesting discoveries. It now appears that the schooner was chartered by Okawa, the Jap who accompanied the emigrants on the trip, and was at first supposed to be the owner. Okawa has connections in this province and owns a fishing station and a small steamer at a point situated a few miles up the Fraser river. He chartered the vessel with the intention of making big profits from the venture, and had he not have factored, as he did, into the hands of the officials, he would undoubtedly have succeeded in annexing an unusually large quantity of cash. The fact that many of the men were wearing army uniforms when arrested

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