

The Colonist

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1892.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The speech with which the Lieut-Governor opened the Legislature yesterday will, we are sure, be read with pleasure by British Columbians generally. It shows that the affairs of the province are in a flourishing condition, and it also shows that the Government is determined to do what it can to aid in its advancement.

There are very few in the province who will not concur heartily in what is said in the speech about the late Premier of the Dominion. Canadians of all parties now agree that Sir John Macdonald was a faithful servant of the people of Canada, and that he devoted his talents and his energies in strengthening the union of the provinces which he did so much to bring about.

We are told in the speech that the revenue for the year has exceeded expectations. We were quite sure that this would be the case. Last year was a prosperous one for the province. Its industries were thriving, and it received large accessions to its population. A stimulus has been given to mining industry by the discoveries in Kootenay, and the revival of mining interests in Cariboo. These, it will be said, are improvements for which the Government deserves no credit.

Amendments to the Land Law are also promised in the Speech. The direction of the amendments proposed is also indicated. It is to preserve agricultural lands for actual settlers. This is progress in the right direction. Hitherto, the actual settler has not been sufficiently considered.

The surveys and explorations which the Government has caused to be made during the past year will, we hope, have the effect of opening for settlement large tracts of agricultural and pastoral land in good situations. It is evident that it is its determination that the lands so opened up shall not be grabbed by speculators before the immigrant in search of a farm on which to settle has an opportunity of finding out that it exists.

It is to be hoped that the proposals for the settlement of crofters on lands bordering the sea will be such as can be favorably received by the Legislature. The development of the deep-sea fisheries of the province is greatly to be desired. The sea that washes its shores abounds in food fish of various kinds and will one day be a source of wealth to its inhabitants. But these treasures of the deep have, so far, been hardly drawn upon at all. If the hardy Highland fishermen settle here and are encouraged to pursue their avocation, they will be a most valuable accession to the population.

The bill of fare which the Governor has set before the Legislature is both varied and wholesome and the Assembly, we are pretty sure, will deal with it in a way that will satisfy both the Government and the people.

MR. WARD'S REPORT.

Mr. Robert Ward's report on the stranding of the San Pedro is well worthy the attention both of the authorities in Ottawa and the business men of the province. Mr. Ward saw that the division of authority over the pilot of the province does not make for an efficient pilot service, and is incon- venient in other ways. British Columbia is

not so large as to render such a division of authority necessary. It would naturally be supposed that a pilot holding a license for the whole of British Columbia would be responsible for the way in which he performed his duty to a British Columbia authority. But this, it seems, is not the case, for Mr. Christensen, though piloting a vessel outside the jurisdiction of the Nanaimo Commission, was called to account by the Commission on the Commission of the Victoria Pilotage Commission. This is not a little singular. A British Columbia pilot being responsible for the wrecking of a vessel in the Victoria Pilotage district ought, it might be supposed, to be called to account by either a British Columbia tribunal or the Commission of the Victoria Pilotage Commission. Why it is not, is one of those things "which no fellow can understand."

Mr. Ward tells us, too, that the existing regulations in the three different districts are conflicting. This, in a matter of such great importance as pilotage in which uniformity, is most desirable, if not necessary to the proper performance of the pilotage service, shows that reform is required. If the districts are maintained, as Mr. Ward recommends, the system applicable to the whole province should be uniform. There should not be one set of pilotage regulations for Nanaimo, and another for Victoria, and a third for Burrard Inlet. The qualification of the pilots should be the same in all the districts. Mr. Ward's suggestions with regard to proper pilot craft are valuable. It is surprising that the pilots, in their own interests, do not own boats in which vessels could be met out at sea in almost any kind of weather. As the pilots are very well paid, it is not too much to require them to go to some expense and to run some risks.

A CONTRAST.

It is not pleasant for a patriotic Canadian to observe that wherever the words "America" and "American" are used in a British newspaper, or other periodical, the United States or United States citizens are invariably meant. Never by any chance is the term "American" applied to a Canadian, and the word "America" never seems to suggest "Canada" to an Englishman. For instance, when Mr. William Roberts, who is no lover of the United States or its institutions, headed his article for the Fort-nightly Review "The Administration of Justice in America," it did not occur to him that his strictures might be taken to apply to Canada as well as the United States. America as the United States is, and leaving it out, is quite as large as it is not larger. But Mr. Roberts does not include Canada in his criticism on the administration of justice in America. On the contrary, he takes very good care to let his readers know that when he says "America" he does not mean Canada. He, in fact, draws a striking comparison with respect to the administration of justice and the enforcement of law between the two countries.

Mr. Roberts uses the word America in a very restricted sense, for, with him, it means California, the State in which he lived some years, and with which he was best acquainted. To those who take exception to his making California a sample State, he says: "I will also ask the reader to cross the border into British Columbia, a much wilder and more sparsely populated country than any of the American States on the Pacific Coast. I will then challenge him to point out any one of the Western States of the Union where life and property are as safe as they are here, where crimes of robbery and violence are as infrequent, where the law is administered as firmly, where punishment as surely follows conviction, and where, in consequence, Lynch law is unknown. The Canadian Pacific and Northern Pacific Railways were built at the same time, both transcontinental lines, the one in British Columbia, the other in America. Why was it that on the former, murder and shooting were as frequent, as they are called, when men fire at each other with pistols, were unknown, while on the latter they were of daily occurrence? I am told, perhaps, because men carry revolvers in America and not in British Columbia; but, in America and not in British Columbia, when it is equally against the law in both countries to do so?"

The picture, which Mr. Roberts draws of the way in which justice is administered and the law disregarded in California, is not a pleasant one, but, from the facts he advances, it cannot be said with truth that it is not true to life. The corruption of the courts in California disgusts him utterly. He saw in that State justice—or rather in justice—bought without hardly a pretence of concealment. He says: "In England it was said at one time, and may be true to some extent now, that there was one law for the rich and another for the poor. In America this has been greatly simplified, there is only one law, a law for the rich and none for the poor." This is had enough, but it is not worse than some Americans themselves say of the administration of justice in their own country.

Instances are given in the article in which men guilty of grave crimes have been able to get off scot free. The reviewer tells of lynchings that were carried out in open day and without disguise, and of atrocities committed with impunity on defenceless persons. The article is not written in a dispassionate tone and the reader may be apt to suspect that the writer is prejudiced against the United States, but those who during the late attempt to bring the borders to justice in San Francisco read the newspapers published in that city will see that he says nothing worse of the courts of law than has been said, over and over again, by United States citizens who believed that the public interest required an exposure of their rotteness.

A. E. McPhillips, barrister and solicitor, a brother of Mr. L. G. McPhillips, of Vancouver, has opened an office on Langley street, opposite the courts.

A CORRUPT TRANSACTION.

Revelations are being every day made which go to show that corruption was rank in Quebec under the Mercier regime. The people were robbed right and left by the men with whom they entrusted the administration of their affairs. Much of the money thus stolen was used to debauch the constabulary. It will, we fear, be pretty much the same with the discovery of the bacillus of La Gripe, provided it has really been discovered. It is just possible that its discovery may be the first step towards finding a remedy for the disease it causes. But the step between discovering it, and finding a way to put an end to its ravages, will, we fear, be a pretty long one. This has been the case with cholera, typhoid fever, consumption, and we do not know how many other diseases, and it will, most likely, be the case with La Gripe. It will therefore be prudent to resort to the old-fashioned means, both to prevent and cure the disease that are supposed to be caused by these mischievous microscopic growths.

THE ELECTIONS.

The results of Thursday's election contests must have convinced the Liberals that the bye-elections will not yield them any increase of strength. Last spring they boasted that, when those elections were over, the Government's majority would be whittled down to the small end of nothing. They believed that the course they were pursuing would so weaken the Government in the Executive Council, that it would be unable to carry out its policy. The Government has held its own in all parts of the Dominion in which elections were held. The Liberals made a dead set on Kingston. They placed in the field a good candidate, one who had beaten Sir John Macdonald himself, and they used every effort, and all the arts of which they are masters, to ensure the return of their man. They made Kingston the test constituency. If they could beat the Government, there they believed victory in other constituencies would be comparatively easy. They abused and ridiculed the Government candidate, forgetting that if he is what they describe him to be, having such a poor candidate would accentuate the Conservative victory if he should happen to win. He has won. The Conservative candidate whom the Liberal spouters and scribblers declared was beneath contempt, has beaten the very best man that the Grit Party could bring out. Yet, in the face of this, so to them, disgraceful defeat, they are so foolish as to brag about the diminished majority, while they continue their vilification of Mr. Metcalfe, the member-elect. They have not discerned, though they ought to, that the Government is one of principle. Admitting that the difference between the two candidates is as great as they declare to be, it is easy to see that, if the Kingston electors voted according to their personal feelings, they would have voted for Mr. Gunn, who is on all hands allowed to be an estimable man of more than average ability, rather than for Mr. Metcalfe, who, according to them, is not qualified in any respect for the position to which he aspired. The victory, therefore, in Kingston, is the Grits themselves being the judges, a signal one.

We did expect that the electors of Lincoln would have done what those of Kingston did, voted on principle and not from personal motives. Mr. Gibson is no doubt a very popular man, and from all that we can learn he deserves his popularity. But he is on the wrong side. Lincoln is, in principle, Conservative. It returned Mr. Ryker, who was considered a Tory of the Tories. Even after his conduct had been declared corrupt and scandalous by the House of Commons the people of Lincoln elected him to represent them in Parliament. Why they should have turned round and elected a man the direct opposite in politics of their old favorite passes our comprehension. The Liberals have retained Lincoln and will no doubt make the most of their solitary victory.

In Halton the Government candidate has been returned by a greatly increased majority. On Thursday it was 104, and on Saturday it was more than quadrupled, being 462. This does not indicate a revolution of feeling in Ontario. It shows that in that province, at any rate, the Conservatives have greatly gained ground, and what has taken place in Halton may, to a greater or less extent, have happened in other Ontario counties. The results of the elections on Thursday are most encouraging to the Abbott Government.

The bye-elections, the dates of which are known, are: Laval, P. Q., February 1; Prince Edward, N. S., February 2; Lennox, Ontario, February 4; Prince Edward, N. S., February 4; North West, Ontario, February 4; South Victoria, Ontario, February 4; Queen's, N. S., February 5; West Simcoe, Ontario, February 5; West Bruce, Ontario, February 5; Halton, Ontario, February 11; East Middlesex, Ontario, February 11.

MARINE MOVEMENTS.

ALONG THE WATER FRONT, JAN. 30. The number of vessels that cleared from the port of Victoria during the first month is 202, and the number of entries 183. It is understood that the sailors of the wrecked bark Dominion will be at once sent home to Christiansburg. Mr. Maude left on her regular monthly trip to Barclay Sound, this evening, with several passengers and a medium cargo. Mr. Wells sailed for San Francisco, this morning, with the following cabin passengers on board from this port: James Cash, F. Hoffmaster, W. P. Garrison, E. J. Palmer, J. H. Vernon and wife, B. LaCruier and child, Misses Sumner, Frank Sumner, T. W. Gosdal, W. Cassidy, and J. H. Innes and wife. The whaleback Barlett, it is now expected, will leave this morning on the weather permits in the spring, for the Sound, though whether her voyage will be made via the Swae canal or through the Straits of Magellan is as yet undecided. Her cargo will consist largely, if not wholly of machinery.

THE QUEBEC CRISIS.

The Montreal Star, which is by no means friendly to the Abbott Administration, is energetically opposing the return of Mr. Mercier to power. Ordinarily the Star is a kind of journalistic Laodicean. It is in politics neither cold nor hot, and it is in consequence not very greatly admired or feared by either of the great parties. But now it has taken a side—and the right side—and is fighting manfully the battle of honest government. In an article in a recent number on "The provincial crisis," it says: "That the province has been robbed systematically, shamelessly, cruelly, nobody doubts. For many years, while the dole of the merchants, farmers and workmen of the country have been stolen, is only too probable. At any rate, while the dole of the province has been rolling up by millions, beggars have suddenly become rich and money has been poured out like water to provide for the luxuries and debaucheries of men who, a few years ago, found it hard to beg or to borrow, let alone to earn enough for their wants."

This is refreshingly vigorous writing, and it will, no doubt, have its effect upon the English speaking inhabitants of Quebec. If the electors of that province go wrong—if they support a party headed by shameless boodlers—it will not be for want of earnest and forcible warning. Commenting upon the apparent apathy of the people, the Star goes on to say: "Of its apparent apathy the patience of despair? We warn the electors of this country that whether or not the province is rich enough to stand four more years of the Mercier Government, it is not rich enough or mighty enough to endure a year of government under which theft is legalized and honored. If the offences of the Mercier Government are condoned by the electorate, hereafter no man's property is safe, and the name of Quebec will become a scorn and a by-word on this continent. Already the ordinary financial resources of the province are nearly exhausted, and the habitant who votes to restore the reign of corruption and extravagance is simply inviting the direct tax collector to his door."

We are greatly inclined to believe that the apathy which the Star deprecates is more apparent than real. Our contemporary will, we hope, before the election takes place, be surprised to find the people alive to the importance of the crisis, and uniting, as they never united before, to punish the men who have so shamelessly abused their confidence, and made their province a by-word, not only in this Dominion, but throughout the whole British Empire. We refuse to entertain the belief that the people of Quebec will deign to themselves and the Confederation of which they form a part by returning Honore Mercier to power.

A DIFFICULT QUESTION.

The truth of the saying that really great men are the most modest was illustrated most forcibly in a letter from Sir Lyon Playfair to Sir Henry James, that was published in the London Times in the beginning of the present month. Some of Sir Lyon's constituents had directed his attention to correspondence that had appeared in the Leeds Mercury, in regard to crimes committed by the late Hon. Mr. Blaine, and made his province a by-word, not only in this Dominion, but throughout the whole British Empire. We refuse to entertain the belief that the people of Quebec will deign to themselves and the Confederation of which they form a part by returning Honore Mercier to power.

This is a very inconvenient and impolitic resolution, and a vigorous protest was made against its being put there and then. It was shelved by the mover's consent by being referred to the Foreign Affairs committee. But Mr. Brocklebridge did not make such a motion without having some inkling that the President sent his message to Congress after he knew that Chili had made or was about to make ample satisfaction for any offence it had given the United States. It is said now that Chili's reply was not received until the day after the President had sent his message to Congress. It will perhaps be known one of these days whether or not the message was drawn up for election purposes or whether it was intended to inform Congress officially of the relations that at the moment existed between the United States and Chili. If the latter was the case, the change that took place in those relations, almost instantaneously, was very great, indeed. The message had hardly been read when the war cloud broke as if by a miracle. No one supposes that it was the message that caused the wonderful change.

We are told that the President and Mr. Blaine are not on good terms. Was it the Chilean difficulty that caused the misunderstanding or was it one of the effects of their rivalry for the nomination for the Presidency?

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The appointment of Mr. Lovell to the vacant seat on the Board of City School Trustees, was, from what we know of that gentleman, very judicious. We think that it matters very little whether the Trustee is an Alderman or not, but it does matter that he be an intelligent, fair-minded and public-spirited man. Mr. Lovell, or we are very greatly mistaken in him, possesses all these qualifications, and we will be greatly disappointed if he does not prove an admirable trustee.

PEACE ASSURED.

When we said a few days ago that there would be no war between the United States and Chili we had no idea that our prediction would be verified so soon. We based our surmise not on the wisdom or the forbearance of President Harrison, but on the prudence and good sense of the Chilean Government. We were morally sure that the Chileans would not be so rash as to go to war with the United States if it could by any possibility be avoided, and the event has proved that we were right.

It is now looking out that there was a serious disagreement between President Harrison and Secretary Blaine about this Chilean business. Mr. Blaine counselled patience and forbearance, while Mr. Harrison was for haste and prompt action. These are circumstances which give rise to something more than a suspicion that Mr. Harrison knew before he sent his message on the Chilean difficulty to Congress, that an ample apology had been made, and would soon be made by the Government of Chili. It would be interesting to know why it was that Mr. Brocklebridge, the day after the message was read, moved a resolution requesting the President to inform the House "whether any answer is received either from our Minister to Chili, or from the Government of Chili, to the dispatch sent by the Government of the United States to the republic of Chili, January 21, and if so, from whom such answer was received and at what time, etc." This was evidently considered by the friends of the Administration a very inconvenient and impolitic resolution, and a vigorous protest was made against its being put there and then. It was shelved by the mover's consent by being referred to the Foreign Affairs committee.

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NEWS OF THE P.

Probable Settlement of Christies of Vancouver. The funeral of the late Wellington Affray. VANCOUVER, Jan. 28.—The teachers meet, to-night, at 7.30 o'clock. The funeral of the late Mr. Affray, a rancher, was found dead in bed on the morning of the 26th. He was in good spirits until he was found dead. The funeral will be held on Friday at 10 o'clock. The funeral of the late Mr. Affray, a rancher, was found dead in bed on the morning of the 26th. He was in good spirits until he was found dead. The funeral will be held on Friday at 10 o'clock.

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR. Negotiations are in progress with the Chinese company for the purchase of the Pacific Building Society. The annual financial statement of the Pacific Building Society for the year ending in June last, shows a balance of \$1,491,391. The society has been in existence for 20 months, a dividend of 20 per cent has been declared. The directors are: L. Behner, A. B. Forrester, R. J. Hamilton, W. E. Calhoun, W. F. Wilson, and others.

My daughter, after a severe attack of Scott's Emulsion, was completely broken down. I spent hundreds of dollars in doctors' bills, but little satisfaction. Before she had taken one bottle of Scott's Emulsion Bitters there was a remarkable change, and now she is entirely cured. WATFORD, ONT.

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WE TELL THE TRUTH about Seeds. We will send you Free our Seed Annual for 1892, which tells THE WHOLE TRUTH. We illustrate and give prices in this Catalogue, which is handsomer than ever. NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH. D.M. FERRY & CO., Windsor, Ont.

SIXTY days after date I intend making application to the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a mission to purchase 160 acres, more or less, Barclay Sound, containing a large tract of timber, in the corner of the north 40 chains, thence east 40 chains, thence south 40 chains, thence west 40 chains, 160 acres of commencement. R. H. B. COLLISTER, Dated January, 18th 1892.

IMPERIAL BAKING POWDER.

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