

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JULY 13, 1896.

Published Every Monday and Thursday

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited, Victoria.

W. H. ELLIS, Manager. A. G. SARGISON, Secretary.

TERMS:

THE DAILY COLONIST.

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Per year, postage free to any part of Canada.

Parts of a year at the same rate.

Per week, if delivered, not more than 20

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST.

Per year, postage free to any part of the Dominion or the United States.

Six months, \$1.50

Three months, \$1.00

Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES.

REGULAR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING, as distinguished from everything of a transient character—that is to say, advertising referring to regular Merchandise and Manufacturing Businesses, Government and Land Notices—published at the following rates per line, solid nonpareil, the duration of publications to be specified at the time of ordering advertisements:

More than one fortnight and not more than one month, 60 cents.

More than one week and not more than one fortnight, 40 cents.

Not more than one week, 30 cents.

No advertisement under this classification inserted for less than \$2.50, and accepted other than for every-day insertion.

Theoretical advertisements, 10 cents per line each insertion.

Advertisements unaccompanied by specific instructions inserted only at the discretion of the manager.

Advertisements discontinued before expiration of special period will be charged as if continued for full term.

Special allowance on yearly and half-yearly contracts.

WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS—Ten cents a line solid nonpareil, each insertion. No advertisement inserted for less than \$2.

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING—Per line solid nonpareil: First insertion, 10 cents; each subsequent consecutive insertion, 5 cents. Advertisements not inserted every day, 10 cents per line each insertion. No advertisement inserted for less than \$1.50.

Births, Marriages and Deaths, \$1.00; funeral notices, 50 cents extra.

Where cuts are inserted they must be ALL METAL—not mounted on wood.

RETROSPECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE.

The Conservatives, who on Wednesday, after eighteen years of office, laid down the reins of power, have a great deal to be proud of and very little to blush for. They have administered the affairs of the Dominion wisely and energetically. They leave the country richer, more prosperous, and in a far better position to profit by its many and great advantages than they found it. In fact, in 1878, when Sir John Macdonald took the direction of the affairs of the Dominion, many of those advantages were unknown. It was his policy that developed the resources of the Dominion, and that showed, even to Canadians themselves, the immense capabilities of their country. British Columbians who are old enough to remember the condition not only of this province but of the whole of Canada in 1878, cannot but wonder at the great and beneficial changes that have been brought about chiefly through the instrumentality of the Conservative Government. If anyone had then predicted that before the Conservatives went out of power Victoria would have daily communication with Eastern Canada; that it would be brought within twelve days of Liverpool; that there would be lines of magnificent steamships running between British Columbia and China and Japan and between Victoria and Australia, and that a Pacific cable between the Island of Vancouver and the Islands of Anstralia would be well on the way of becoming an accomplished fact, he would have been regarded as a wild enthusiast or as an amiable lunatic. But these and many other changes not less wonderful have been accomplished and others equally surprising and equally beneficial are in process of being accomplished.

It is not, we believe, too much to say that the success of the Conservative administration in Canada has had the effect of changing very materially the estimate in which colonies are held by British statesmen, and of inducing a change in the Imperial policy the effects of which are only beginning to be seen. There can be no doubt that Conservative governments and the Conservative policy have made this Dominion of Canada the most important of the colonies of Great Britain. Canadians of all parties will one day see clearly and acknowledge with gratitude and pride what Conservative statesmen and Conservative policy have done for this country.

The party which has now been elevated to power has opposed everything of importance that has been done to develop the resources of the Dominion and to give it a higher place in the Empire. They have done what they could to be little and to disparage their country, and if it has risen in the consideration of Imperial statesmen, the people of Great Britain and the world at large, it has been in their despite. They have been, from every point of view, little Canadians, and if they had been allowed to have their way Canada today would have been an insignificant colony and its inhabitants would have been despised as narrow-minded and unprogressive provincials. They have given the discerning people of Canada no reason to believe that they have changed in any respect. What they were in 1878, they are to-day, and it is too much to hope that their regime will be enterprising and energetic. The Ethiopian does not change his skin nor the leopard his spots, neither will the Canadian Grit get clear of his timidity and his small-mindedness. It does not require the gift of prophecy to see that their administration will not be distinguished

by any act or any measure which will raise the country in the estimation of the world. It is almost certain that they will not keep up the present rate of advancement, and it would not be at all surprising if they suffer the country, as they did before, to retrograde. They will not, however, be allowed to do the country much harm. Canadians will not be contented with a stick-in-the-mud Government.

THE PILE BRIDGE.

We suppose that there is no hope of prevailing upon the City Council to reconsider its determination to throw away between five and six thousand dollars of this year's revenue in the construction of a temporary bridge at Point Ellice. The expenditure is wholly unnecessary, for if the Corporation had availed itself of Mr. James Dunsmuir's consent to use the railway bridge for the purpose of vehicular traffic, the city would have the temporary accommodation it so greatly needs at once, and the citizens and the city government would have ample time to consider where the new bridge should be built and what kind of structure it ought to be. Men of experience and intelligence say there is no reason in the world why the railway bridge should not be used until a permanent bridge suited to the present and future requirements of the city is constructed. There would be no danger in using the railway bridge, and very little inconvenience. The number of trains that cross it in a day is few, and the time of their crossing is known to everyone. Neither pedestrians nor carriages need to any considerable extent be inconvenienced, and none endangered, by the shunting. So great is the accommodation that the use of the railway bridge can afford the citizens, and that immediately, that it is most surprising that the Corporation did not begin to use it the day after Mr. Dunsmuir's consent had been obtained. The expense that it would be necessary to incur to put the bridge in order for the use of the public and to keep it in good order would have been comparatively trifling and the benefit to the citizens would have been very great. As it is, the citizens have been put to great inconvenience and have had to sustain a loss that has not been inconsiderable for want of the accommodation that the railway bridge would have afforded, and it is uncertain how much longer they will have to wait for the "pile bridge," which, when it is finished, will be very far from being an ornament to the city, and which it is safe to say will almost from the day of its completion be a bill of expense to the Corporation. It is well known that makeshifts when they can be avoided are very expensive, and this makeshift bridge is wholly unnecessary.

Besides, it is well known that the City Council cannot afford to build even a slight bridge across the Arm at Point Ellice, out of current revenue. Every dollar that the city collectors can rake and scrape together is needed for the regular civic services, and to pay the interest on the city's debt. It would require a great deal more than the Council can appropriate to keep the city even in decent order and to give the citizens the comforts and the conveniences that they ought to have for the taxes they pay without throwing so considerable a sum away on a ramshackle bridge that will be an eyesore and a nuisance as long as it stands. When it is considered that the expenditure is altogether unnecessary, that the temporary accommodation which the city needs at once can be had for at most one-fifth the sum that has been appropriated to build the "pile bridge," we wonder at the patience of the citizens who are obliged, altogether unnecessarily, to bear serious loss and are put to great inconvenience to gratify the caprice of a few wrong-headed and prejudiced city councillors.

THE OPPOSITION.

The Conservatives are now in Opposition. They are in an excellent position to do effective work. Their leader is a man of great ability, energetic and resourceful. The work he did in the late election campaign shows what he is capable of, and the duties of Leader of the Opposition will be mere play compared with the labor which he then performed. It will be found that Sir Charles Tupper as Leader of the Opposition will be truly formidable. He has as his collaborators a number of able men who will keep the Government up to the mark and who will quickly detect and expose the defects of their policy. In the country the Conservatives are in good heart and full of fight. They see now that they have been beaten by a fluke, that their opponents have not been able to show that the Conservative policy has been defective. They will, no doubt, strengthen their party organizations, so that they will be able to act vigorously and untidily whenever occasion requires. Nothing has been said or done during the late campaign to undermine their faith in the principles of Conservatism, and they will, no doubt, make haste to forget the discontents and disagreements about small matters that cooled the ardor of many while their party, as they considered, had secure hold of power and was certain to be successful. Now that their opponents are in office, they will close their ranks and show a firm front to the enemy. The Conservative policy

and Conservative principles they know are worth fighting for, and they will certainly be in a position to give a good account of themselves when they are required to act. Eternal vigilance, it is said, is the price of freedom; and so it is of good government. Men who want to be well governed must be alert and always on the watch. If they get apathetic and sleepy, trading politicians and smooth-tongued demagogues will be sure to take advantage of their apathy and their drowsiness to deprive them of some advantage that their welfare requires them to possess.

THE SILVER PROBLEM.

A good many would like to know why the value of gold as compared with silver is placed at the ratio of 16 to 1. Is there sixteen ounces of silver taken out of the mines to one of gold, or can one ounce of gold in the markets of the world buy only sixteen ounces of silver? It is difficult to tell exactly the relative quantities of the two metals mined in a given year. In 1894 it was calculated that the world's production of silver was 166,601,995 ounces and that of gold was 8,706,836 ounces; that is, the product was under 20 ounces of silver to 1 of gold, but the market value was 32.58 to 1. This is very different indeed from the standard proposed by the free silver men of the United States. Before, then, their standard could be arrived at, gold would have to depreciate 50 per cent., or silver appreciate over one hundred per cent. How any government could bring about either result is a mystery to a great many men. A half an ounce of gold is now worth a little more than sixteen ounces of silver. For the gold to be doubled while the silver remains as it is, and at the same time this ratio between the metals kept up, is a mathematical impossibility. Yet this is the miracle which the silver men of the United States propose to work.

PARTISAN JUDGES.

The following sentence is from an editorial paragraph in Wednesday's Times: "Among the rumors of local interest is one to the effect that a telegram has been received from Ottawa conveying the information that the Governor-General has declined to ratify the following appointments: Chief Justice Davis as Commissioner on Behring sea claims, etc." The malevolent author of the above piece of fiction writes himself down an ass. Every intelligent person knows that the appointment of a Commissioner to represent Great Britain in the proposed inquiry, if such an appointment should become necessary, would rest with the Imperial Government and not with that of the Dominion. Coming from the Times, which in a recent issue gave its readers a quotation from the Toronto Globe treating of partisan judges, this would indicate that with respect to members of the judiciary who are suspected of not looking at matters through the spectacles of the organ, slanders and petty innuendoes of the most contemptible kind are in preparation.

THAT PILE BRIDGE.

The city was yesterday notified through Mr. F. C. Gamble, resident Dominion engineer, that construction on the pile bridge now being erected across the Arm must cease until permission is given by the Dominion Department of Public Works. The letter is as follows: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, CANADA, Resident Engineer's Office, Victoria, B. C., July 8, 1896. To the Mayor and Council, Victoria: GENTLEMEN.—Pursuant to the directions of the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works, I have to notify you that before the construction of the pile bridge which the city council propose to erect parallel to and alongside of the bridge crossing Victoria Harbor at Point Ellice, one span of which, 150 feet in the clear, was lapsed on the 26th of May last, can be proceeded with, the provisions of chapter 92 of the Revised Statutes of Canada must be complied with. I have therefore to request that work will be stopped until the necessary authority, as set forth in the above mentioned statute, to rebuild or replace this bridge is granted. (Sd.) F. C. GAMBLE, Resident Engineer. To His Worship the Mayor and City Council. The Mayor at once sent the following reply to Mr. Gamble: VICTORIA, July 8, 1896. F. C. Gamble, Esq. DEAR SIR:—In reply to your letter of this date, I think the chief engineer of the department of Public Works must be under a misapprehension. The corporation are merely rebuilding a pile bridge of the character existing in 1882. The bridge under construction, as I am informed, will not interfere with navigation to as great an extent as the former pile bridge at this point, a span of 70 feet being provided with that special object in view. It will be a great inconvenience to even temporary stop the work of construction, as the two parts of the city are put to a great deal of annoyance by the delay which has already occurred. A bridge has existed at this point for at least thirty-five years. I feel assured that the department, if properly informed as to the position, will not ask that the work be delayed in the slightest degree. (Sd.) ROBERT BRAVEN, Mayor.

WINKFIELD, July 8.—H. R. Foulkes, wholesale liquor merchant of Moscow, committed suicide on Saturday afternoon by taking strychnine. One Honest Man. If written to confidentially I will mail in a sealed letter particulars of a genuine home cure, by which I was permanently restored to health and vigor after years of suffering from nervous debility. I was robbed and swindled by the quacks until I nearly lost faith in mankind, but, thank Heaven, I am now well, vigorous and strong, and wish to make this certain means of cure known to all sufferers. I am desirous of helping the unfortunate to regain their health and happiness. I promise private secrecy. Please address, simply: P. O. Box 388, London, Ont.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Not Prepared to Meet the Tramway Company's Views Regarding James Bay Bridge.

Last Year's Representatives on the Jubilee Hospital Board Reappointed—Cut Your Thistles.

The city council had another meeting Friday night, but it was unusually short, for an adjournment was reached at half-past nine.

The rates and taxes by-law was reconsidered and finally passed, and the bicycle by-law was read a third time and passed.

The reports of the City Engineer on the James Bay and Rock Bay bridges were next taken up. They were as follows: "I have the honor to submit the following report on Rock Bay bridge: The work of renewing the sway bracing and making other repairs is nearly completed. The method to be adopted for strengthening the span depends on whether the draw may be permanently closed or not. Please advise me on this point. After the repairs referred to are completed the bridge will be safe for ordinary traffic, but I would not recommend its use for tramway traffic unless a number of additional stringers are put in."

"With regard to Mr. Bell's report to the Consolidated Railway & Light Company relative to using James Bay bridge for car traffic, in which he suggested certain improvements to be made within six months, I have the honor to report that as previously stated I consider the bridge at present safe for ordinary traffic and also for tram car traffic conducted under the conditions stipulated, viz., limited to a loaded car of 8½ tons at a speed not exceeding four miles per hour, cars not to be nearer than 200 feet. As it probably will in any event, say within a year, be necessary to repair the bridge and as making the repairs about on the lines as suggested by Mr. Bell, would enable the company to increase the loaded car weight limit, I would recommend that repairs approximately as suggested be carried out on one condition that the Consolidated Railway Company contribute an amount which under the circumstances would be a reasonable proportion of the cost. The city will be absolved from any liability for damages or loss that might be claimed through making said repairs, the estimated cost of which is \$775,000."

The report in reference to Rock Bay bridge was referred to the streets committee and city engineer to report.

In regard to the James Bay report it was decided on Ald. Glover's suggestion that the tramway company be informed that the corporation do not feel prepared at this time to spend money on the James Bay bridge, in view of the city engineer's report that the bridge is already strong enough for ordinary traffic. The council, however, recommended that the company furnish funds for the repairs they desired to have made.

Then came another report from the city engineer. It read: "With regard to cleaning out the muck at Beaver lake between the coffee dam and main dam referred to in a communication to the council from Mr. Bell and myself on the 10th ult., I am pleased to state that the contractors have begun to improve the lake and to have a definite answer as to whether the corporation wishes to purchase or hire their pumping plant, consisting of boiler, piping, hose, etc., as in the event of the latter they will immediately take down and ship the machinery elsewhere. As the greater part of the work of cleaning out the site referred to can be done much more economically by pumping and hydraulic excavators, I would recommend that the corporation be authorized to purchase a definite answer as to whether the corporation wishes to purchase or hire their pumping plant, consisting of boiler, piping, hose, etc., as in the event of the latter they will immediately take down and ship the machinery elsewhere. 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