

THE VOTERS' VERDICT.

One week from today the electors of British Columbia will have it in their power to decide the fate of the province. Is the clock to be put back four years again by the return to power of the present administration? Is the order the voters are to utter to be "Halt! March!" meaning that the Turner government is sustained; or "Forward, march!" meaning that this obstacle to progress has been overthrown and that the province is really to go ahead and fulfil the hopes and expectations of its well-wishers? The voter who does not realize the responsibility that rests upon him personally in this fight, is to be pitied. It is a common remark of the unthinking voter: "Oh, a vote more or less does not matter much; I'll not bother going to the polls; there'll be plenty more to see the party safe." If he would pause to think how many are perhaps saying the same thing, he would instantly see the criminal folly of such a course. In the present crisis there should be no wasted votes among those in possession of the franchise in this province of the state of things known under the short title "Turnerism." The voters have before them all that can be said on the government side, and it is for them to judge whether any jury of intelligent men would be likely to find for the defendants on such evidence and with so many serious questions unanswered.

A POSSIBLE CABINET.

Should the Dunsmuir party succeed, the following cabinet may be formed: Hon. C. E. Pooley, Dunsmuir's legal adviser, premier and attorney-general. Jas. Dunsmuir, president of the Dunsmuir Co., president of the council. Joseph Hunter, superintendent of Dunsmuir's railway, provincial secretary.

ASTONISHING HARDIHOOD.

There is something humorous about the attempt of the government supporters to attempt to place patent rights on the British Columbia for the British Columbian platform. The inference in the first case is, of course, that only the Turner government can give to the province the two conditions expressed in the motto; and in the second that those who oppose that administration have no right to call themselves British Columbians. This morning the Colonist devotes a column and a half—why not just half a column, for the sake of suffering readers?—to the attempt to prove that the Times and several other opposition newspapers are terrible enemies of the province. In the farago of twaddle composing that prodigious article it would be easier to point out fallacies and mis-statements in bunches than to find anything upon which to ground a reasonable argument. The Colonist pursues the line of argument by opposites—"Did the Colonist say this; the Times said that," and so on, in reducing the matter to broad facts before the end is reached. What the Times has done all along in dealing with provincial matters is to tell the truth. Let us take only one instance; the case of the Skikine route. The Colonist puffed and boomed that route in spite of all protest and misrepresentation. After the high-salaried commissioner there, or what is he for? The extraordinary railway policy of the government; the minor matters of the Songhees reserve, the Revelstoke river bank affair, and the undignified conduct and language of ministers in the house. Although not exacting an exhaustive list, the thinking voter has a pretty strong indictment of the present government upon which to sum up before he delivers judgment in the shape of his vote next Saturday. The company-mongering scandal alone will lose the government hundreds of votes, for the indignation over that ill-disguised piece of selfishness has been very general. Some indeed, may not see anything wrong in ministers making every dollar out of their office while they have the chance, but the voters who look upon the matter in that way are not those who understand and appreciate the principles that influence British statesmanship. With one week longer to think over the matter let the electors meet in their special pleadings in this cause and consider only the evidence for and against the government, and find according to their consciences, and we feel sure the province will come out from under the sway of the monopolists.

A SEVERE CRITIC.

This morning the Colonist lengthily expresses its overwhelming sense of the unworthiness of the gentlemen and the newspaper candidates. The writer appears to have been laboring under a great deal of happy influence, and without using profane or blasphemous language he has gone to within touching distance of the line between decency and its opposite. That we may not be charged with making statements without proof, we may present for the edification of those who have not read the Colonist's strange article a few choice excerpts. They may also serve to show the sort of paludum that is being daily "fed" to the government supporters. The Colonist writer begins by unkindly depicting the opposition writers and speakers of the very ground upon which they supposed they stood. "Of serious argument there has been absolutely nothing whatever," says he. The Colonist has lately parted company with the positive and the comparative in writing and deals "utterly" and "absolutely" in the superlative. Unluckily for the Colonist, however, we are under the painful necessity of once more convicting it, out of its own mouth, of fibbing. On Saturday, June 18th, the Colonist remarked: "The Times makes its first serious contribution to the literature of the present campaign by asking a series of questions. That shows how short the Colonist's memory is, although the statement it made is scarcely accurate, may very seriously contribute having preceded the one referred to. The Colonist came to the conclusion on the 18th of June that it was about time to answer the charges which it could not in decency any longer ignore. The Colonist this morning assures its readers the oppositionists are "silly," "abundant in personal insults," "would-be funny," "repeatedly personally insult-

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Electricity, according to those best able to deliver judgment in the matter, will be the force of the future. At present it may justly be described as in the experimental stage, and applied only to a very few of the uses to which it is capable of being put. Its operation is still hampered by the coal and steam question, and by serious limitations of human knowledge respecting molecular forces, and laws, especially touching electricity. It is still handicapped by the fluctuations in the generating plant, inevitable to and inseparable from all forces depending upon human attention for their maintenance and transmission. Something has been sought that will render us independent of coal and steam in the generation of electric power, and that something has been found. It is the oldest, or one of the oldest, things with which electricity has been connected. Scientists are not alone in their wonderment that it should have taken mankind all these ages to discover so simple a thing as that running water would, properly harnessed, supply every imaginable want as regards power. Of course running water has been applied for centuries in the crude process of turning mill-wheels, but it is remarkable that nobody seems to have recognized until quite recently the almost universal applicability of this natural force. As one writer shows this harnessing of the waterfalls means much more than the mere saving in coal consumption. One of the most important changes that will be wrought by electricity taking the place of steam will be the dispersion of industrial populations where concentration, owing to the defects of steam, was an economic necessity.

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Mr. Cecil Rhodes, who has just suffered defeat in South Africa by the overthrow of the government of Sir Gordon Sprigg, who succeeded Mr. Rhodes in their leadership when the latter's connection with the Jameson raid was proved, is not much cast down over the reverse. Although he then lost the support of the Afrikaner Bond and has not yet succeeded in regaining the confidence of that important body, Mr. Rhodes has not in any sense relinquished his great scheme of a United South Africa, where the British and the Dutch are blended in the same manner that all the nationalities are blended in the United States. This new empire of the south was to partake largely of the democratic principle, but there is no doubt Mr. Rhodes designed that it should be under the protection of Great Britain. This was the one point upon which the Dutch clamored and upon which the Boers were not persuaded to look with confidence. But for that proviso the Transvaal would assuredly have joined all the other South African states—Cape Colony, Natal, Orange Free State, Griqualand, and the others—in forming what would probably have been known as the United States of South Africa. Since the Jameson raid the British have formed a new association, known as the South African League, ultra-British in its sympathies and opposed to the Afrikaner Bond, which is now ultra-Dutch. The South African League is numerically stronger than the Bond, and it is straining its powers to the utmost to strengthen the position of Mr. Rhodes. The government will now appeal to the country, and it is believed Mr. Rhodes will again take the leadership, with a very strong backing. In that case many remarkable developments in the strangely-complex politics of South Africa will soon follow, and although the Boers are rejoicing greatly over the fall of the Cape government, the changes of the gravest moment to the Transvaal cannot be far distant. Even those who are not too sanguine as to the issue of Mr. Rhodes's magnificent schemes for the extension of the empire in South Africa admit that it is quite possible the whole region lying south of the Zambesi and from ocean to ocean may be part and parcel of the British dominions before the coming century is five years old.

THE POWER OF THE FUTURE.

Electricity, according to those best able to deliver judgment in the matter, will be the force of the future. At present it may justly be described as in the experimental stage, and applied only to a very few of the uses to which it is capable of being put. Its operation is still hampered by the coal and steam question, and by serious limitations of human knowledge respecting molecular forces, and laws, especially touching electricity. It is still handicapped by the fluctuations in the generating plant, inevitable to and inseparable from all forces depending upon human attention for their maintenance and transmission. Something has been sought that will render us independent of coal and steam in the generation of electric power, and that something has been found. It is the oldest, or one of the oldest, things with which electricity has been connected. Scientists are not alone in their wonderment that it should have taken mankind all these ages to discover so simple a thing as that running water would, properly harnessed, supply every imaginable want as regards power. Of course running water has been applied for centuries in the crude process of turning mill-wheels, but it is remarkable that nobody seems to have recognized until quite recently the almost universal applicability of this natural force. As one writer shows this harnessing of the waterfalls means much more than the mere saving in coal consumption. One of the most important changes that will be wrought by electricity taking the place of steam will be the dispersion of industrial populations where concentration, owing to the defects of steam, was an economic necessity.

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ing to the editor of the Colonist," "naughty," "vipers," "poverty-stricken characters," "begging," "non-appreciative," "distasteful," "bar-room politicians," "beastly loafers," "cheap jesters," "proficient in the art of personal insult," "the veriest scalliwags in Canadian journalism," "barren of argument," "reeking with insult."

Perhaps those delightful examples of Colonist phraseology may suffice to prove what we have said: That the article from which they are taken was not written by a gentleman in a calm frame of mind, or who wished to deal kindly or even fairly with those he has taken so many pains to describe as his inferiors. Articles of that nature do not promote the good feeling that should exist between all British Columbians, and it is surely absurd for a member of the legal profession to descend so authoritatively upon journalists and journalists, and to speak in such an extreme and harsh judgment. "The opposition candidates are supported by the veriest scalliwags in Canadian journalism."

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