The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1895.

THE WRONG COURSE.

Mr. Dalton McCarthy has of late years occupied quite a prominent place among the politicians of the Dominion of Canada. He has placed himself at the head of what may be called the politico-religious group of politicians. Among the members of this group considerations of religion and race rather than those of politics pure and simple occupy the first place. They are anti Catholic and anti-French-Canadian before everything. Their platform is not particularly definite, but it is distinguished by antipathies which opponents regard as odd and perverse.

It is indeed a little difficult to understand exactly where Mr. McCarthy is or what he wants. He began his political career as an ardent Conservative. He was a staunch supporter of Sir John Macdonald for many years. He was in fact looked upon for some time as the most likely man in the party to succeed Sir John. But it was found that, for some reason or other, Mr. McCarthy's aptitude for politics was not so great as it was supposed to be, and he slipped out of the front rank of Conservative public men. It became evident that he had contracted an aversion to French Canadians. But he still remained a member of the Conservative party and a supporter of its policy of protection to native industry. When Sir John Thompson became Premier his discontent became so apparent that the Empire, the Toronto organ of the Conservative party, alluded to him as a "wobbler." Mr. McCarthy considered this an indignity which he must in justice to himself resent, and he did resent it. After this the breach between him and the party with which he had been acting became wider and wider, until now what appears to be a great gulf yawns between the McCarthy group and the Conservative party.

The explanations made before the separation became complete showed that in severing himself from his late political associates, Mr. McCarthy was actuated chiefly, if not solely, by personal considerations. Sufficient deference had not been paid him by the leading men of the party when changes were made in the personnel of the Government, and its newspaper organ had been permitted to treat him with contumely. It soon became apparent also that Mr. McCarthy's views on the trade question had undergone a very material change. He was no longer a protectionist. How this change of view was brought about does not appear very clearly.

It is, we must confess, somewhat hard to ascertain what Mr. McCarthy's principles are or what are his aims, except that he is opposed to the Government generally, to the official use of the French language and to separate schools in Manitoba and the Northwest. What he would do if by any chance the reins of power were placed in his hands it is impossible to conjecture. The French Canadians, as far as is apparent to the ordinary observer, want nothing more than the constitution and the laws of the country permit them to have. The Catholics of the Dominion, as far as can be seen, are quite satisfied with the rights and privileges they enjoy as British subjects. It is not to be believed that Mr. McCarthy proposes to legislate against them as a religious denomination or to deprive the French Canadians of the Province of Quebec of such privileges as are secured to them by treaty.

If a political party ought not to discriminate in legislation against Catholics and French Canadians what is there to be gained by keeping up an agitation against them? If their rights and privileges are as secure and as inviolate as are those of Canadians of Anglo-Saxon and Celtic descent, why should race or religious differences be as much as mentioned in political discussions. Surely Mr. McCarthy as a Protestant and an English-speaking Canadian is not afraid of the influence which Roman Catholics and French Canadians may gain in the state. If he is, he virtually admits that Protestants and men whose mother tongue is English are the inferiors, intellectually and morally, of their fellow citizens of other religions and other races. It would be indeed surprising if Mr. McCarthy made this admission either by word or act. Yet admitting that the political field is open to all and that the contestants in it are free to exercise their powers as best they can, to what other conclusion can the impartial observer come than that the men who take the stand that Mr. McCarthy does, and who talk as he talks, feel that they are unable on equal terms to cope with the men whom they consider their antagonists.

But there is really no antagonism in the matter. Canadians, no matter what their race and what their religion, have equal rights. The object of them all should be, and really is, to do the best for their country, and when men do the best for themselves in legitimate occupations they cannot help advancing the interests of their country. The man, then, who tries to create divisions among Canadians, who does what he can to make men of one race and one religion jealous of the men of another race and another religion, does what is most injurious to the common weal. And he, although he may not be aware of it, commits political suicide, for no man, no matter what his position may be or what his talents, can afford wantonly to antagonize a large and an influential minority of the population of the Dominion. Mr. McCarthy has deliberately and wholly unnecessarily, as we believe, placed himself in this position. And it is very difficult, indeed, to see why he did so, for he cannot hope that anything but evil can come to the country from a strife of religions and races.

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QUARANTINE.

Very few would think of looking into the Report of the Minister of Agriculture for information respecting the quarantine stations of the Dominion. But, strange as it may seem, those who want to know what has been done in the Dominion to prevent the importation of deadly diseases must consult the blue book issued by the Department of Agriculture.

The Report contains both information and instruction. It tells us not only what has been done but what ought to be done. We find that in view of the danger from cholera great precautions have been taken by the department, some of which may be regarded by unthinking persons as unnecessary. The Minister says:

In Dr. Montizambert's report some interesting details will be found of an investigation made by the Spanish Government respecting the epidemic in Lisbon. The highly satisfactory work that was done here in the way of disinfecting immigrants' luggage and the holds and steerage of passenger vessels arriving from any of the infected countries of Europe, I am led to believe, prevented the introduction of germs of cholera into this country. Dr. Montizambert says: "There is this negative evidence of successful work, that no cholera has declared itself in Canada," and he further remarks: "It is impossible to say to what extent the infection might have disseminated through this country had not the immigrants' luggage from cholera infected places been thus sterilized before being allowed to enter Canada." This sterilization of luggage immediately upon the landing of immigrants was carried out at the deep water termini of the railroads, involving no delay to healthy vessels. The labels attached to immigrants' luggage being evidence of quarantine inspection under Dr. Montizambert's supervision are now readily accepted by health inspectors at all points on the boundary line. In accordance with the conclusions and rules of the Dresden International Conference, all vessels on which there has been no death nor cholera symptoms were at once after inspection given a free *pratique*, even though coming from an infected port, *the luggage, however, as above stated, having been disinfected.* I am informed that the opinion is gaining ground that the Asiatic cholera is becoming endemic in Europe, allusion to which is made in Dr. Montizambert's report, in connection with which he emphasizes the fact that the danger to this country thus becomes permanent and continuous, necessitating continued vigilance at our seaports as a guarantee of safety.

We have reproduced this passage in full on account of its great importance. It is seen from it that the Minister approves the practice of sterilizing the baggage of passengers in vessels coming from infected ports, although none of them have contracted disease. The fact that the vessel comes from an infected port is sufficient warrant to subject the baggage to disinfection. It will be noticed, too, that the fact of the cholera having become apparently endemic in Europe caused the quarantine officers to take extra precautions. Now, there is no doubt at all about the cholera, smallpox, and other deadly diseases being endemic in China and Japan, so that the quarantine officers on this side of the continent need to be doubly vigilant and careful. Disinfecting the baggage of the passengers of a ship that appears to be free from disease may seem to many a wholly unnecessary precaution. But the Minister of Agriculture and the General Superintendent of Canadian Quarantines, Dr. Montizambert, do not think so. The objection to this practice is that it causes delay, but this is not Dr. Montizambert's opinion. He says: "This sterilization of luggage has been carried out at the deep water termini of the railroads immediately upon the landing of immigrants. It has, therefore, not involved any delay to healthy vessels."

It is to be hoped that the quarantine officer at William Head will follow the good example set by the Superintendent of Quarantines at Grosse Isle, and disinfect the baggage of vessels coming from Chinese and Japanese ports, every one of which ought to be considered infected. The class of immigrants coming in those vessels are peculiarly liable to bring with them the seeds of disease, coming as they do from the most unhealthy parts of unhealthy cities. We do not know what the practice is, but the Report of the Minister of Agriculture and that of the General Superintendent of Quarantines show what it ought to be.

IRRECONCILABLE.

There is no pleasing the organ of the opposition. When the Department of Marine and Fisheries considered that all its regulations were necessary for the preservation of the salmon in the Fraser River the organ regarded it with stern disapproval. When the Minister of Marine visited the Province and found from personal observation that some of the regulations needed mending or were altogether unnecessary our contemporary had not a word of encouragement for him; and now when the reforms he promised are being made it is in exceedingly bad humor and can do nothing but sneer at the Government and remind its readers of the mistakes which in his desire to preserve the salmon the late Minister made. It is evident that it would much rather that the obnoxious and vexatious regulations had been continued than that the canners should be saved from annoyance and serious loss by their amendment. It might have been generous enough to have had a word of congratulation for the canners even if it could not bring itself to say something in approval of the course which the Government has taken. A grievance is evidently so precious to the Times that it hates to see it redressed. This is characteristic. Hatred of the Government is its ruling passion. That hatred is so intense that our contemporary is displeased when the Government does what it knows is right, for fear that by acceding to the wishes of the people it may gain credit and become more popular. Such factiousness is not pleasant to contemplate.

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The Cattle are well bred; a much larger herd could be farmed with the place. The bunch grass on the hills in the vicinity covers many thousands of acres, and is available to the few land owners in the valleys.

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The South West Kootenay and Osoyoos Divisions of Yale District, British Columbia, judging from the actual ore products of the mines to date, are destined in the next year or two to be the richest and most important mineral centres in the world.

These localities are rapidly settling up and as farm land is limited great inducement is offered to any person or corporation having capital and knowledge necessary to develop and work these estates. A store, hotel and blacksmith shop could be run in connection with the farm.

P. O. BOX 188. TELEPHONE NO. 74.

DESTRUCTIVE FROSTS

DETROIT, May 18.—Dispatches from Southwestern Michigan report that the frost yesterday morning was the most disastrous to fruit of any of the recent visitations. At Benton Harbor it is reported that not over 20 per cent. of the crop can survive.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 18.—White frost covered the central portion of Indiana yesterday morning. The damage is very great, especially to early fruit, vegetables and grain. In some localities the grass was frozen.

CLEVELAND, May 18.—There was another destructive frost throughout Northern Ohio. Vegetation which escaped Sunday night's frost was destroyed. A number of points report great damage to wheat, corn and potatoes, in addition to the destruction of fruit.

GENESEO, N.Y., May 18.—The freeze on Thursday night probably ruined what fruit was left in the Geneseo valley. Ice nearly half an inch thick formed on still water in exposed places.

WORSE AND WORSE.

Harold Frederic in his letter to the New York Times says: "A certain lethargy on the whole subject of tariffs is undoubtedly perceptible nowadays in England. The Cobden club committee, for instance, at the annual meeting the other day only got a small percentage of members together, and the only business transacted was the decision that there could be no dinner this year because there are no funds in the treasury. It is not at all that thinking men's opinions are changing, but that their eagerness to do battle for them has faded away. There is, moreover, something rather unsettled, if not disheartening, in the spectacle of English agriculture year after year getting into worse and worse condition. To-day's news, for example, of the great early heat in America with the consequent promise of extraordinary cereal harvests means just so much more scaling down of prices, rents and wages all through the British farm lands, where the workers are already bearing intolerable burdens of debt and deprivation. No man of authority in either party would dare to propose the experiment of a tariff on foreign breadstuffs, nor is it conceivable that any such thing ever will be attempted here, but all the same the position is one which suggests tactful reticence to the formerly militant evangelists of Cobden's school."

ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED.

The inquest into the death of Barney Rourke, whose body was found in a boat floating off Trial island on Friday, resulted in a verdict of death by drowning. Very few witnesses were examined, and as yet nothing has been ascertained as to how the unfortunate man came to be out in the straits in the sealing boat in which he was found. The captain of the steamer Rosalie was the first witness, and told how the boat with the body in it had been found floating off Trial island, the dead man lying with his arm and head partly hanging over the gunwale. That it was Barney Rourke's body was proved by Richard Roscoe, who had known the deceased and had seen him in this city last September. Rourke was last year a cook aboard the sealer Sapphire, and lived at that time in a cabin on Chatham street.

Dr. Lang, who made the post mortem examination, stated that Rourke had died of drowning. The bruises on the knees and on the thigh, together with the water soaked clothes, pointed to the fact that Rourke had been in the water and had climbed into the boat. From the state of the heart it was apparent that worn out with the struggle of climbing into the boat Rourke had fallen in a faint, his head dropping over the gunwale. The boat dipping to one side with the weight of the body brought the head down to where the waves could lap over it, and in this way the unfortunate man had drowned.

The jury brought in a verdict of accidental drowning, and added a rider condemning the disgraceful condition of the city morgue as follows:

"The jury request the coroner to call the attention of the Mayor and city council to the disgraceful state in which the city morgue is kept, and to draw their attention especially to the accumulation of old clothes and to blood stains, and to suggest the necessity of having a cement floor and slate tables at once; also a lock on the door; and further, that a caretaker should be appointed for the morgue."

The necessity of making these alterations in the morgue is in line with what was suggested in the COLONIST some time ago, and perhaps the city council will now take some steps to improve matters.

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