The Colonist.

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MR. BARNARD CHOSEN

Thursday night at one of the largest, most representative and most enthusiastic conventions ever held in Victoria, the Conservatives selected Mr. G. H. Barnard, of this city, Barrister, as their candidate at the approaching election for the House of Commons. The Conservative party is very furtunate in having such a candidate as Mr. Barnard available. He is a native British Columbian, a gentleman of excellent standing in his profession, possessed of sufficient means to enable him to devote his time to his sessional duties without too great inconvenience, and with a taste for public affairs. Mr. Barnard has already served the city honorably and well in the position of Mayor. He is a candidate to whom the whole Conservative party in this city can ungrudgingly give their hearty support, and he is a man, who will do credit to the community which he has been asked to represent at Ottawa. There is a place for men like Mr. Barnard in the public life of Canada, men whose public and private lives are about reproach and who stand for the better ideal in politics. The support of the electorate of this city can be asked for Mr. Barnard with certainty that confidence reposed in him will not be misplaced.

Mr. Barnard did not seek the honor that has come to him, and it is an open secret that, when it was intimated to him that he might be the choice of the Conservatives, he was not disposed to encourage his friends to put his name forward, but in response to repeated solicitations he agreed to accept the nomination if it was tendered him. He makes a very considerable personal sacrifice in so doing, for the prospect of having to spend half the year at Ottawa has few attractions.

With a good candidate, a good cause, a fine organization and the prestige of such a convention as that held last night, the Conservative party will enter the campaign with excellent prospects. No one pretends that it will be an easy campaign. Mr. Templeman has the advantage which attaches to the position of a Cabinet Minister. On the other hand he has to accept responsibility before the electorate for the miserable record of maladministration, which has besmirched the fair name of Canada during the past few years. This ought to do more than offset the prestige attaching to his official position and in point of personal popularity, Mr. Barnard is very much the stronger man. We shall labor for his election with great confidence as to the result, for we believe the people of Victoria have had enough of Liberalism as exemplified by the Laurier government. At the same time we urge all who desire Conservative success, in which is implied the inauguration of better government, to take nothing for granted, but to work steadily until the votes are counted on election day. Of course until the dissolution is announced, it would be premature to begin an active public campaign, but there is a great deal of quiet work to be done, and this ought not to be delayed. Victory is not only possible, but probable, if the Conservatives of Victoria put forth the efforts of which they are capable.

Mr. John L. Beckwith is to be congratulated upon the fine vote which he received at the convention. He deserved such a recognition by reason of the admirable services he has rendered in the past. If he had been chosen as the candidate, the Colonist would have had much pleasure in supporting him, but as the choice did not fall upon him, we have no doubt that he will exert all his influence to secure the election of Mr. Barnard.

THE A. Y. P. EXHIBITION

Mr. Templeman invited the Council of the Board of Trade and the members of the City Council to meet him yesterday to discuss the desirability of Canada being represented at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exhibition to be held in Seattle next year. The meetings were more in the nature of a consultation than anything else, Mr. Templeman desiring to get the views of the Boards so as to be able to transmit them with his own recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture, who has these matters in hand. There was a full expression of opinion, all favorable to the idea. There seemed to be only one view taken of the matter by the gentlemen present at the meetings, and it was that it would be a mistake for Canada not to be adequately represented at the Exhibition. As the paper which more than any other in British Columbia has urged such a course, the Colonist is glad to be able to say that the prospects for an adequate representation seem to be very excellent. While no appropriation was specifically made at the last session of Parliament for this purpose, there is available a part of the general grant for exhibitions, and if it is decided to make a display at Seattle, there will be no difficulty in getting the necessary vote through Parliament to enable the work to be done in good time. It will be known by the end of the week what the decision of the Minister of Agriculture will be.

It is proper to observe that the idea of a Canadian representation being sent to Seattle has not met with any great degree of approval in the East, where there has been a disposition to regard the Exhibition principally as a scheme to advertise Seattle. This it is no doubt, but so also is every exhibition an advertising scheme. No city would undertake to hold one if it did not believe some direct advantage would be derived from the publicity thereby secured. We do not suppose that the people of St. Louis or Buffalo were actuated wholly by altruistic motives in holding the exhibitions in those cities, but this was not considered a sufficient reason for Canada to refrain from spending a good deal of money at those events. There has been more or less of a feeling of hostility in Canada because of the blatant manner in which Seattle has claimed anything and everything that came out of the North. Competition in trade was right enough, and no one objected to it; but the brazen manner in which Klondike and the whole north country was claimed as being a part of Alaska, and the obstacles placed, at the instance of Seattle business men, upon Canadian trade passing by way of Skagway were not calculated to create a very friendly feeling. The name of the proposed exhibition was not very happily chosen, although we suppose the word "Yukon" was included in it as a sort of sop to the Canadian Cerberus, and it may be claimed that the word "Pacific" embraces British Columbia as well as the State of Washington. But it is time to let any sectional feelings that may have been aroused die away. We do not favor retaliation, which Sir John Macdonald once defined as "cutting off the nose to spite the face." If it will be a good thing to make a fine Canadian display at Seattle, we ought not to decline to do so, because our neighbors have not been quite as friendly in times past as they might have been. Indeed, the fact that they have claimed the whole north as their own is a very strong reason why Canada should show that the best part of the coast line as well as of the interior is hers. It would certainly be a mistake to permit the Exhibition to be held without making it known to the tens of thousands of visitors not only that British Columbia is on the map, but that it has natural resources of unsurpassed greatness.

The advantages that will be derived from a proper exhibition of Canadian resources at Seattle will be very great. It may reasonably be assumed that there will be a very great attendance of people at the Exhibition and that an exceptionally large proportion of them will be more than mere sightseers. The opportunities of investing in undeveloped resources are growing more and more limited in the United States, and it was this fact which largely induced the promoters of the Exhibition to take it in hand. They realized that it was time that the attention of the world was drawn to the great possibilities of Alaska. The Exhibition will not be so much of what has been accomplished as of what can be accomplished, and we are sure that it would be a mistake for Canada not to take the opportunity afforded by the far-seeing enterprise of their neighbors to demonstrate to the world what the advantages and resources of our own Great West are. The Dominion government has incurred heavy responsibilities in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific, and it would be poor policy to lose the chance of advertising, largely at the expense of other people, what the country is like, which this new transcontinental line will open. Necessarily, any exhibit which Canada may make will be chiefly one of natural products. There would be no great advantage in exhibiting much in the line of manufactures. But our great wheat area should be adequately represented, our magnificent coal deposits, our mineral wealth, our fruit, our timber and to a certain degree our fish would be valuable object lessons. In addition to this an advertising campaign, with literature, maps, photographs and so on, could be prosecuted.

A proper Canadian exhibit will cost a good deal of money. It would be better to be unrepresented than to present an appearance that would be meagre and humiliating. If an exhibit is determined upon there should be hearty co-operation by public bodies and private individuals. We think it may be taken for granted that, so far as fruit and other farm produce goes, the provincial government will give its cordial co-operation to any adequate effort put forward by the Dominion government in that behalf, we do not mean by contributing to the cost, but by assisting in securing the best possible samples of the products of the province. The several municipalities may also discover ways in which they can be of assistance, and there are very many things that private individuals can do. It is, of course, premature to say that the exhibit has been determined upon, and what we are now saying is intended as a summary of the views of the citizens as it found expression yesterday.

OF INTEREST TO INVENTORS.

We have no means of knowing if the matters referred to in the following recent London telegram are of special interest to any readers of the Colonist, but it is quite possible that they may be, and we therefore draw attention to them:

London, Sept. 1.—(C. A. P.)—There has been some inquiry as to the working of the new Patents and Designs act of 1907, which came into operation last Saturday as affecting patents in the United Kingdom taken out by inventors in foreign countries and British possessions. Under the act a year of grace was allowed, which expired last Friday. As doubt is expressed as to the effect of the act in British possessions, the Canadian Associated Press is informed by the board of trade that the act applies to all patent holders in the United Kingdom, British possessions and foreign countries who have taken out patents in the United Kingdom, and provides that at any time not less than four years after the date of a patent any person may apply for the revocation of the patent on the ground that the patented article or product is manufactured, or carried on exclusively or mainly, outside of the United Kingdom. If the comptroller thinks after hearing the statements of the patentee and the applicant that the reasons given by the applicant are satisfactory he revokes the patent provided no such order shall be made which conflicts with any treaty or arrangement with any foreign country or British possession.

Foreign manufacturers are therefore threatened with the loss of the patent rights unless they establish factories in the United Kingdom or arrange for British firms to work their inventions under license. It is important that Canadian inventors holding British patents see that their inventions are not jeopardized by the terms of this act.

TO SUPPRESS CRIME.

The Vancouver Province, in an article on the frequent occurrence of lawless acts in what is usually called the Boundary Country, meaning thereby the region situated about half way between the Rocky Mountains and the Sea, and adjacent to the United States, suggests that a detachment of the Royal Mounted Police might advantageously be stationed there for a time. We fancy that there are difficulties in the way of acting on this suggestion. Jurisdiction over the administration of justice in the province is vested in the local legislature, and the efficient policing of the country comes under that head. It may be open to question if the Dominion government would be justified in expending any part of the appropriation for the Mounted Police in maintaining a part of the establishment in British Columbia, although we have no doubt that Parliament would make no objection. If the conditions in the Boundary Country call for exceptional treatment, and no doubt, as the Province says, some of the worst men in the world hover around the Boundary line, and serious crime has become a too familiar occurrence, it seems to us that the provincial government has a duty devolving upon it to provide the necessary police to see that lawlessness is abolished. British Columbia has always shown herself quite equal to the maintenance of law and order within her borders, and we think will be found still equal to it. There is one thing in the suggestion of the Province that does much to commend it, namely, the reputation which the Mounted Police enjoys; but that of the Provincial Police is scarcely second to it.

Our Vancouver contemporary seems to be much impressed with the seriousness of the situation, and therefore we join in urging that attention should be given to it. We feel we can say to the Attorney-General that any steps which he may think necessary to assist the majesty of the law in any part of the province, whether by the organization of a provincial mounted police force or by asking the assistance of the Royal Mounted Police will be heartily approved of by the people of British Columbia, who have always made it their proud boast that they insisted upon the observance of the law and the prompt detection and punishment of crime. We have every confidence in the ability and willingness of the Attorney-General to deal with the menace that has made itself manifest, and he is doubtless fully alive to the necessities of the case.

DISTRESS IN GLASGOW.

There seems to be an extraordinary amount of distress in Glasgow, and no signs of improvement. We do not recall an instance in recent English history when the conditions seemed as acute as they are now in the Scottish city. A very singular threat has been made by one of the leaders. He is going to make known all the secrets of Freemasonry, if relief is not granted within a month. This is a new species of coercion, and it will be be very interesting to observe what the effect of it will be. It is difficult to believe that the wealthy people of Glasgow and of the United Kingdom generally will fail in their duty in the serious social crisis confronting them. Making all allowance for the professional unemployed, of whom there are always many in every large city, and also for the influence of Socialist organizations, which would be pleased with nothing so much as open disorder, there is undoubtedly a vast body of deserving poor in Glasgow, who would gladly work if they could get employment.

The problem of unemployment in this city has reached an exceedingly acute stage. For twenty-five years there has been nothing like the present situation, and it is more than probable that unless some unexpected revival of trade takes place the situation will have become intensified by the arrival of autumn and winter. Private benevolence and the efforts of the local distress committee have done much, but still more remains to be done if the problem is to be solved or at least assuaged. In speaking of the situation, Mr. J. W. Cleland, M. P., said:

"The crisis is again upon us, and it behoves everyone who has at heart the welfare of this great community to bring every conceivable pressure to bear in order that at the very earliest moment a large grant may be made by the local government board out of the $1,000,000 voted by parliament for this purpose, in order that the operations of the Glasgow distress committee may continue. Otherwise, the chapter of accidents might end in something approaching a tragedy. As it is, the conditions prevailing are followed by the usual train of suicides, robberies, and increase of crime of every sort."

WAS IT A MISTAKE?

Was our evening contemporary simply mistaken or did it purposely misstate the facts in its editorial article of yesterday relating to railway subsidies? It said:

The Grand Trunk Railway has made its Pacific Coast terminus, for the time being at all events, at Prince Rupert. But the company has the power to construct branch lines. It must in this province, as in every province it serves, have suitable connections with the settled and producing districts if it is going to pay dividends to its shareholders. The Laurier government has given subsidies to branch lines extending from Fort George on the Grand Trunk Pacific to the head of Vancouver Island. It has voted aid for the extension of the E. & N. to the north end of Vancouver Island, so that direct connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific may be had. It has thus paved a way by which the aspirations of the people of the island may be realized, and there is no doubt will be realized. Is this not evidence that it is profitable to have a representative in the Cabinet in whom his chief and his colleagues have confidence?

Any one, who does not know the facts, after reading this extract, would suppose that the Dominion government had subsidized the Grand Trunk Pacific to build a branch line from Fort George to the head of Vancouver Island, to connect there with the extension of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway. This is not the case. The Grand Trunk Pacific has not been given a subsidy for a single mile of branch line in British Columbia. There has been no subsidy given for a line from Fort George to the head of Vancouver Island, and no subsidy for any line whatever from Fort George. There is a subsidy for one hundred miles of railway from Campbell river, on Vancouver Island, in the direction of Fort George, but it is not to the Grand Trunk Pacific but to a company, which so far as is known, has no connection, even indirectly, with the Grand Trunk Pacific. Misrepresentation like this is extraordinary, especially in a paper which may be assumed to speak for the Minister of Inland Revenue. So far as this particular subsidy is concerned, it may be fairly said that the public has not yet been informed as to the intentions of the promoters of the undertaking. As a recognition by the Parliament of Canada of the importance of a line from Vancouver Island diagonally across the province to the northeast, we think the subsidy a valuable one, but we would know better at what to estimate the likelihood of its securing the construction of the projected railway, if the gentlemen named in the Act of Incorporation had taken the public a little into their confidence as to their plans. The subsidy applies to a route, beginning at a point on Vancouver Island, where there is no railway, and ending at a point somewhere in the Coast Range, and hundreds of miles from the Grand Trunk Pacific. We have expressed approval of the granting of this subsidy, but we protest against its being represented as aid to the Grand Trunk Pacific towards building a branch line to Vancouver Island. It is difficult to believe that our contemporary could have made such a misstatement innocently.

OUR PROLONGED SESSIONS

The Toronto Telegram says that Canada needs men in Parliament, who simply cannot afford to stay there six, seven, or eight months, and it thinks such long sessions as we have been having would be unnecessary, if the government would bring down its business with reasonable promptitude. With this opinion the great majority of the people of Canada will heartily agree. If we had a large leisure class in this country, who could afford to spend their time in politics, the length of sessions would not be so material. But we have not and men, whom the people as a rule would prefer to represent them, cannot spare the time for legislative duties under present conditions. This is a matter which is receiving a good deal of attention; but not nearly enough. The Ottawa Journal says:

The work of Parliament is increasing. We shall probably continue to have long sessions. The House of Commons is becoming more and more an impossibility to men whose callings do not permit an absence from office and home and an almost continuous stay at the capital lasting five or six months every year. Just how we are going to imbue the proper persons with the indispensable willingness to serve their country at Ottawa does not at present clearly appear. In time, naturally the conditions will produce them, as they have done in the Mother Country, and in the meantime it is the duty of every intelligent citizen who has the welfare of this country at heart to lose no opportunity of doing his share towards influencing politics in the best direction.

There is not much that the "intelligent citizen," who is not a member of the government, can do to promote the feeling, which the Journal rightly thinks is so desirable. Every year there are new reasons why the business men of Canada should have greater distaste for public life. Sessions that are occupied largely with the ventilation of scandals have little attraction to men, who have any business of their own to attend to, or who has any desire to promote the welfare of the country. In nothing have the Liberal party more grievously sinned against the country than in the manner in which they have brought public life into contempt. They have done more than can be easily measured to destroy the confidence of the people in the government of the country.

It is said that at the Eucharistic Congress shortly to be held in England, the Duke of Norfolk will bring forward the question of restoring temporal dominion to the Pope. It is not specifically stated that a resolution will be moved, but, in the language of a telegram, the question will be "provoked."

From the farm lands of the Northwest harrowing tales have been coming of late regarding the pitiable condition of harvest hands who went out from the East to garner the wheat crop, and who now find themselves workless, and, some advices say, starving. The annual crisis in the wheat lands is a difficult one to meet. No doubt a system will be found that will obviate the possibility of either too much work for too few hands or too many hands for too little work. In the meantime the circulation of pessimistic reports is not good for Canada's prestige.

The Dominion Railway Commission is evidently filling a real need, if one can judge from the amount of work that passes through the hands of that august body. Up to July 1 this year the number of applications made to it had increased over those of the preceding year 25 per cent. Over 500 cases were adjudicated, and many informal settlements were made. The addition of express, telephone and telegraph regulation to the Commission's duties will enormously increase its work, and there will be no lack of employment for the three new members to be appointed.

Again comes the announcement from Ottawa, described, however, as a possibility, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier may come West during the campaign, paying a brief call at the leading cities of each of the provinces, from Manitoba to British Columbia. There was talk of such a tour before, but evidently the Premier changed his mind at that time, and the above announcement would indicate still a further change. It is a long time since Sir Wilfrid has visited British Columbia, and no doubt it would be interesting to hear what he has to say. And also, this unwonted solicitude about the Western provinces would indicate that the present regime at Ottawa is not so sure of itself as it has been.

We observe some general criticism of the civil service in Canada, provincial as well as federal. It is objected that civil servants are apt to forget that they are public servants and to consider themselves as though they were enjoying rewards for political services rendered. We do not know how true this may be of other parts of Canada, but in Victoria we think we can say that the members of the civil service under both governments are not only exceedingly courteous and obliging to the public, but are prompt and capable in the discharge of their duties. We feel that at a time when so much is being said all over Canada about the civil service it is right that justice should be done to its representatives in Victoria.

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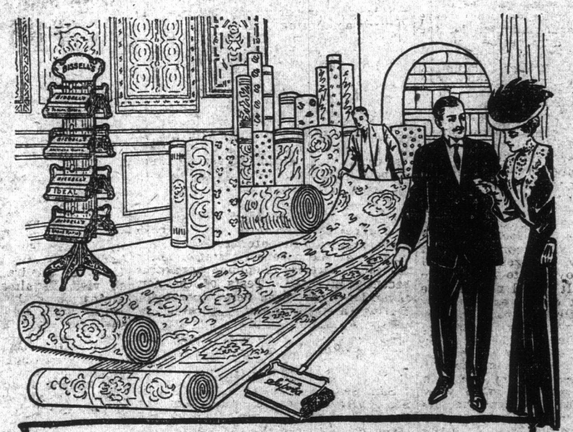

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