The Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 1890.

AT IT AGAIN.

The organ of the Opposition is the most cheerful of misrepresenters. It makes statement after statement which is at variance with the truth and when its mistakes and misstatements are pointed out it does not stop to apologize or retract, but goes on making more misstatements and greater perversions of the truth. It has of late made a hobby of the administration of the schools. What it has said about both the acts of the Government and the provisions of the school law have been as far as possible from being accurate. Its violations of the truth have been exposed time and again, but it goes on repeating the old slanders and concocting new ones. It has now taken to misrepresenting examinations, and it tries hard in a more cautious way than usual to bring the examiners into dispute. Its object is to make its readers believe that the Government has converted the Education Department into a political machine, and that the examinations have been expressly designed to effect that purpose. It goes as near as it dare in the direction of asserting that the examiners are the creatures of the Government, who are prepared to do its bidding.

The truth with regard to the examinations is that they were not instituted by the present Government. The system was established by a previous Government, which the Times does not venture to say tried to transform the Government into a political machine. Here is a singular thing. Our contemporary has not a word to say against the Government under which the law respecting the cancellation of teachers' certificates and respecting examinations and re-examinations was enacted. It does not denounce the system which that Government established as intended to place teachers under the thumb of a member of the Government, but it becomes hysteric when it speaks of the Government who received that law as a legacy from its predecessor and accuses it of making the law, which it did not enact and which it merely administers, a political machine. If the law was intended unduly to influence teachers in favor of the Government of the day, the men who formed it and the law of the land were the men who are to blame. But the law was not drawn up with any such intention. The men who enacted it desired to give the province a good education law, and all its provisions—that requiring candidates for certificates to undergo examinations, and that giving the Superintendent of Education power to suspend and to cancel teachers' certificates among the rest—were inserted to make the law more effective. Those who have been entrusted with the administration of the law since, and those who have amended it, have had the same object in view. Their intention was to give the country good and efficient teachers. The Times seems to forget that when it condemns the examinations to be undergone by the candidates for teachers' certificates it condemns its own friends. Changes have been made by the late Government, but if our contemporary examines the present law and compares it with the one in force before the present party came into power it will find that the changes that have been made are all favorable to the teachers as a class, and that contemplated changes about which something has been said are all in the same direction.

We have enquired into the matter and find that in 1882 First-Class certificates (A. and B.) were valid for four years, Second-Class Certificates (A. and B.) for three years, and Third-Class certificates (A. and B.) for one year. What is the case at the present time? First-Class Certificates (A. and B.) are valid for life or good behavior, Second-Class Certificates (A. and B.) for five years and three years, and Third-Class Certificates (A. and B.) for two years and one year respectively.

Teachers know well whether or not these changes were made in their interests.

In order to rectify the gross injustice done to teachers by the preceding Government in compelling holders of first-class certificates to come up for examination every four years, the present administration introduced a bill into the Legislature (which subsequently became law) providing that first-class certificates should be renewable year by year on the application of the holder without examination.

Our contemporary cannot expect people to pay much attention to its condemnation of the Government's administration of the Education Law when it does not venture to substantiate its accusation by adducing a single instance of abuse of power. Its a priori method is one that is never followed in enquiries of this kind. People want to know what a public servant has done, not what he might or could do. We do hope that the education editor of the Times will read the School Acts and give us a few facts. So far, it is very evident that he has written in ignorance of the law, and with a disregard of facts that is positively astounding.

VICTORIA'S NEW HOTEL.

The city is to be congratulated that the Canada Western Hotel Company has been fully organized, and that it has lost no time in commencing operations. A first-class hotel, such as the Company intend to build, has for some time been felt to be one of the needs of this city. Victoria has had excellent hotel accommodation to offer the best class of visitors, but there has not been anything like enough of it. It is calculated that very nearly seventy thousand persons visit this city during the year, and this computation does not include local travel. This large number of visitors require a great deal of hotel accommodation, and a very large proportion of them will not be satisfied with anything short of the very best in all respects. It is to provide for this large influx of tourists and visitors of other classes that the new hotel is to be built. Its situation is admirable. It is near the water and at no great distance from the steamboat wharves. The tramway will pass its doors and it is within a few minutes walk of Beacon Hill Park. From the roof of the building there will be a splendid view. The Olympian range of snow-capped mountains appears almost within a stone's throw of where the spectator stands. Mount Baker can be seen towering in the distance; the beautiful scenery in the immediate vicinity of the city will delight the beholder and the loveliness of the landscape will be heightened by the sparkling waters of the Straits of Fuca. With a good field glass there will be a view from the hotel extending sixty miles in some directions.

The building is to be a very fine one of five stories high, completely isolated. It will have a frontage on all four sides, thus ensuring well lighted and well ventilated rooms in every part of the building. It is to be supplied with all modern conveniences. In the office the guest may have telegraphic communication with every part of the civilized world. The hotel will be lighted by electricity throughout, and electricity will be used to convey signals from one part of the building to the other. It will also be supplied with telephonic apparatus and baths will be easily accessible to all the guests. Handsome verandahs will completely surround the house so that the guests will be able to enjoy the delightful summer weather peculiar to Victoria and its vicinity.

The prospects of the enterprise are good. The rent which the company will receive will be sufficient to pay a dividend on the stock and all expenses. The hotel will open under the most favorable auspices. The fact that the proprietor of the leading hotel in the city has the largest interest in the company is of itself a guarantee of success. The hotel will start with the good-will and the business of the old hotel, and will also have the benefit of its world-wide reputation. The property purchased for the site is one which from its situation will for many years to come be constantly increasing in value, and by the time that the lease given by the company expires the stockholders will come into possession of a property largely enhanced in value, and the established business connected with it will be certain of commanding a considerably increased income. While the property is growing and the business is being established, the shareholders will receive a moderate but satisfactory dividend on their capital, but on the expiry of the lease they will find their dividends very largely increased and their stock at a considerable premium. This is not a sanguine view of the future of the Canada Western Hotel Company's enterprise, but a moderate estimate based upon reliable data.

DOINGS IN OTTAWA.

The Dominion Parliament has as yet not done very much. The members during the first week or two of the session never appear to be in a hurry, and the Government are too busy in preparing their measures and in contemplating the difficulties that lie before them to stimulate them to more energetic action. It is quite evident that the Government's path is not strewn with roses. The way before them appears just now rugged enough. Luckily they have nothing to fear from what we may designate the official opposition. The circumstances are such that the difficulties which the Government are called upon to face and to overcome are quite as formidable to their opponents as they are to them. The language question, for instance, is just as unpleasant for the Liberals as for the Conservatives. How to deal with it without alienating warm friends and losing support is as serious a question with the Hon. Wilfrid Laurier as it is with Sir John Macdonald. Neither of them likes to see a question introduced which is likely to make division in the party which he leads. The first gun in this battle was fired a few days ago, when Mr. McCarthy introduced his bill to amend the Northwest Territories' Act. The excitement in the House was intense, and both parties appeared eager for the fray. It is not usual to discuss a bill when it is read the first time. But as Mr. McCarthy made a speech when he introduced his measure, Mr. Larivière, a French member from Manitoba, took up the gauntlet and replied in a fiery speech in his own language. Sir John Macdonald deprecated the discussion of such grave and serious questions as had been raised by the introducer of the bill without taking time to consider what the arguments were, to what direction they led and what consequences might follow the adoption of the proposition made. At his request, therefore, the debate on the principle of the bill was postponed until the second reading. The disposition of the House, as far as it can be ascertained, is to reject Mr. McCarthy's measure. But whatever may be its fate there will be some soul-searching before the division upon it is taken. There are members on both sides of the House who know that their prospects of re-election depend upon the action they may take with regard to this measure.

The Orange Incorporation Bill is another of the measures which a large number of the members contemplate with feelings the reverse of agreeable. They see danger ahead no matter which way they vote. If they support the bill they will lose the votes of the Roman Catholic supporters, and if they oppose it they will give mortal offence to Protestant friends, who believe that a great principle is involved in the bill. Here, again, the Liberal is no better off than the Conservative. As regards both measures the two parties occupy pretty much the same position. We will very likely see this session what was witnessed last winter. On crucial questions, the most important from a party point of view before Parliament, the Government majority will contain a large number of opponents and the minority against it will consist chiefly of those who are generally counted among its supporters. Whether these and similar questions will cause a disintegration of the two old parties and the formation of a new one it is difficult just now to say. We, however, incline to the opinion that both the Conservative and Liberal Parties will survive the shock of the present politico-religious agitation, and that after a little while matters will settle down and politicians will again decide on questions that are purely political. The "religious question" seems to have a comet-like existence. Every now and then for the last two hundred years or so it appears above the political horizon and threatens disaster to the body politic, but after a while it disappears, and people when they get over the excitement which its presence caused, wonder why they were disturbed. It is to be hoped that after a little while the agitation will subside and men of all creeds will see that it is unwise and ungrateful to quarrel about religion and will unite cordially to promote the general welfare. But in the meantime the religious question is here and it must be dealt with firmly but judiciously. We think Sir John Macdonald may be depended upon to get over this difficulty as he has surmounted many others. His policy, so far, has been admirable. He has done what he believed to be right in spite of all the influence that have been brought to bear upon him—and they were many and powerful—to induce him to take a different course. But he has been most careful to give those who conscientiously differ from him no offence. He has used no harsh expressions and has done nothing that the most sensitive could regard as offensive. The consequence is that those who now feel themselves obliged to oppose him have not lost any of their respect or regard for him. They have done what they believed to be their duty, and he has done what he is convinced is his, and there are no unkindly feelings on either side. And Sir John may be depended upon to continue as he has begun. He will not flinch from doing what he sees to be right, but he will not even reproach those who feel compelled to withdraw from him, on those questions, their support. The Dominion is to be congratulated on having at the head of its Government a man of such consummate tact, a man who knows how to treat a question at once so difficult and so delicate in such a way as to save the country from serious disturbance.

The Government in the Speech from the Throne promised the country a measure relating to the constitution of banks. Much of the time of the Ministers has been taken up in consulting with bank managers and others who have made banking a study. It is evident enough that they wanted to hear what these gentlemen had to say before they gave the finishing touches to their measure. Although this is well known to be the case there has been no one, either in or out of Parliament, so silly or so stupid as to reproach them for listening to advice, and there has been no member so phenomenally idiotic as to move an address to the Governor-General to compel the Government to bring down their banking bill.

MASHONALAND.

Letters written from South Africa show that the Portuguese have of late been exerting themselves energetically to make good their claim to old settlements in Southeastern Africa and to secure new acquisitions. Their plan has been ingenious. Officials, some of them native chiefs bearing high-sounding Portuguese names, went among the tribes in the interior, taking with them bundles of the Portuguese national flags which they distributed among the chiefs. The weak ones took them, not daring to refuse, but the strong chiefs were not pressed if they refused. This process the Portuguese authorities chose to call taking possession of and occupying the country. The visitors left the territory just as they found it. All that there was to show that they had ever been in the country were the flags, here and there, in the possession of the native chiefs. The country, the Portuguese claim, has been in their possession for centuries, but somehow the fact of it being theirs was completely forgotten both by the native inhabitants and the Portuguese themselves until very lately, when it occurred to the alleged conquerors that they had a better right to the country than either the natives or the British, who had undertaken to protect them. These extraordinary attempts to extend their influence westward have been made by the Portuguese during the last three years and some of the most notable of them since October, 1889. Colonel Serpa Pinto's raid into the Makolo country was not of the peaceful and harmless nature of the expeditions of occupation above described. He went as an invader with a band of Zulu mercenaries and a number of Gatling guns. The natives had placed themselves under British protection, but there was no British force there to drive away the Portuguese raiding party. The people were forced to give up their British flags and to make peace as best they could with the invaders. They were very naturally angry with the British for failing to aid them in their time of need. They turned around on those who had promised them protection. Their language, as quoted by Mr. F. C. Selous, a famous African hunter and traveller, was:

"One of your headsmen (Consul H. H. Johnston) came to us, telling us he bore the words of your great Queen's chief adviser from across the seas. We listened to him and we believed what he told us; we accepted the British flag and put ourselves under the protection of Great Britain, and thought that as your consul told us, we had no longer any reason to fear invasion. And what has happened? Your consul has left us, and the Portugese have invaded our territory, killed our people and burned our villages. You have played with us. You boast of a power you do not possess. We now believe you to be at heart our enemies as much as the Portuguese."

The simple people knew nothing about the intricacies of European diplomacy or the slowness with which diplomatists do business, even when their intentions are good. They spoke of things as they appeared to them. In their eyes Portugal was stronger than Great Britain, and Consul Johnston had undertaken to do what his nation could not perform. It is said that, in their indignation and disappointment, the Makolo men, seized one of the Lake company's steamers, looted and sunk her, and, it is feared, killed two Scotchmen, Morrison and Lindsay, who were in charge of her. It will be hard for Mr. Johnston or his successor to regain the confidence of the men of Makolo and get them to believe that Great Britain is a more powerful nation than Portugal. The London Times sees the necessity of doing something to convince these people that Great Britain can do what her representative has promised in her name. It says:

"There must be policy and reparation on the spot of a kind which the most stupid native can perfectly understand, or there must be a British fortalis on the Shire and a British garrison on the Rua frontier, with orders to make a clean sweep if the pirates, who, without notice, without declaration of war, and, therefore, without belligerent rights of any kind, have carried fire and sword into peaceful British settlements. Serpa Pinto and his gang of mercenaries are simply freebooters, and the chief pity is that the African Lake Company has never placed itself in a position to give such gentry the reception they deserve."

Since the above was published Lord Salisbury has sent his ultimatum to Portugal and the policy of ruling has come to an end. Col. Serpa Pinto, too, has found it necessary to leave South-eastern Africa to find some other sphere for his energies.

There is another great extent of territory to which Portugal lays claim, but, as Mr. Selous says, without the shadow of a right. The country is called Mashonaland. It is described as a goodly land, having a fertile soil and a delightful as well as salubrious climate. This country has been opened up by British enterprise, and British traders, and British missionaries have found in it a promising field for their exertions. The natives trust the British and they hate and distrust the Portuguese. Until very lately the Portuguese took no notice of this country. Their maps show that they knew nothing about its topographical features. British travellers and hunters of large game have brought it to the notice of the civilized world. Mr. Selous says no Portuguese subject in either ancient or modern times has added one iota to our knowledge of this region. The Portuguese official on his journey formally to take possession of the country must have travelled part of the way on the wagon road which the Englishmen had chopped through the dense mahobohobo groves bordering the Manyame river.

"At any rate," he goes on to say, "it is a fact that will admit of no dispute, that during the last 25 years, English hunters and travelers have explored every nook and corner of Mashonaland. They have chopped wagon roads through the forests, and made practicable fords over all the large rivers; they have established the most friendly relations with the natives, by whom the advent of the hunters' wagons are anxiously looked forward to and expected every year; and, as I have said before, some of them have made very careful and accurate route maps of their various journeys and published accounts of the capabilities and natural resources of the country. Many Englishmen, indeed, have spent years of their lives in the Mashona country; whilst not a few have left their bones there."

It is not to be expected that Great Britain will be willing to give up this fine country to the Portuguese, who would farm it out in districts to unprincipled native chiefs with Portuguese names who would squeeze out of the people all they could get, and whose treatment of the native population as Mr. Selous very significantly says would not compare itself to the Aborigines Protection Society. Judging the future by the past, the natural resources of the country, he says, would under Portuguese administration in two hundred years time remain in the same undeveloped condition as they are at the present day.

We gather from Mr. Selous' letter that no matter what arrangement is made between Portugal and Great Britain, with or without the intervention of other powers, the Portuguese will not be allowed to retain peaceable possession of Mashonaland. The South Africans are determined not to allow it to fall into the hands of foreigners. They can, they think, hold it against all comers, and they are resolved to try. "Two hundred and fifty of South Africans," he says, "would disperse all the native levies that the Portuguese could muster in Southeastern Africa, and native levies are all that can be employed."

This South African element is one that cannot be disregarded when the disposition of this territory comes to be considered. The South Africans are on the spot, so to speak. They know all about the country. They are a brave and vigorous race and they can make it very unpleasant for any nation that occupies the country against their will. The situation in South Eastern Africa is not without its difficulties, but the indications are that the country will fall to the share of those who are best able to colonize it and to develope its resources. It will, no doubt, in the end, be a case of the survival of the fittest.

We are glad to see that the Attorney-General has introduced an Act for the establishment of a juvenile reformatory. It is quite time that there was such an institution in this province. To sentence a boy to a term of imprisonment in the common jail is to decree his further demoralization. Association with older criminals will be certain to do him more or less harm. Besides, in an ordinary jail, while he will most probably learn much harm, his education in the proper sense of the term, will be at a complete standstill. In the reformatory the youthful offender will be well looked after. His time will be fully occupied. He will not have a chance to get into mischief or to graduate in vice. The influences surrounding him ought to be and very probably will be elevated. He will learn to use his hands in better ways than in stealing and in destroying other people's property, and his literary education will not be neglected. If the Reformatory is well conducted, the boys confined in it will receive a really better education than those who attend the ordinary schools, public or private. If the education given to boys were more practical than it is; if it were physical as well as intellectual, technical as well as literary, there would, we believe, be less need that there is for both prisons and reformatories in the land.

Consumption Surely Cured.

To the Editor:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and P. O. address. Respectfully, Dr. T. A. Slocum, 183 Adelaide street, west, Toronto, Ont. eow-w-ly

THE TEACHERS AND "THE TRUTH."

The effort to manufacture opinion adequate to the Education department, and through it, to the Government of the province, has met with a woeful and a pitiful fate. The bladder that was blown was so thin that any small pin could puncture it, and in effect, in Friday's paper, the editor of the Truth of New Westminster accepts the position almost gracefully, and ceases to blow the bladder any more. Two days ago, in a short article, we pointed out, in the most good-natured way in the world, that the editor of Truth was trying to foist on the intelligence of the province a very funny sham. He had issued a circular to all the teachers of the province, asking them to answer ten questions with regard to the Education Department, and all of them were intended by the writer, to be damaging and hurtful both to the Department and to the Government of the Hon. Jno. Robson. It is almost impossible to think that the editor of the paper knew what a very ridiculous thing he was doing and what a figure he would cut. He was taking public paid servants of the state to say, in his paper, what their opinions were on the Administration and Government, and almost on the personnel of the Department which employs them. If this is to be the order of the day, then we may expect the editor of the Times also to follow suit, and to ask all the other civil servants of the Government what are their opinions of their employers, and of their methods of government. Circulars, with ten questions in each, may be sent next week to the Treasury Department asking them what faults of manner, or of gait, or of language, or of habits, they find in the Treasury office. Other circulars may invade Col. Wolfenden's domain and ask if the printers smoke, and what an endless field of enquiry the Times or the Truth would find if they sent circulars to the provincial constables and police? Anybody with half an eye will see the absurdity and, well, the impudence—it may possibly be only the audacity—but it is certainly the uselessness of such enquiries.

It may be remembered that the utmost secrecy was to be observed about the answers, and No Name and No Locality were required in the replies. The Vancouver World referring to our article treats this point with admirable clearness, and it sees the ludicrous side of it just as we do. It says:

A MERE SUGGESTION.

"The World has no desire to hurt in any way the feelings of its esteemed contemporary, the Truth, but it cannot forbear reproducing the article from the Colonist, which appears in another column. Nor could it add anything to the ridicule with which the Victoria paper treats so absurd an attempt on the part of our New Westminster contemporary to injure the Department of Education and through it the minister. We did not hear of Truth having sent out such circulars until we saw it announced in The Colonist, for the reason we suppose that the intelligent teachers of Vancouver probably destroyed them as soon as they were received. If we might be allowed to make a suggestion, we think that redoubtable pedagogue, Mr. John N. Muir, might see his way clear to supply Truth with all the answers it requires. What is to hinder that worthy appearing as Civis, A Citizen, Constant Reader, Vox Populi, Public Opinion, Subscriber, Truth, or any nom de plume which conceals a writer's identity. Now that his action against Superintendent Pope has been dismissed with costs, there is no reason in the world why he should not be supplied with blank circulars, and appear as the representative of the combined teaching staff of the province."

It is an oversight of our contemporary that it should omit the most powerful and the most common nom de plume, of all, from its list, for do not all of us revere, reverence and respect the nom de guerre "Democrat" when we see it three times a week in the Times?

On the whole, the Truth writes rather a sprightly article, even in this dull, dreary weather, and in so doing, somewhat adroitly avoids or evades what was last week its very strongest point. We said two days ago that "the first question, the main question—the raison d'etre of its funny scheme—was contained in its query number one, which was, Should the Education Department have the power to cancel certificates without stating the "cause?" In reply, we observed that only one certificate had been cancelled during the last dozen years—during the term of power of the present Administrators,—and, as everybody knows, that was done, not by the Education Department, not by the Government, but by the legal authorized power, Lt.-Governor Nelson-in-Council, than whom there is no man in this province who can place clear judgments in clearer language. The "causes" for the suspension were stated, and as we have already observed, have been repeatedly printed and published in the public press. The editor of Truth generously tells us that he has already got some replies in answer to his queries, and that they are "decidedly favorable to the Government." A statement that will carry comfort and consolation to the wearied and burdened heads of the Cabinet and of the Education Department.

"THE DEFICIT."

The "deficit" which the Times in Thursday's issue grieves over, or rejoices in—it is uncertain which—is not a real deficit. It appears in that form in the Public Accounts simply from the method of bookkeeping adopted by the Provincial Government. The method is honest, but it does not make as good a showing for the Government as the system under which the Dominion accounts are kept. In the province there is no capital account to which permanent works can be charged. All expenditure, whatever its nature, is set down against the current receipts. The loan of 1887, for instance, ($996,000,) was added to the revenue of that year. The loan was raised principally to enable the Government to prosecute permanent public works to improve the country and to develope its resources. These works when completed form a valuable asset, and should be so estimated in the annual stock-taking.

If the Public Accounts are carefully examined it will be found that some $250,000 was expended last year in such public works in addition to the large expenditure for keeping the roads, bridges and public buildings which intersect the school houses of the province in repair and in running order. The works included in the $250,000 expenditure included some $64,000 for school houses throughout the province, $24,000 for public buildings in different places, $20,000 for the Jubilee hospital, $162,000 for roads, streets and bridges. This $250,000, or the greater part of it, should be deducted from current expenditure and charged against capital or loan account. The ordinary expenditure to be charged against current revenue would then be $605,602. The revenue for the year being $707,998, there would then be instead of a deficit a surplus of about $100,000.

It is worthy of remark that the Times treats the accounts of the city in a very different way from that in which it criticises the Provincial Accounts. It has one rule for the city and another and a very different one for the Province. Is this because the principal owner of the Times happens to be mayor of Victoria? Applying the rule to the City finances that the Times does to those of the province, there would be in the accounts of last year a deficit of over $250,000. Our contemporary should remember the good old saying, "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." To apply the saying to the present case—what is fair to the province is fair to the city. But we do not wish it to be inferred that we consider the rule of the Times a fair rule or a wise rule. We believe that the City Council does right when it borrows money to spend on permanent improvements. Of course, that money should be used economically and expended on the works or the services for which it was borrowed. But, with these reservations, we think that the City Government would do wrong if it did not borrow money to carry out works that are required for the city's improvement. To go pottering on attempting to make current revenue pay for all improvements is, in the end, the most stupid kind of extravagance. But, we repeat, if the policy adopted by the Board of Aldermen is necessary to keep the city abreast of the times and to make it a pleasant and healthful town to live in, it is just as necessary for the province, in which the city is so much to be done over such a wide extent of thinly-peopled territory.

Impartial readers, and even our contemporary itself, see that the Government must have managed very economically to draw upon the loan last year to the extent of only $150,000. The money was judiciously expended for the purposes for which the loan was contracted. Every one knows that the Government did not intend to depend upon the revenue of the year to meet the expenditure of the year. They intended to use part of the loan. This was known to both Government and Opposition, and now when what was intended has been done it is disingenuous in the extreme for the organ of the Opposition to proclaim a deficit.

The money borrowed in 1887 has lasted longer than was predicted by the financiers of the Opposition. During the session of 1889 the leader of the Opposition and the member for Cassiar were very exact in their calculations respecting the provincial loan of 1887. The latter gentleman convinced himself, and tried to convince others by figures which could not lie, that the loan would be all expended before June, 1889. He and his leader will, no doubt, be delighted to learn that there were some $125,000 of the money still in hand in December, last. This sum will be spent in useful works of one kind or another. The Government, we hope, have not the slightest idea of hoarding it while improvements are needed in different parts of the province.

The prospect is that the revenue of the province will be considerably increased in the near future. In 1891, the Dominion census will be taken and immediately afterwards the Dominion subsidy will be readjusted on the basis of the increased population. There will then, under the head of subsidy, be added to the revenue about $30,000. This, with the regular increase of the revenue collected in the province, will in 1892 bring the annual receipts up to a sum closely approaching one million dollars. The times will, no doubt, be pleased to see that the financial outlook is so cheering. The present condition of the province is very good, but, in all human probability, its future financial state will be still better.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

The Leader of the Liberal Opposition talked yesterday about caucuses like a dyed-in-the-wool Tory. The ideas he expressed respecting the power of the ministers of the Crown would perhaps have been considered orthodox in the days of Pitt and Fox, but they would be scarcely tolerated when Palmerston and Peel were Prime Ministers. But in these days and on this continent they are entirely out of date. For a small committee of Parliament (for that is all that the Cabinet is) to take upon itself the power of redistributing the constituencies of the province without consulting their supporters in the House would be a stretch of authority that no party would, in these days, think of tolerating. Of course the Leader of the Opposition did not believe in the doctrine he enunciated. Everyone in the House knew that, and what he proposed to gain by his display of insincerity it is very difficult to see. He, we suppose, thought it his duty as Leader of the Opposition to keep his very foolish follower, Mr. Orr, in countenance, but he might do this without propounding doctrines that are not now held even by ultra-conservatives. Mr. Orr's ridiculous motion did not deserve serious treatment at the hands of either friends or opponents. It should have been laughed out of the House. It certainly was not worth Mr. Beaven's while to make a hypocrite of himself to save Mr. Orr's credit.

Mr. Grant, like his leader, was evidently at a loss what to say in favor of Mr. Orr's motion. He knew that if it could have been supported by precedent Mr. Beaven would have cited cases in which an Opposition had compelled a Government to bring down the measures promised in the Speech from the Throne. He, therefore, justly concluded that Mr. Orr's motion was not justified by either practice or precedent; so all that was left for him to do was to hold forth against caucuses. He inveighed against the practice of Ministers consulting their followers as to the course they should take and the policy they should adopt. When he contemplated the state of things likely to ensue from a close and cordial union between the Ministers and their strong following, he became exceedingly sorrowful and plaintively exclaimed that if this practice of consulting the party continued, "there would never be a change of government." This was a melancholy prospect truly, but as far from sympathizing with the grief-stricken orator the Government party were so hard-hearted as to laugh long and loudly at the member for Cassiar's lament, and one or two of the members of the Opposition were observed either to sob or to snicker. The prospect was certainly disheartening. If the Government continue to take counsel with their followers and to respect their advice it was certain that the members who were so well-treated would stand by the Ministry in the House and support them enthusiastically in the country. But it was hardly good policy in Mr. Grant giving such free vent to his feelings in such a public way. It was in fact a rather "bad break."

PRESERVE THE GAME.

To the Editor:—I noticed with pleasure a few days ago a protest in the columns of The Colonist against the slaughter of deer in this province merely for the sake of hides. Now, sir, this subject is most important, not only to sportsmen, but to the entire population of British Columbia. This province has a wonderful advantage in possessing large quantities of game of all kinds, and is enabled to benefit from the sad experience of the east of Canada and many parts of the United States. It should be remembered that we hold absolutely nearly all the large game now left upon the face of the earth, which does not require a genius to understand should be looked after. With such lovely animals as elk, moose, caribou, deer of many kinds, big horn, goats, etc., should not some effort be made to prevent their extinction? It seems but a few years ago that the buffalo grazed within a few days march of Winnipeg, while elk, antelope and other large game were plentiful—but where are they now? Other provinces of the Dominion and many states of the Union have lately shut the doors after the steed has departed, and enacted laws most stringent in a vain effort to save the last of the race. Heavy fines and imprisonment is not considered too severe for law breakers against the game regulations. As far as America is concerned, we now hold within our boundary large numbers of the most magnificent animals that the Almighty has created, but already the destroyer has begun his work, and in a wonderfully short time we, like our neighbors, will be mourning the loss of a never to be regained blessing. We are submitting to this merely to fill the pockets of a few grasping traders. There is only one way to check the destruction, and that is by preventing the exportation. Traders will not then offer the five or ten dollars for raw heads and hides, consequently the animals will not be worth slaughtering. In this way our wonderful stock of game will increase and prosper, while British Columbia will become a resort for the pleasure-hunting people of the world. We all know the money which enters a country with the wealthy sportsmen, yearly increasing in numbers, who flock to the province ready to spend any amount of cash in the pursuit of a pastime now, thanks to the "butchers," not obtainable anywhere else. The New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec large revenue is obtained from shooting licenses which costs all persons not domiciled in the province a good round sum. If we are desirous of visiting our province this source of revenue would be exceedingly large and yearly increasing as it became known that game were protected from extermination by a far-seeing government. It is the same with small game. That delicious bird, the willow grouse, is going in the same way. High prices on the American side make it worth while for everybody and his dog to carry a gun to take a hand in the destruction. I know of one province in which hardly a grouse was left, being repopulated in a few years by stopping the exportation, with heavy fines for seizure and imprisonment for to all others, and gives a revenue which can be depended on yearly. The best cure without medicine. Nervous Debility, Insomnia, Dyspepsia, Diseases of the Spine, Nervous and Kidney, Female Weakness, Impotency, Lost Power, etc. For full particulars, free by mail sealed. Address Prof. A. LOISETTE, 237 Fifth Ave., N. Y. nov22-eod2w-3m

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