

The Colonist.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1896.

A SINGULAR ASSUMPTION.

The Times reproduces the point in the Manitoba school controversy raised by the Hon. David Mills. This is what it says:

What are the real feelings of the Manitoba minority in regard to the restoration of separate schools in the way proposed? Does anyone know for a certainty that the majority of that minority wish to be placed in the position which this bill involves? Has any effort been made to canvass the opinions of the Catholics of Manitoba? None as far as we know. Certain persons have assumed to speak for the minority, but it is not absolutely certain that they correctly represent the views of those they are said to represent. This is a matter on which the work of an investigating commission would at once throw light.

This is plausible and it is ingenious. It suggests that all the fuss about the schools has been made in the Dominion and in the Province of Manitoba for no earthly purpose, as the minority said to be aggrieved do not feel that they are injured at all. The suggestion is that they are well satisfied with the school legislation of 1890.

The passage also assumes that for five long years "the majority of the minority" have been dumb; that they have gone to law, have appealed to the Dominion Government, and have allowed an agitation in their behalf to be raised and to grow until it has extended from one end of the Dominion to the other without making a sign that they are not satisfied with the present state of things as regards education in Manitoba. This, it must be allowed, is a very violent assumption indeed. People in these days in free countries do not act in this way. Let even a few men feel strongly on any subject and they are certain in a very short time to find a way to make their feelings and their opinions known to the community in which they live. They would not allow themselves to be misrepresented, and that too in the most striking and the most conspicuous way, for five years and more without making an effort to undeceive those who had been deluded and led astray.

Parliament would be laughed at from one end of the Dominion to the other if it seriously set about appointing a Commission to find out whether the majority of the minority of Roman Catholics in Manitoba have for five years allowed the people of the Dominion to believe that they had a serious grievance to complain of—a grievance about which loud complaints had been made by persons speaking for them—when they were perfectly contented and willing to allow things to go on as the majority of the Legislature, and presumably of the people, had ordained.

The assumption of the philosopher of the Grits, too, implies that Mr. Greenway and his colleagues are the greatest set of chumps that were ever entrusted with power, for they have allowed the school agitation to go on until it has assumed formidable dimensions, when they could at any time, almost with a word, have put a stop to it at once and for ever. All that they had to do was to show that the Catholics as a denomination were perfectly satisfied with the school law of 1890. This, however, they did not try to prove or even venture to assert. What more conclusive answer could there have been to the remedial order than the following: "There is no grievance to remedy; the majority of the Roman Catholic minority are well pleased with the law, and are satisfied to live under it." Does anyone for a moment suppose if there were any grounds on which to base such a reply, that it would not have been triumphantly made? No one supposes that the Greenway Government is composed of fools, but if there is anything in the hypothesis which the Times adopts, every one of them is well qualified to be an inmate of an asylum for idiots.

THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

The following telegram which is said to be a special to the Montreal Star appears in the Tacoma Ledger of the 30th ult.:

Lord Salisbury and the Rt. Hon. Mr. Chamberlain have been considering the result of inquiries into the records made here on behalf of British Columbia, which show that the United States has no right under the Anglo-Russian treaty of 1825, to three million acres of land of Prince of Wales island, on the Pacific coast, which is of great strategic and commercial value, and which the United States has usurped since buying Alaska. The records of the despatches of Bagot to Lord Canning show that Clarence Straits and not Portland Inlet is the correct boundary. It is suggested that the Canadian members of the Alaskan boundary commission have been misled into assuming the correctness of the United States' assumption.

There is evidently an error in the transmission of this telegram, for the boundary line mentioned in the latter part of it is east of Prince of Wales Island, and could not, therefore, include in British territory a single acre on that island. The three million acres alluded to must therefore be on the mainland between Portland Canal and the sea coast. The conclusion at which Lord Salisbury and the Hon. Mr. Chamberlain are said to have arrived, is the only one to which they could have come if the language of the treaty describing the eastern boundary of Alaska is to be understood as the language of any other

description of the boundaries of a piece of land is to be understood. The point of starting is described with the utmost minuteness. From that point the line is described to run to the north ("au nord"). But the line which our neighbors contend for starts from the right point, and then runs for a hundred miles or so a little south of east before it takes a northerly direction. This being the case we can readily believe that the despatches of Bagot to Canning show that the line runs exactly as it is described in the treaty of 1825.

Our clever and generally candid contemporary, the Seattle Times, commenting upon the above despatch quotes the terms of the treaty describing the line after it starts on the Mainland, but does not quote what the treaty says about the direction it must take from the starting point, the southern extremity of Prince of Wales Island. The direction is so simple and so specific that it seems to us astonishing how a mistake could have been made. Starting from that point, which is the commencement of the line, it runs north. If that direction is followed the line cannot possibly go near Portland Canal.

A PENETRATING LIGHT.

With respect to the wonderful discovery in the art of photography which enables the photographer to get a picture of an object apparently hidden by a solid and opaque covering, Harold Frederic in his London letter of the 25th says:

Röntgen's photographic discovery increasingly monopolizes scientific attention. Already numerous successful applications of it to surgical difficulties are reported from various countries, but perhaps even more striking are the proofs that it will revolutionize methods in many departments of metallurgical industry. It is discovered that lead as well as aluminum is transparent to cathodic rays, and that alloys all vary in degree by rules which are being rapidly established and tabulated. Carbon can be readily distinguished from iron, and imperfect fusions in bronze and other compounds can be detected at once, so that an ideally simple system of testing great blocks or bars of metal, as in cannon, railroad wheels, rails, bridge sections, armor plates and so forth, seems at hand. Experiments already made warrant the expectation that the new method of testing will be of some value in practically every branch of metallurgy.

A BRITISH STATESMAN'S SPEECH.

We have all seen with what a light heart many politicians and journalists of the Great Republic appear to contemplate a war between Great Britain and the United States. They seem to think that such a war, while it would afford them a good deal of intense and pleasurable excitement, would not be attended by circumstances or followed by results that would be regarded with horror and bitterly deplored by every truly patriotic and really humane man and woman in the two countries. Distance and uncertainty lend to them enchantment to the view of a war which, besides being fratricidal and most destructive to both life and property, could not fail of being a sore, perhaps a deadly blow, to the cause of freedom, progress and enlightenment in every part of the world. Such a war would be certain to do a vast amount of harm to many, and however it might result do good to none.

The prospect of war was regarded with very different feelings by thoughtful and large-minded men on the other side of the Atlantic. The Right, Hon. Arthur Balfour spoke of the dreadful contingency in Manchester on the 15th of last month, when the war fever in the United States was at its height. He was not afraid of being misunderstood and misinterpreted when he gave utterance to the feelings of pain and grief with which he regarded the prospect of a war between the two kindred nations. He said:

I have been deeply and painfully impressed by the different attitude, the different mode in which we on this side of the Atlantic look at the question of war, from that which appears to be taken by some sections of the American population upon the other side. To us—I speak for myself, and I think I speak for those whom I am addressing—the idea of war with the United States of America carries with it something of the unnatural horror of a civil war. (Hear, hear.) War with any nation is a contingency to be avoided at almost any cost, except the cost of dishonor, but war with the United States appears to have an additional horror of its own born of the fact that those whom we should be fighting are our own flesh and blood (hear, hear), speaking our own language, sharing our own civilization. (Cheers.) I feel, so far as I can speak for my countrymen, that our pride in the race to which we belong is a pride which includes every English-speaking community in the world. (Hear, hear.) We have a domestic patriotism as Scotchmen or as Englishmen or as Irishmen, or what you will. We have an Imperial patriotism as citizens of the British Empire. But surely, in addition to that, we have also an Anglo-Saxon patriotism which embraces within its ample folds the whole of the great race which has done so much in every branch of human effort, and above all in that branch of human effort which has produced free institutions and free communities. (Cheers.) I have sorrowfully to admit that this view does not seem as yet to be shared by the English-speaking people in the United States of America. Large sections of them, at all events, if I may judge from the reports in the newspapers—which is all that I have to judge by—large sections of them seem to regard a war with this country as a thing to be lightly indulged in, an exhilarating exercise, a genuine tonic stimulus. To me that is a terrible, a distressing, and a

horrible point of view, and I do not believe, and I will never believe, that it is the point of view that will be permanently adopted by any large section in the United States. (Cheers.) We may be taxed with being idealists and dreamers in this matter, I would rather be an idealist and a dreamer; and I look forward with confidence to the time when our ideals will have become real and our dreams will be embodied in actual political fact.

Mr. Balfour did not speak in this way because he, as a British subject, was afraid to fight or because he believed that his country was unprepared for war if war must come. The British have never had the reputation of being cowards, and recent events have shown that the spirit which has made them victors in a thousand battlefields still lives in the breasts of Britons, and is ready when it is evoked to produce as great results as ever it did. As to his country's preparedness for a war with the United States or with Germany or any other of the great powers, Mr. Balfour said:

I have been almost inevitably compelled to dwell to-night upon topics, topics it may be full of difficulty and menace for the future; but think not, I beseech you, that I at this moment take a pessimistic view of the future of the country. Speaking for myself, I do not believe that public opinion on either side of the Atlantic or in Europe will permit the outbreak of a war whose end no man can foresee, not that I will supply to the future, but that I will supply to the present, leave this room under the impression that I am a prophet of evil things, or that I look forward to dark days for the Empire of which we are citizens. (Cheers.) We, after all, have no cause of quarrel that I can discover with any nation, large or small, powerful or insignificant, upon the face of the world. (Cheers.) We desire no man's territory. We wish not to interfere with any present interest or any legitimate ambition which any state may possess. Our own work within our own sphere is sufficient for us. (Cheers.) That will tax our energies to the utmost, and that will supply to statesmen all the material which they may require for the most energetic labor for the development of Britain and of the British Empire. But if it needs must be that war should come, which I do not believe it will, that it is a contingency of which we have at the present moment any special reason to be afraid (hear, hear)—the British Empire is not like the Spanish Empire of the 17th century, a helpless hulk lying upon the waters, tempting depredation by its wealth, but unable by weakness to beat off the depredators. No, gentlemen, there never was a moment I believe in the recent history of this country when the British Empire was a better fighting machine than it is at the present time.

Englishmen in Mr. Balfour's position are not in the habit of boasting or of exaggerating in any way. They are most careful as to the statements they make and are much more liable to say less than they believe the facts and circumstances warrant than to say more. The spirit which he evinced in that Manchester speech was admirable and the statements he made most judicious. We have no doubt that what he said had a good effect, not only in Great Britain, but in foreign countries. A British statesman of Mr. Balfour's standing does not speak to his fellow-subjects alone, but to all the world.

THE REVISION OF THE STATUTES.

We publish in another column a copy of the report of the Commissioner covering the first instalment of the work, which fills a volume considerably larger than the Consolidated Acts of 1888 now in use. As our readers are already aware, the revision now being proceeded with is not of the laws of the Province only, but of the statute law of England so far as it is applicable to British Columbia. The law of England, as it existed on the 19th of November, 1858, is, so far as applicable, by an early Colonial Act declared to be the law of British Columbia. Hence the revision now undertaken necessarily covers the entire body of English statute law from Magna Charta to the nineteenth century, minus such portions as pertain exclusively to the Dominion.

A perusal of the volume covered by the report shows that the work has been entered upon in the spirit of industry and research and that every section of the law has received at the hands of the Commissioner careful thought and searching scrutiny. Copious notes of explanation are appended to most of the statutes of importance, and while the spirit of existing legislation has been faithfully preserved, yet where scope has presented itself for improvement the Commissioner has introduced suggestions and proposed changes, which are printed in different type so that the Legislature can readily adopt or reject them.

This revision is certainly no work of scissors and paste, but the whole volume is the result of careful study and solicitous care. We observe that there is a complaint that departure, are made from the text of the law as it exists and that the work is unsatisfactory on that account. We think that this complaint arises from a failure critically and fairly to examine the work, so far as we have seen, seems fully to justify the statement in the report, that whilst "many of the more important of the Provincial acts have been re-drawn and re-arranged, objectionable features removed and such changes introduced as experience, the altered condition of the country and judicial decisions show to be necessary," yet that the aim of the consolidation throughout "to retain the

spirit of the law as it exists," has been consistently kept in view.

We think that this revision when finished will be of incalculable advantage to the Province in placing in a clear and intelligent form the laws of the country before the people, and we note with satisfaction that with the present instalment one-third of the work is already compiled.

DEFEATED BUT NOT FOILED.

We see the Boers praised without stint in some of the American newspapers for their courage in repelling the invasion of their country by the force under Dr. Jameson. When the particulars of that invasion are known it will be seen that it did not require any great amount either of skill or of courage on the part of the Boer army to defeat Dr. Jameson's little band of brave raiders. This is what Mr. Rider Haggard, whose name is well known wherever the English language is spoken or read, says about that "invasion" and its leader:

Their advance may have been an international crime and an act of rebellion against the authority of the Queen, but at least if half the intelligence that comes to me is true, they undertook it believing that thereby they might save their countrymen and women from attack and possibly from massacre. For three days they pushed forward through the burning heat of an African midsummer to hurl themselves at last upon a strong position held by more than twice their number of brave and unwearied men. Repulsed from thence as indeed they must be, still they struggled on through daylight and darkness, without food, without rest, fighting hard and losing heavily by the way. At length, their ammunition exhausted and reeling in their saddles with fatigue, they yielded to a force that outmarched them for four days, and there within a few miles of the city they came to save, the net of doom closed round them.

Dr. Jameson may be a "rebel" and, therefore, worthy of reprobation, or even of punishment, yet I think that now, when we know of the blood-stirring story of his failure, but few of us who have ever had the honor of shaking him by the hand will cease to remember the fact with pride.

It was certainly no great feat of arms for a large body of men on their own soil, fresh and well supplied with everything that they needed, and in a strong position, to beat off less than half their number of men weak for want of food, weary with travel under a burning sun and without even a fair supply of ammunition. The gallantry and the devotion were all on the other side. And when it is considered that Dr. Jameson and his little troop marched to the Transvaal to deliver men from the grinding and humiliating tyranny of the ignorant and extortionate Boers Dr. Jameson's failure will be regarded as a thousand times more noble and more heroic in every way than the victory of the oppressors of the Uitlanders.

And it is by no means certain that Dr. Jameson's expedition was a failure. It has directed the attention of the British nation to the British intolerance and injustice to the Boers and it will be wonderful if they will be permitted much longer to abuse their authority as they have abused it hitherto.

MINERS ARE SANGUINE

Mr. William E. Devereaux Brings Good Reports From the Latest Scene of Mining Activity.

Assays Average Well and Prospectors Express Every Confidence in Their Properties.

Mr. William E. Devereaux, C.E., who has just arrived from the latest scene of mining activity, at Phillips Arm, Cardero channel and vicinity, reports that there is a great deal of mining already being done in the neighborhoods referred to, on the shores of almost every arm of the sea for a distance of upwards of fifty miles. The woods and mountain tops are simply alive with prospectors, all sanguine of great things for the new camp.

The Phillips Arm Mining Co., which consolidates a number of important holdings, is energetically pushing development work under the superintendence of Mr. Satter. One shaft 30 feet in depth has been sunk on the mountain side and a drift is now in operation, slightly above high-water mark, exposing the strata 60 feet in width and 100 feet up the mountain side. In the 60-foot exposure there are numerous seams or veins ranging from eight inches to two feet in width, bearing N. 80 W. magnetic and pitching from the horizontal at an angle of nearly 45 degrees in wadly at both ends of the wall. Mr. Stanley, the mining expert, has stated that a fair average of assays made brought \$90 to the ton, and that the prospects to-day are just as good as were those of Rossland one year ago.

Daniel Leahy and Walter Moore are working the Yaquina claim on Channel Island and Cardero channel. In this mine the strata are exposed for a distance of 40 feet, showing veins the same as the Phillips Arm No. 1 claim; assays made from the Yaquina quartz bring from \$140 to \$280 per ton. These two energetic men have refused to bond their claim for \$20,000, asserting that the reason for so doing, is that the claim is worth at least \$50,000. Tom O'Brien, owner of the Bald Eagle, situated at the north end of Valdez Island, has bonded his claim for \$10,000, and Henry Rowland, owner of the Black Diamond, contemplates doing the same. The seams on these two claims are 350 feet wide, consisting of diffused mineral, and bearing N.W. and S.E., N. 60 W. mag-

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netic. On this island there are two distinct seams or veins, one being a continuation of the Phillips Arm and Channel island vein, which has been traced over Mount Tucker, across Valdez Island, down to the "Hole in the Wall," across Read Island, and on to Cortes. In a northwest direction this vein has been traced as far north as Loughborough Inlet, over Mount McDonald to Campbell Point. The other vein is one and a half miles east of Mount Tucker and running parallel to the main ledge.

Another vein has been discovered at the foot of Mount Tremble, and also on Thurlow Island, Godwin Point. At Redonda Island and Bute Inlet six gold and six cinnabar claims have been staked off, the latter carrying quicksilver. On Denham Island an iron mine has been discovered, and at Vancouver Bay, Jarvis Inlet, gold has been found.

At a recent meeting of the miners it was determined to appeal to the government for the establishment of a recording office and post office, and the appointment of a justice of the peace, at Shoal Bay, Thurlow Island. The Union Steamship Company, intend placing another steamer on the route in the spring to meet the increasing demand of traffic.

Andrew Secord and J. Hickey, the veteran prospectors, are now in and the public are likely to hear from them shortly.

Nearly two hundred claims have been staked off during the last three months. Some of the best are the Queen of Sheba, King Solomon, Imperial, Electric, Last Dollar, Capella and Bonanza.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contracts for four years in each case, each way between Cedar and Nanaimo, Kamloops, P.O. and C.P.R. Station, Mission City and Mount Lehman, from the first April next.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Postmaster-General will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 28th February, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's mails on proposed contracts for four years in each case, each way between Cedar and Nanaimo, Kamloops, P.O. and C.P.R. Station, Mission City and Mount Lehman, from the first April next.

E. H. FLETCHER, P.O. Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office, Victoria, B.C., 17th January, 1896. 12626-37

A SIGNIFICANT

The British Premier Foreign Field-Int the Monroe Doctrine

Salisbury's Eloquent Devotion of the the Empire

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The Non-Conformist Union the Hotel Metropole occasion of an address Salisbury. The prime course of his remarks as to Venezuela: "I have a denunciation of the Monroe doctrine is no part of my dispatch to the Secretary of State, supported its policy in the strongest terms. But when I despatch and reiterate rule of policy, we are the Monroe doctrine as understood it. (Cheers) you will not find any supporters than we are."

Lord Salisbury then to the Armenian question, proceeded to the religious with laboring under they supposed that England herself in honor to Sultan, which means to go to the Sultan in order to force the Armenians well. He said, merely boasting that the Sultan certain reforms they were more. He did not interpret that as undue war. As to the Cyprus Lord Salisbury continued trace of an undertaking behalf of the Sultan's son.

"I was concerned in both these conventions," said, "and nothing would me to pledge my country's name to undertake." He then proceeded to the Armenian question, which the Sultan had refused, although very good not be expected to government in two months time to say the time in a civilized community. I hope the beneficial result as the Lord Salisbury the "Mandate" by spreading Turks the feeling that was threatened, the unfortunately led to the horrors, which can only with the days of Genl. Tamerlane. I am aware influential people are was done by his government with pose. My own opinion Sultan's government is impotent and powerless dream to imagine that perpetration of these cruelties there is no grudge so. It was a fact driven to the their most corrupt and form which brought up Armenians these terrible.

"If you ask why we fered, I can only answer that we could have their may call annoyances in customs here and there, are dealing with the fanatical population, and with whom they bitter enmity for ages, situated in mountains from the seashore, receiving yourselves, give the England's as it is, could have mitigation. Nothing but cupation could have do land does not possess military occupation. Mr. Gladstone wrote that England could six Turks. That was a rash observation. would meet us on the edge we could cope with. But it is not worth possibility of England of inaccessible provinces.

"I am not bound to tion why Europe did not say confidently that wished to interfere, and view is that with patan's prestige, which is left in the country, will establish order and allow commerce to take their course. This is their duty to give the Sultan to the recent patriotic in the colonies in the fact complications, and said how much we are isolated. An example has shed a patriotic light on the Englishman, who he was greeted with loud cheers.

IMPORTANT EXPERIMENT

BERLIN, Jan. 30.—T War has just completed successful experiments of Prof. Röntgen, of the method of applying photography and medicine, with ing use of it in war surgery.

New York, Jan. 30.—Wright, who occupies a perimental physician at and is in charge of the laboratory, has, according Post's New Haven correspondence successful experiments graphing subjects being by the agency of cathode Professor Röntgen, of Germany, has been achieved such remarkable fessor Wright used in his tube in which the exhaust to so high a point that ligas left in the tube is me