

ALIEN LABOR BILL.

The government organ has offered an elaborate apology for the action of the Lieut.-Governor withholding his assent from the alien labor bill passed by the house during the late session. Its peculiar haste in offering a defense when there has been no public criticism looks very like another exemplification of the Scriptural saying: "The wicked flee when no man pursueth." The Colonist and the ministers knew well enough, however, that the apology would be needed, because they could not but feel that the action taken would not commend itself to the public mind. When the government ordered a departure from the usual course by having the house prorogued with the Lieut.-Governor in the chair, they showed distinctly that they were afraid of criticism. The organ has the hardihood to assert that this method of prorogation was the one commonly followed. It finds that "this is the practice everywhere and always, and no one ever heard until yesterday that any one ever imagined that any other practice ever prevailed. That the practice of British Columbia is the same as that of every other part of the Empire can be seen by any one who takes the trouble to look up the journals of previous sessions." The boldness required to make this statement, when it is a matter of common knowledge that it has not been the practice in British Columbia to prorogue as was done on Saturday, may be easily estimated. The organ's fidelity to its masters leads it into some very painful situations.

The Colonist makes another huge draft on public credulity when it says: "The act is that of the Lieut.-Governor, and not an act of the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council. The Lieut.-Governor has not given his reasons for withholding his assent to this bill, nor has he informed the legislature whether in point of fact he received instructions from Ottawa. It is not difficult, however, to suggest a reason why the federal authorities may have desired to withhold their assent to this bill, nor has the subject of Canada's relations with the Orient must shortly be dealt with. In the meantime it is not desirable that any one of the provinces should complicate the situation by special legislation." Unfortunately for the organ and the government, it has been announced that the Dominion government has already taken action in regard to the Japan treaty, so that part of the bogus explanation will have to be dropped. The Lieut.-Governor has not "informed the legislature whether in point of fact he received instructions from Ottawa." That is quite true, and in the absence of such information the public has promptly come to the conclusion that he received no such instructions, but that his course was adopted as the result of an understanding with his ministerial advisers. The public may be wrong in this, but it has warrant for crediting the provincial government with a capacity for work of the crookedest character. Its course of late has been marked by duplicity and deception of the rankiest character, and it cannot complain if suspicion rests upon it in connection with this matter. It did its best to encourage suspicion when it took an unusual way of proroguing the house.

THE CASSIAR SCHEME.

Throughout the whole province there seems to be no person to say a good word for the government's Cassiar "giveaway," except the government themselves, their bond slaves and the beneficiaries of the grant. Amongst those who severely condemn it is Mr. W. R. Stevenson, in a letter to the Kaslo Kootenaiian. Following is an extract from the letter: "As a free miner and land holder in this province, and a British subject, I feel constrained to beg leave to call attention of the public, and especially of the new K. M. association, through the medium of your valuable columns, to the most outrageous measure yet introduced by the most incompetent and crassly ignorant government to put it as mildly as possible with which a suffering community has ever been unfortunate enough to be cursed. I refer to the bill to aid the Cassiar Central railway. Referring to the account of the proceedings of the legislative (God save the mark) assembly in the semi-weekly World of Vancouver, of April 27th last, it will be seen that Premier Turner in moving the second reading made the following remarks: "The object of this bill is to encourage development of the Cassiar district." In answer to this I would beg to refer the hon. gentleman to the districts in New Mexico and California where the old Spanish grants are still in existence, and especially to the history of the Maxwell grant, covering more than a million acres in the Northern part of New Mexico. These grants conveyed mineral and surface rights to the grantees. The terms in which mining is allowed on the Maxwell grant are, or were a few years ago, and I have heard of no change in them since. Identically the same as this new bill proposes as regards prospecting. "One half the gross receipts of all mineral mined on the land." I would ask the hon. gentleman of the assembly to verify what I now say as to the effects of those conditions. Before the decision of the United States supreme court in favor of the

company, placer mining was carried on and the country was known to contain a good mineral belt. When I left there in 1857, placer mining had ceased on the grant except at Elizabethtown and there it was almost dead. One man alone was able to hold out against the company for a time on account of his owning a ditch which brought water from off their lands. How he came out eventually I do not know, but all prospecting on the grant had ceased entirely, no man being willing to open up anything, however good looking or such terms. I, myself, discovered a very good looking copper lead rich in native copper and probably gold, but never thought of working it under such conditions, or even of getting an assay on the ore. So much for the likelihood that "this bill if carried out will introduce a large body of prospectors into the district who will very soon show what the country is capable of, etc." No one should labor under the mistaken idea that the government in devising this Cassiar scheme was actuated by a desire to see a "large body of prospectors" go into the district. The government evidently desired to benefit some of its particular friends and conceived this unique way of doing it. There is no other reasonable explanation to be found for the utterly depraved measure which is forced through the house by the help of the "mechanical majority."

PROROGATION PROCEDURE.

It is hard to understand why the Colonist should persist in its absurd fabrications regarding prorogation proceedings. If the organ has really taken the trouble to make inquiries from many persons in a position to know the facts, it must have learned that the course followed this year varied from the practice of years past. There is no need to push the inquiry beyond Mr. Speaker himself; if the Colonist can produce a statement from that gentleman to the effect that the usual practice was not departed from, we shall admit that its position is well taken. Unfortunately, though, there is too good reason to believe that the Colonist is willfully violating the truth in the supposed interest of its masters. The following strange appeal which it makes to the journals of the house shows this: "Take the Journal of the session of 1886 for example. From this it appears that His Honor the Lieut.-Governor entered the house and assented to the several bills that had been passed. Then the Honorable Mr. Speaker addressed His Honor the Lieut.-Governor and presented the supply bill, to which assent was duly given. Then His Honor the Lieut.-Governor was pleased to deliver the speech, and after the speech the Honorable Colonel Baker then said:—Here follows in the Journal the usual proclamation of prorogation." If the organ had been quite honest it would not have stopped short at this point, but would have quoted the Honorable Colonel Baker's proclamation, which reads: "Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly: It is His Honor the Lieut.-Governor's will and pleasure that the Legislative Assembly be prorogued until it shall please His Honor to summon the same for dispatch of business, and this Prorogation of the Legislative Assembly is hereby pronounced accordingly." Will the organ please explain how the Hon. Col. Baker could properly address this proclamation to Mr. Speaker and the members of the Assembly if the presiding officer were not in the chair? This has certainly not been done in previous years, and why the ministers should have ordered the new departure this year they may be able to explain.

QUEBEC'S VOICE.

Though the Conservative defeat in Quebec was somewhat less crushing than that in Nova Scotia, it was still so complete as to be very significant. A majority of 33 in a house of 73 should be more than enough to satisfy the Liberals and show the utter demoralization of the Conservative party. As Mr. Tarte points out, this Liberal success further serves to show that the verdict of Quebec a year ago was deliberately arrived at and not a hasty judgment secured on false pretences, as our Tory friends have been so fond of asserting. We should think that even the bishops will be able to appreciate the significance of yesterday's reverse and cease their efforts to stir up sectarian troubles, for it is now perfectly plain that Quebec condemns these efforts as much as any other province. The people of Quebec have declared for civil liberty, for the free enjoyment of citizens' rights unhampered by ecclesiastical intrusions. By an overwhelming majority they have rejected the doctrine that in order to remain faithful to the church they must accept the dictation of bishops and priests with reference to politics. Their declaration of independence in this regard must be a cause of satisfaction to the country in general. The other issues involved in the contest related chiefly to matters of administration. In the previous general election the electors were called upon to endorse the courses followed by Mr. Menier, and Mr. Tallon and his friends, and evidently the people have found but little improvement under Mr. Tallon and his successor, Mr. Flynn, so the latter has suffered in his turn. Such incidents as the Paris loan and the Armstrong railway guarantee have no doubt helped them in coming to a conclusion. The demoralization of the government's defeat is shown by the rejection of some of the ministers and of some of the bills. The fact that the City of Montreal, the representative of the municipal community, seems to have given the most emphatic pronouncement against the Flynn ministry.

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The News-Advertiser joins the Colonist in combatting the idea both supposed to be abroad, that the Lieut.-Governor's assent was withheld from the Alien Labor Bill on the advice of his ministers. "It is probable," says the Vancouver contemporary, "that many persons will think they see in the action of the Lieut.-Governor a deliberate and deep-laid scheme of the provincial government to frustrate the decision of the legislature in regard to the intention to restrict the employment of Chinese and Japanese in this province." This it thinks would be a mistake, since a disclosure of all the facts may show that the provincial ministers had nothing to do with the reservation of assent. It is worthy of note that both the Colonist and the News-Advertiser have either found or assumed that the public generally look upon the Lieut.-Governor's action as due to advice given by his ministers. Why is it that the government so readily falls under suspicion? If its record were good surely the public would not be so quick to attribute wrong actions to it as the Colonist and News-Advertiser find them to be. It is also worthy of note that the News-Advertiser is less concerned in exculpating the Turner government than in trying to make capital against the Liberal administration at Ottawa. It says: "There is, however, no difficulty in understanding the circumstances which caused the assent to the bill to be withheld. It is now tolerably well understood that the present federal government is not in sympathy with the imposition of further restrictions on Oriental labor, much less with any proposition to exclude Chinese and Japanese from the Dominion." This assumption is at least quite baseless as that which the News-Advertiser combats with reference to the provincial ministers. There has not been a word said in public to indicate that the Ottawa government would be inclined to interfere with provincial anti-Chinese legislation on the ground of "sympathy." As a matter of law it may feel called upon to interfere, but that is a very different thing. Assumptions in connection with this incident appear as if they were made for the purpose of setting the News-Advertiser just as its political sympathies are involved.

SIR HENRI OBJECTED.

To the Editor: In the interests of the people of this city and province, I will publish the following correspondence and editorial comment taken from the columns of the Montreal Daily Witness of the 5th inst. Yours truly, ALEX. WILSON. Victoria, May 12. The following significant and instructive correspondence has been forwarded to the Witness for publication by Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere: Office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Victoria, B. C., April 22nd, 1897. Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, Ottawa, Ont. Dear Sir Henri,—The above company has just been organized with a capital stock of \$5,000,000, primarily for the purpose of acquiring and disposing of, with profit, mineral properties in British Columbia. Two million dollar shares of treasury stock will soon be offered for sale, as well as properties-acquired in the principal cities of the Dominion and the United States and in London, England, and the bill will be issued fully paid up and non-assessable, and will be offered to the public at 10 cents per share for the first block issued. Among the special features of the company are the following: 1. Dividends, when declared, will be upon the shares actually sold, thus affording to investors the same security as to profits under the present capitalization as under a small one. 2. It is a fundamental principle, incorporated in the by-laws of the company, that the company shall not go into debt. By this provision all liability to the shareholders is eliminated. 3. All certificates of shares of stock other than treasury stock are placed in the bank and remain in its custody until 750,000 shares of treasury stock are sold. 4. Properties are to be acquired only after the most careful examination, and upon the unequalled recommendation of the promoters of the company. These features, and others, which might be mentioned, are all framed with the view of securing to every shareholder the maximum of security and benefit. The committee in view of the fact that Mr. Navin has completed his second year in theology and has agreed to remain twelve months in the field, and in addition has proved himself well fitted for that particular field, recommended that the prayer of the overture be granted. On motion the report and its recommendations were agreed to. An overture from Kamloops Presbytery, re salaries of ordained missionaries, was withdrawn. The application of Edmonton Presbytery for leave to license and ordain Mr. E. C. Gallop, student of Queen's College, was, on motion of Mr. Clay, granted. The report of the committee on standing committees was submitted by Mr. Scouler, and, on motion, was sustained. The committee as appointed are as follows: Home Missions—E. D. McLaren, with conveners of Presbytery committees. Foreign Missions—Dr. Campbell, convener; J. M. McLeod, J. K. Wright, D. McRae, A. B. Winchester, W. McKie, ministers, and F. Fell and J. C. Brown, elders. Augmentation Fund—J. C. Herdman, convener, with conveners of Presbytery committees. Statistics and Finance—W. L. Clay, convener; E. G. Perry, ministers; and M. Brydon, elder. Sabbath Schools—J. A. Logan, convener; J. C. Forster, A. Tait, J. S. Gordon, ministers; and Geo. Hay, J. McQueen, elders, with conveners of Presbytery committees. Church Life and Work—G. A. Wilson, convener, with conveners of Presbytery committees, and D. S. Wood, J. D. Higginbotham and S. H. Brown, elders. Manitoba College—A. B. Winchester, convener; T. G. McLeod, W. L. Atkinson, E. G. Perry, J. S. Gordon, ministers; and J. J. Ferguson and J. McKenzie, elders. Young People's Societies—Thos. Paton, convener; J. M. McLeod, N. B. Cunningham, J. A. Logan, A. Forbes, ministers; and Geo. McKenzie and Geo. Reid, elders. The first business of the afternoon meeting was an overture from Westminster Presbytery, asking leave from the General Assembly to retain the name of Mr. T. Scouler as a member of the Presbytery. Several very special reasons for such action were urged, and, on motion, the Synod decided to forward the request with a strong endorsement. An overture from the Presbytery of Calgary to the General Assembly, asking additional representation on the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee, was, on motion, laid on the table for one year, and the representatives of the Synod to the next meeting of the General Assembly were instructed to endeavor to secure adequate representation on the committee, particularly on the committee on augmentation of salaries. An overture from the Presbytery of Calgary to the general assembly, setting forth the great need of a boarding school for the young women of the church in the N. W. Territories, and recommending the General Assembly to take steps to provide such an institution, was, on motion, received and ordered to be transmitted to the General Assembly. Mr. Logan presented the report of the committee on Sabbath schools. The report was complete and interesting. From it is quoted the following statistics relating to the schools within the jurisdiction of the General Assembly: 4,453; teachers and officers for S. S. purposes, 31,805; total amount raised for all purposes by schools, \$2,130. The following recommendations were made: 1. That the schools be urged to use the Home Study series of lesson helpers prepared by the General Assembly committee, and that parents be enjoined to assist their children in home study. 2. That teachers be urged to meet weekly for the study of the lesson; and that S. S. workers endeavor to secure more efficient instruction and training for teachers, whereby they may be better fitted for their important work. 3. That parents and teachers be enjoined to use diligence in securing the regular attendance of the young at the diets of public worship. 4. Attention is also directed to the

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Unable to Attend to my Daily Duties and a Great Sufferer from Heart Trouble—Induced to try Dr. A. C. New's Cure for the Heart. And It Proved a Worker. These are the words of Mrs. W. T. Runda of Dundalk, Ont.: "I was a great sufferer with severe pain in the region of my breast for a time I was quiet unable to attend to my household duties. I was induced to try Dr. A. C. New's Cure for the Heart, and I must say the result was wonderful. The pain immediately left me and after the first day I have had no pain or trouble since."

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need of careful attention to the study of the Shorter Catechism, and of the schemes of the church. That the Synod approve the establishment of the foreign mission societies for S. S. literature, and the appointment of an editor. On motion of Mr. A. B. Winchester, seconded by Mr. J. M. McLeod, the report, with its recommendations, was received and adopted. The public meeting in the evening was devoted to the foreign missions and young people's work. The attendance was larger than at any previous meeting. The meeting was opened with the national exercises led by the moderator, Rev. Dr. Campbell. After reading the minutes of the afternoon session, the moderator left the chair, which was taken by Rev. Mr. Scouler in order that he might present the report of the synod's committee on foreign missions. The report as presented dealt with the work being done among the Indians and Chinese within the bounds of the synod, and gave a lot of interesting and valuable information. Rev. A. B. Winchester, in moving the adoption of the report, spoke at some length concerning the active work being done among the Indians and Chinese of the province. He spoke of the peculiar idea that the Chinese seek only the teaching given in the mission schools, and that their religious professions are not sincere. The speaker showed, by citing particular cases, that the Chinese converts have made sacrifices and undergone great persecution and loss in their faith, and that their religious professions are not sincere. The speaker showed, by citing particular cases, that the Chinese converts have made sacrifices and undergone great persecution and loss in their faith, and that their religious professions are not sincere. The speaker showed, by citing particular cases, that the Chinese converts have made sacrifices and undergone great persecution and loss in their faith, and that their religious professions are not sincere.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER MEETING.

At Friday morning's session of the Synod an overture from the Presbytery of Calgary asked that the General Assembly provide a suitable enticement for the use of the young children of the church. Mr. Herdman supported the overture, and, on motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. McLaren, the overture was received, and the clerk instructed to transmit the same to the General Assembly. The committee on the committee on augmentation of salaries presented by Mr. Herdman. On motion of Mr. Clay the report was received, and the following recommendations adopted: 1. That Presbyteries be urged to use influence to bring their non-ordained mission fields up to the status of augmented congregations. 2. That the committee on augmentation of salaries be instructed to Presbyteries to make careful inquiry into the circumstances of each augmented congregation, before applying for a grant from the augmentation fund, and especially before recommending. Mr. McLaren reported on behalf of the special committee appointed to consider the application of the Kamloops Presbytery for leave to ordain Mr. James Navin, missionary in Kaslo. The committee in view of the fact that Mr. Navin has completed his second year in theology and has agreed to remain twelve months in the field, and in addition has proved himself well fitted for that particular field, recommended that the prayer of the overture be granted. On motion the report and its recommendations were agreed to. An overture from Edmonton Presbytery for leave to license and ordain Mr. E. C. Gallop, student of Queen's College, was, on motion of Mr. Clay, granted. The report of the committee on standing committees was submitted by Mr. Scouler, and, on motion, was sustained. The committee as appointed are as follows: Home Missions—E. D. McLaren, with conveners of Presbytery committees. Foreign Missions—Dr. Campbell, convener; J. M. McLeod, J. K. Wright, D. McRae, A. B. Winchester, W. McKie, ministers, and F. Fell and J. C. Brown, elders. Augmentation Fund—J. C. Herdman, convener, with conveners of Presbytery committees. Statistics and Finance—W. L. Clay, convener; E. G. Perry, ministers; and M. Brydon, elder. Sabbath Schools—J. A. Logan, convener; J. C. Forster, A. Tait, J. S. Gordon, ministers; and Geo. Hay, J. McQueen, elders, with conveners of Presbytery committees. Church Life and Work—G. A. Wilson, convener, with conveners of Presbytery committees, and D. S. Wood, J. D. Higginbotham and S. H. Brown, elders. Manitoba College—A. B. Winchester, convener; T. G. McLeod, W. L. Atkinson, E. G. Perry, J. S. Gordon, ministers; and J. J. Ferguson and J. McKenzie, elders. Young People's Societies—Thos. Paton, convener; J. M. McLeod, N. B. Cunningham, J. A. Logan, A. Forbes, ministers; and Geo. McKenzie and Geo. Reid, elders.

W. J. DOWLER.

Secretary-Treasurer B. P. Gold Property Company, Limited Liability.

*This does not include "Passive" Promoters' shares, which are issued to those accepting the proposition at once.

**In other words, the principal promoters will form the directorate of the company, and will be composed of only gentlemen of the highest standing and reputation in Canada.

P.S.—Kindly wire (my expense) in event of acceptance.—W.J.D.

REPLY.

Ottawa, April 20, 1897.

W. J. Dowler, Secretary B. P. Gold Property Company, Victoria.

I had the remotest idea of taking any shares in your company, the offer of me by you of 225 shares, would be sufficient to prevent me.

H. G. JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere has in the spirit of high chivalry which always guides him, taken boldly by the horns one of the great evils of the day by forwarding for publication one of those letters which most of prominence receive offering them a consideration for the use of their names as guarantees for some speculative enterprise. It is well known that ninety-nine per cent. of those who buy small shares in speculative enterprises do so in dependence on the honorable names they are in connection with them. It is therefore inexcusable for persons whose names are so valued to give them as warrant without sharing

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RALLY'S SEAT IN JEOPARDY.

The New Ministry at Athens is expected to be on the Verge of Downfall. Interest No Longer Centered in Athens—Impulse for Peace. The Journal at Larnaca, the Cyprus newspaper under yesterday's date, says that he has an official source that an armistice between Turkey and Greece has been concluded. He adds that the armistice is awaiting by all, for possibly to continue war under circumstances. Interest is no longer centered in Athens, but in Constantinople direct yesterday's news from the statement made by a correspondent of the Journal at Athens, May 12.—An armistice exists here. The Turks are out of the Greek position, and the delay in the Porte's interpretation to mean that Turkey intend to cease hostilities. From the front say both arms concentrating in participation of the city continues of it is believed that the numerous volunteers and socialists are annoyed that the government is not a republic. But the Greeks voted to the monarchial idea worst that is likely to happen a change of sovereignty. It is believed that the government is likely to be discreet enough to Athens for a time. The assembly approves of a of the government to accept and urges upon the papers to aggravate the situation, a precedent.

Greek Fleet Blockading Salonica—The Latest From the Front.

London, May 12.—The Turkish fleet is blockading Salonica, and the delay in the Porte's interpretation to mean that Turkey intend to cease hostilities. From the front say both arms concentrating in participation of the city continues of it is believed that the numerous volunteers and socialists are annoyed that the government is not a republic. But the Greeks voted to the monarchial idea worst that is likely to happen a change of sovereignty. It is believed that the government is likely to be discreet enough to Athens for a time. The assembly approves of a of the government to accept and urges upon the papers to aggravate the situation, a precedent.

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Unable to Attend to my Daily Duties and a Great Sufferer from Heart Trouble—Induced to try Dr. A. C. New's Cure for the Heart. And It Proved a Worker. These are the words of Mrs. W. T. Runda of Dundalk, Ont.: "I was a great sufferer with severe pain in the region of my breast for a time I was quiet unable to attend to my household duties. I was induced to try Dr. A. C. New's Cure for the Heart, and I must say the result was wonderful. The pain immediately left me and after the first day I have had no pain or trouble since."

THEY ALL COME BACK.

"There are fads in medicine as well as in other things," said a busy druggist, "but the most remarkable thing about Hood's Sarsaparilla is that customers who try other remedies all come back to Hood's, and this is why the enormous sales of this great medicine keep up while others come and go in a short time." "Q. simply because Hood's Sarsaparilla has more real curative merit than any medicine ever sold." This is of daily occurrence in almost every drug store. Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured thousands of cases of skin diseases, and made more happiness through restoration to health than any other medicine.

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RALLY'S SEAT IN JEOPARDY. The New Ministry at Athens is expected to be on the Verge of Downfall. Interest No Longer Centered in Athens—Impulse for Peace. The Journal at Larnaca, the Cyprus newspaper under yesterday's date, says that he has an official source that an armistice between Turkey and Greece has been concluded. He adds that the armistice is awaiting by all, for possibly to continue war under circumstances. Interest is no longer centered in Athens, but in Constantinople direct yesterday's news from the statement made by a correspondent of the Journal at Athens, May 12.—An armistice exists here. The Turks are out of the Greek position, and the delay in the Porte's interpretation to mean that Turkey intend to cease hostilities. From the front say both arms concentrating in participation of the city continues of it is believed that the numerous volunteers and socialists are annoyed that the government is not a republic. But the Greeks voted to the monarchial idea worst that is likely to happen a change of sovereignty. It is believed that the government is likely to be discreet enough to Athens for a time. The assembly approves of a of the government to accept and urges upon the papers to aggravate the situation, a precedent.

Greek Fleet Blockading Salonica—The Latest From the Front.

London, May 12.—The Turkish fleet is blockading Salonica, and the delay in the Porte's interpretation to mean that Turkey intend to cease hostilities. From the front say both arms concentrating in participation of the city continues of it is believed that the numerous volunteers and socialists are annoyed that the government is not a republic. But the Greeks voted to the monarchial idea worst that is likely to happen a change of sovereignty. It is believed that the government is likely to be discreet enough to Athens for a time. The assembly approves of a of the government to accept and urges upon the papers to aggravate the situation, a precedent.

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