

The Colonist.

MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 1897.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Some time ago the *Colonist* challenged the opposition press to point out wherein the provincial government had failed in the discharge of its public duties, or done anything to forfeit the confidence of the people which it has hitherto enjoyed. There were a few spasmodic attempts to meet the challenge, but so convincing were the rejoinders of the *Colonist* that the attempt of the opposition was wholly abandoned, and the leaders determined to formulate a platform of their own—a wise conclusion in principle, although they made a sad mess of the matter in practice.

It may be said without fear of successful contradiction that the policy of the government has been highly successful, and while there may be differences of opinion on some matters of detail, there can be none on the general principles of that policy, and the general manner in which it has been carried out. Possibly some things have not been done as some persons thought they ought to be; possibly some things have been done in one way that might, in the opinions of some people, have been better done in some other way; but in everything there has been a painstaking desire on the part of the government and all its members to discharge their onerous duties so as to advance the best interest of the province, and their efforts have been crowned with success.

This policy has during the last eight years given the province a standing in the financial world. Eight years ago British Columbia had no public financial status properly so called. This does not mean that it had no credit, but simply that its credit was an unknown factor on the London Stock Exchange. Now it has a regular standing and its credit is of the very highest. This is not the result of accident, but is due to careful work on the part of the government, and especially of the Minister of Finance, who, through bad times, when the revenue was small, as well as through those later and more prosperous times, has handled the credit of the province with consummate tact. Hon. Mr. Turner has the satisfaction of knowing that his management in this respect has received the heartiest endorsement of the most capable judges, and he can point to the quotations on the Stock Exchange to prove that their good opinion has a solid foundation.

It is quite true that new obligations had to be incurred, but it is conceded on all sides to have been wise policy to borrow money for public improvements. Railroads, highways, bridges, school houses and public buildings have been erected in all parts of the province. Much care had to be exercised in these matters. The province was and is yet in a transition state. It has been difficult, and is still in many cases difficult, to know exactly where roads should be made and where public buildings should be erected. The location of mining towns was and is yet uncertain. What was a wilderness one year became a busy centre the next. What is a wilderness now may be a thriving town next year. In some localities these questions are settled, and in those the government is proceeding rapidly with public improvements.

The condition of affairs all over the province shows that the good work of the government is bearing its legitimate fruit, and every section is in a position to take advantage of the coming development. As rapidly as new demands arise, the government is meeting them successfully. It would be utterly powerless to continue to do this if it had not established the very highest credit in the money centre of the world; but, thanks to this having been done, British Columbia can get on the most reasonable terms, whatever money it may require to inaugurate a thorough system of public works in every section where, and as rapidly as, they are needed. This is a matter of supreme importance. This province has enormous resources. It has come to the front with wonderful rapidity. The eyes of the world are on it, and during the next year its development will receive an unprecedented impetus. To get the best and quickest results from this, the government must be in a position to act promptly and deal liberally with public improvements. This it can do, if the legislature sees fit so to authorize, for the money market will respond to any reasonable request, based upon a policy of public improvements. Indeed, we may say without exaggeration that while the responsibilities resting upon the government at this particular time are scarcely less than those of the Dominion government, as to their ultimate results, the standing of the province is equal to their requirements.

At the present moment there is not a district in the province that is not receiving attention with the above object in view, and while we freely admit that many of the rapidly developing portions require public expenditures, which cannot be made on the instant, the necessity is brought to light, we claim that the government is doing all that could be expected by reasonable men even in such cases. It must be remembered that it does not do to comply with every demand for a road or a public building as

soon as it is made. Sufficient time must be allowed to elapse to show if the apparent necessity is a real one. As this is shown the government stands ready to meet every emergency and can get the money to do it.

Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the *Times* has abandoned its flabby attacks upon the government's policy and resorted to personal attacks upon the ministers. It charges Mr. Turner with being false to his friends and the next day expresses pity for him for having to stand by those same friends. One day it has the members of the government banded together like brothers by a love of plunder; the next they are represented as going around after each other with knives up their coat sleeves. The *Times* need not worry. If it wants to see a truly happy political family it will find it on the other side of James Bay. *Mene concia recti*, an appreciation of the splendid opportunities before the province and pride in faithfully discharging the very grave responsibilities which they entail, perfect confidence in each other and a knowledge that they enjoy the confidence and respect of the legislature and the country both personally and politically, lighten the labors of administration, which are daily assuming greater magnitude, and make the ministers indifferent to such silly, false and indisputable assaults as the *Times* indulges in.

THIS HAPPENED IN MARS.

A man, who was called Synagogue, by his fellow Martians, once engaged in politics. He was consumed by the notion that everything on Mars had gone wrong, much for the same reason that to a very bilious person the whole world looks yellow, and so he offered himself on the altar of his country. Now, Synagogue likewise ran a newspaper, and the newspaper lauded him and vilified his opponents in all moods and tenors. But the people did not feel called upon to accept Synagogue in any capacity whatever. He asked them to elect him to the local legislature, but was "trun down," as they say in the Bowerly. So likewise was he "trun down" when he offered himself for parliament, the which happened on divers and several occasions, and so frequently that one of the *Tyee Muck-a-Mucks* at the capital of the country remarked as follows, to wit: "Synagogue has his gall with him if he thinks we want him after the people have said three times that they do not."

Now, there was in the land a local opposition, and Synagogue said within himself: "Behold, I am the opposition and without me the opposition is neither in it nor on it." But it happened that the men, who were in fact the opposition, met one day to devise a thing called a platform, and Synagogue was not invited to be present at the framing thereof, for they said to themselves, after the manner of the *Tyee Muck-a-Muck* of the capital city, that the advice of a man whom the people had rejected as often as he offered his services was worth very little. Therefore, when the platform was framed, Synagogue proceeded forthwith to denounce it as no good.

There was likewise an official in the land known as the Speaker, and the Speaker was imbued with the idea that without him the opposition was "nit," and he declared himself to be the opposition, and pronounced all others spurious, unless they possessed certain dear marks, which none but he could identify. At this Synagogue was exceeding wroth and derided the Speaker with language of violence and called on him to resign his seat in the legislature, knowing full well that if he did he could never be re-elected.

And in the order of things it occurred that a certain high office was about to become vacant, and Synagogue said to himself, "Behold, nature constructed me to wear a Windsor uniform." But no one else, who had any influence anywhere, thought that the right to wear the uniform should be given him, whereat Synagogue was as mad as a wet hen.

These things caused Synagogue to gnash with his teeth and "get himself so chock-full of pizen that if he'd bite himself he'd die," and from day to day he expressed himself violently in his paper, without regard to truth, consistency or anything else. And the government at which his attacks were directed simply laughed at him, and the more they laughed the madder he got. And that's about all it amounted to.

Now, all this happened in Mars, and if any one is misled by its resemblance to certain contemporary events to suppose it happened in Victoria, he is mistaken, for there is no one here named Synagogue.

It is right to be conservative in all things, but the Canadian Trade Review rather overdoes the matter in connection with the Klondyke. To describe the Yukon as a land of death and desolation is to use the language of extreme exaggeration. To state that there "are already two thousand graves" in the Klondyke camp, exhibits a freshness that is ludicrous. To be sufficiently green to accept for a single instant that nonsensical Montana story about the gold that was brought out having been taken from the bodies of dead men, makes one wonder if the editor ought any longer to be allowed to be at large without a guardian.

THE SEALING QUESTION.

The London *Times* discusses the American request for the reopening of the sealing question, and its views will be of interest. It says, in the first place, that Secretary Sherman's bad manners "ought not to affect our judgment of the real questions in dispute." The Paris award of 1893 decided against the United States on all questions of law and fact, declaring that the United States had no exclusive right or exclusive jurisdiction in Behring Sea, and no proprietary rights in the seals, but admitting, what was never disputed, that they had dominion over the seals when on the Pribiloff islands or within the ordinary three-mile limit. The award specifically declared that outside of this limit "the United States has not any right of protection or property in the fur seals frequenting the islands." This being the case, there remained only the question as to what protection should be given to seal life in order that, in the interests of an important industry, the herds should not be exterminated. As the *Times* says, ever since 1892, the British government has been willing "to make reasonable arrangements, equitable to both American and British fur sealers, for the protection of the fur seal. It is the interest of both parties that the seal should not be exterminated, and we were and are ready to take measures with this object, provided they are framed in good faith and not in order to benefit the lessees of the Washington government at the expense of our Canadian fellow-subjects." In pursuance of this understanding the commissioners drew up a code of regulations, and "we showed our good faith, as we were in honor bound to do, by giving effect to these regulations in the shape of municipal laws." These regulations remain in force until they have been, in whole or in part, abolished or modified by common agreement, and they are to be submitted every five years to reconsideration. The first period of five years will expire in August, 1898.

The *Times* understands the American demand for a reopening of the question this year to be based upon the contention that the regulations were founded upon inadequate information, and it thinks that the British government is quite ready to discuss them upon this ground. The article was written some days in advance of the determination of the government to appoint commissioners to meet in Washington this autumn, and may therefore be accepted as a sort of unofficial statement of the reason why this commission has been named. It being open to either party to the regulations to seek to modify them at any time, which modification can only be made with the assent of the other party, and it being conceded, to use the language of Professor Thompson, the British expert, that the present margin of safety for the perpetration of the seal herd "is a narrow one, if it is not in some instances overstepped," it seems as though good faith requires the British government to consent to a re-examination of the evidence bearing on the question of seal life before the five years are up.

Such is substantially the position taken by the *Times*, and it is very far from being wholly unreasonable. It by no means follows that, because the commission is to meet, the regulations will be changed to the disadvantage of Canadian sealers. Experts, both scientific and practical, differ very greatly as to what protection is necessary, and disagree whether, in point of fact, there has been any actual diminution of seal life because of pelagic sealing.

ANDREE'S EXPEDITION.

It is nearly a month since Herr Andree with his two companions set out in their balloon from Danes Island with a strong wind blowing from the southeast. Their starting point was 617 miles from the North Pole. If the wind kept up steadily in the same direction and at the same speed, ninety hours would have carried them to the Arctic coast of Eastern Siberia, but in that event they would not necessarily have gone much, if any, nearer the Pole than Nansen did. They might, in fact, describe a circular course a little outside of the drift of the Fram, in which case they would have some advantages as to observation owing to their altitude. If by any good fortune the wind shifted after they were well on their journey and they were carried directly across the Pole the same length of time, or say four days, would have brought them to the Arctic shore of this continent, and they may by this time have reached Fort Good Hope on the Mackenzie river. Unless some accident has befallen them, or they have become becalmed at the extreme North, they ought long ago to have reached the mainland either of Europe or America. The absence of any news from the party is somewhat extraordinary, if, as is said, they took carrier pigeons with them. This suggests accident. If they have reached Siberia or Northern Canada there is no reason to expect news from them for a long time, although they may be heard from any day. There are regions from which, if they should descend in them, weary months of travel would be necessary to take them to civilization. It will be recalled that some of the members of the Jeanette expedition were lost after they had reached Siberia; but of course Andree and his companions are better equipped than those were unfortunate men. To search

for them would be almost useless, for it is impossible to assign any reason why they are more likely to be at one place than at any other place. They may be expected to report themselves, if they ever report, at any point along the whole circumference of the globe. They went to an unknown land, trusting to an unknown quantity, namely, the wind. While it is very much too soon to give them up, it is likewise very unreasonable to suppose that for twenty-six days their balloon has been floating around above the ice. They must have descended somewhere, and the question is, Where?

THE SANDON POLICE.

The *Times* of Thursday evening had for its leading editorial an attack upon the provincial police force at Sandon and called for an investigation. Of course with this demand, which would be reasonable enough in itself if there were any facts to warrant it, there is an attack upon the Attorney-General's department. It is quite true that complaints have come from Sandon against a police officer. They were received at the Attorney-General's office on July 22. They were submitted to the executive at its next meeting, and on July 27 the papers with instructions were sent to Commissioner Goepel at Nelson. On August 2 a telegram was received from the Commissioner saying that the officer had been suspended pending an investigation into the charges against him. We think that everyone will concede that there was no time lost in acting upon the complaint, but that, on the contrary, the Attorney-General's department acted with a promptness that would have been impossible if it were not that the Attorney-General of British Columbia, unlike the Attorneys-General of the other provinces, devotes his whole time to the public business.

Under these circumstances, about which the *Times* could have been fully informed if it had so desired, what justification, what shadow of excuse, what scaffolds of palliation is there for the assertion that it is hopeless to expect an investigation? We protest that it is time this bare-faced lying on the part of the *Times* ceased. Day after day and almost every day, it assails the government, or some member of it, without the slightest warrant for so doing. The government has no reason to be disturbed over such attacks, but in the interest of decent politics and decent journalism it is time an end was made of them.

This death of Lord Revelstoke, which occurred last month, recalls one of the most remarkable incidents in the modern business world, as will be conceded by every one when we mention that he was Edward Charles Baring, and for years the head of the great financial house of Baring Bros. The collapse of that firm in 1890, when its liabilities exceeded \$100,000,000, shook the financial world to its centre, and is generally accredited with being one of the chief causes of the severe business depression now passing away. Speculation in South American stocks precipitated the catastrophe. Oddly enough, Lord Revelstoke seems to have abandoned his conservative ideas of finance as he grew older, and he doubtless took risks which the close investigation he at one time accorded every proposition, would have avoided. He was sixty-nine years old at the time of his death.

Mrs. S. D. Scott, editor of the *St. John, N. B.*, Sun, in a signed letter in his paper, says: "The Yukon region is now in Alaska." This is enough to make anyone despair. Mr. Scott when in Victoria was confronted with the map, and the whole situation was explained to him in detail, and yet — Well, it really seems as if the last thing most people get drilled into their heads is geography. There are some people so dense on the subject that if they should get turned round in their graves they would imagine that the general resurrection had come and they had been translated to another world.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us a strong letter on the question of the Stickeen territories. We think we can assure him that the provincial government will not sleep on its rights, but will ascertain what they are and stand by them. There need be no controversy between the two governments, for the Dominion is as much concerned in getting this matter right as the Province is.

The Oregon City Enterprise says that if the Canadians do not cease their oppression of the United States citizens in the Yukon, the descendants of the men who fought at Bunker Hill will take up arms and found a new republic. Oh rubbish! If the descendants of the Bunker Hill folk do not like Canadian laws, let them stay at home.

In these warm days the News-Advertiser is as refreshing as a breeze from the snowy summit of Mount Baker. Oil is in the least. It speaks of the interest taken in the Yukon trade by this city with a cool and placid indifference, which suggests that the editorial chair is in a cold storage plant.

JOURNALISM up-to-date: When you get smashed in an argument, write a communication to yourself and call the other fellow names.

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THE CANADIAN PRESS.

A ROUTE TO THE YUKON.

The feasibility of a line of railway from Queenella into the Yukon country is unquestioned.—Inland Sentinel.

GOOD TIMES ARE HERE.

The railway business is thriving because Canada's trade is expanding, and the production of wealth is increasing by bounds.—Mail and Empire.

ROSSLAND ORE SHIPMENTS.

The ore shipments of the camp for the past week reached 2,332 tons, a slight increase over the week before. This is a very satisfactory showing in face of the fact that the War Eagle is making no shipments at all.—Rossland Miner.

DON'T TALK ABOUT TRIFLES.

It is to be hoped that our Coast contemporaries will sober up before next Christmas so as to fully appreciate the announcement then to be made that about TEN MILLION DOLLARS!

worth of gold, silver and copper has been mined in Kootenay during the year 1897.—Nelson Miner.

THE PROPOSED ROYALTY.

The wisdom of this excessive exaction may well be open to doubt. There will be difficulty in collecting the royalty, and the mere fact that it is demanded must discourage mining in the Klondyke region.—Monetary Times.

RIGHT FOR ONCE.

The statement comes from Ottawa that the government contemplates a reduction in the size of claims, and we hope the reduction will be decided upon. One hundred feet is quite sufficient to be conceded to each claim-holder, as is the law in this province.—Victoria Times.

Mrs. Noodle—Is your son's wife a good manager? Mrs. Oldham—Yes. She manages to make William jump every time she speaks to him, and that's more than I was ever able to do.—Cleveland Leader.

REVIEW OF

Canadian Farmers
Better Spirits With
Prices for C

Montreal Wholesale
Little Effect—Mon
ing More F

Toronto, Aug. 5.—R weekly statement of the says: "The week at Montreal has been fruitful in rumors of fall fortunes have had foundation, the suspension of large wholesale practically a fact. With these failures, however, complications are likely 4th of August, somewhat the dry goods trade, as well as expected, judged at the moment returns from distant ports received. Having country have been much frequent rains of the past yet uncompensated in the crop, though more than at first calculated quality to some extent, well; also roots. Climate heavy, with precipitation.

The feeling in wheat circles at Toronto is that reported a week ago generally has been favorable. The damage reported to the late excessive rains is not so serious as many anticipated. The dry weather of the fall enabled farmers to get off the outstanding grain. Toronto merchants are filling out dry goods with more confidence in the general outlook is encouraging. Business is reported with where harvesting has and a good yield is expected. In hardware and meat movement, but less activity night ago. Leather is firm. A good advance in the price of wheat. Netting at Ontario points and old at 75 and 76 cents are 10 cents more year ago. Manitoba with small stocks in the high prices consequent 20 cents per bushel ago. Farmers are hopeful. Money is plentiful. Money is plentiful and payments are good. Money is easy, with 4 to 4 percent, and paper discounts at 4 percent. The Toronto market continues good and value firm. Toronto Railway, Assurance stocks, are the favorites. A week have been 29 at the same week last year.

THE COAL S

Pittsburg, Aug. 4.—The morning by inducing to join the ranks, mine working with abundance of yesterday. A complete mine may be expected. The march to Plant moved at 1 o'clock campers as the Centre. They were reinforced from Sandy and Tur combined forces arrive 3 a.m., remaining until they marched back to the town in triumph 20 c out.

WHEELING, W. Va., in the Fairmont region are losing courage. tie-up promised by Q not materialized. In all the mines but one the Norfolk Western is entirely disappeared. Miners are getting hoarding committees, scouring for food. The tributing liberally, and treasurer thinks they month at least.

DISORDERS IN

LONDON, Aug. 4.—Daily Mail from Madrid grave state of affairs according to this correspondence. The government is a situation at defiance and stringent and repressive police, without legal waste dwellings all night, ransack them, march the owners off most trifling or charges. A veritable established, and it is that the government, sing its obnoxious by means of a comp are the repressive measures the government that the Daily Mail's cor likely to occur.

A dispatch to the Rome says that King daily correspondence Queen Dowager of Portugal of the present day has instructed the Liebon, Count Gerbs render aid assistance royal family in case arise. The Italian placed two men-of-war orders to proceed to L

PARLIAMENT F

LONDON, Aug. 5.—P prorogued to-morrow, will reassemble during February. The Globe says the government session with the red in the House of Commons. A committee of inquiry into the mental committee.