

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1899. REDISTRIBUTION.

The rectification of frontiers is always troublesome business and the Laurier government was no doubt find it so. So far as has yet transpired, no one seems to have any special objection to the small changes in Prince Edward's Island and New Brunswick. In the latter province all that has been done is to divide a constituency that has hitherto elected two members and to give each of the divisions one member. If it were proposed to make this rule general, we would feel disposed to support it, for there seems to be no good reason why a resident of one part of the Dominion should have a right to vote for two members of the House of Commons, while the majority have only the right to vote for one. No changes are proposed in Manitoba or British Columbia. In regard to this province we think that the arguments advanced by the Colonist against a change at this particular time may be said to have been given to the officers to shoot you if you remain here after thirty minutes! That Mr. Laurier was not likely to be deceiving his employees will be conceded by every one. He had no reason to desire to deceive them. He must have been told that the officers had received instructions to shoot them, if they remained on the island half an hour longer. It is in this connection that we note the fact that the officers in this province, supporting the government to impress their views upon it.

The changes proposed in Quebec are of some importance, but they appear to be dwarfed in comparison with those in Ontario. It is alleged that those who deprive the Conservatives of seven seats, which means a difference of fourteen on a division, a change quite sufficient in the event of a close contest to determine the fate of a ministry. The avowed object of the government is to restore the conditions existing before 1882, as regards the boundaries of the constituencies. The government claims that the change of 1882 was for political reasons. It follows that the new change must also be for political reasons, because it cannot be contended, and is not in fact suggested, that a single individual in Ontario has been satisfied with the right to vote in the affairs of the Dominion. Surely in seventeen years the people of Ontario must have become accustomed to the present arrangement. Admitting for argument's sake that there was a "hiving of Grits" in 1882, surely very many of the Grits who were then hived must have given place to a new brood and surely in the safe Conservative constituencies then created, if there were any such, the individual component parts of the electorate must have been greatly changed, so that it is impossible, no matter what the government may ask parliament to do, to restore the conditions existing before 1882. Therefore we hold that every argument made use of by the Liberals in 1882 against the Conservative redistribution applies with equal force to the measure, which they are now fathering. It does not follow that the Conservatives are stopped by the legislation of 1882 from objecting to that now proposed. The year 1882 was one following a decennial census, when a redistribution was provided for in the B. N. A. act. By the constitution of the Dominion it became the duty of the government in 1882 to introduce a redistribution bill. This being the case the rest was only a matter of detail. But the case is otherwise now. A redistribution act is contemplated by the B. N. A. act which will be impossible before 1902. The present measure is a political step pure and simple. We have in previous articles expressed doubt as to its constitutionality. Under these circumstances it becomes the duty of the Conservative party to do battle as best it can to prevent such an unjustifiable exercise of power by a parliamentary majority.

Who are the persons whom the Attorney-General directed his officers to shoot down as if they were so many mad dogs? They were honest laboring men, who had been employed to do a day's work for a day's pay, upon an undertaking which the Attorney-General had advised their employer that he had had a legal right to do. There was no justification whatever for dealing with them as criminals, even to the extent of arresting them. There was certainly no excuse for treating them as if they were outcasts, having no rights before the law. We desire to enter the strongest kind of protest against the idea that Attorney-General Martin or any one else has the right to shoot down working men, who have been employed to do work in good faith, and who are obeying the direction of their employers in good faith. If Mr. Martin's direction had been followed, and the workmen had been shot down by the officers, in what position would he and his officers be placed? The officers would have been liable to be prosecuted for murder and he would have been liable as an accessory before the fact. The presumption ought to be that Mr. Martin knows the law better than to suppose that he had a right to shoot down honest workmen, and the only way of accounting for his extraordinary conduct is to suppose that he was so utterly ruffled by the circumstances in which he found himself that he sought his rehabilitation in public execution as an energetic officer of the crown would be cheaply purchased by the lives of a few workmen, more or less. The whole affair puts him in a most deplorable light; but we are not so much concerned about its effect upon his reputation as about the creation or its impression that a workman has no rights that are entitled to respect.

Lord Rosebery in a recent speech expressed the opinion that it would be better if there were two classes of newspapers, one that would give the news and the other that would comment on public events. There must necessarily be a great deal of crudeness about editorial comments appearing from day to day and for the most part upon new questions. Nevertheless, we are inclined on the whole to the comments are an advantage to the public. Of course in order that they may be of value, the writer of them must be in touch with the events of the day and be in some sort of a position to gauge public opinion. The object of a leader writer ought not to be to impress his own views upon the public so much as to facilitate the formation of intelligent opinions by the readers. His effort ought, therefore, to be to supplement the news of the day by such comment as it seems to call for, and though strong expressions of individual ideas are proper enough, they should occupy a subordinate place. His primary aim ought to be to shed light upon the questions treated by him. The fewer words in which this can be done, the better, for the average reader to-day likes to get his instruction, and his news as well, in the shortest time possible. Hence the popularity of the editorial paragraph.

There are many occasions when the leader writer has resting upon him an obligation to urge his own individual views upon the public. It is his business to watch the course of events and to follow the trend of public opinion, and when he thinks it necessary in the public interest to speak as strongly as he can. To politicians the leader writer is often a source of annoyance, particularly when he does not consult them before writing, but if he does his duty by his readers, he may do his best in promoting the welfare of the country.

THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR ALASKA. The right of the United States government to send troops to Alaska will not be questioned either by the courtesy of the notification to the British government, but as to the necessity for such a step, so far as is requisite to preserve any rights of United States citizens from interference at the hands of Canada there is more than a doubt. Those persons, who are in a position to know what is transpiring in the disputed area between the two countries, are the last to suggest that there is likely to be even a semblance of a collision or even a conflict of interests. But in this matter the hands of the United States have been forced by a lot of sensationalists, who have managed to create an impression in Washington that something or other is in danger or will be in danger, unless the military arm of the country is represented somewhere in the North. Ever since the Mounted Police United States patriots have sensed peril to the interests of their country. When the militia contingent went forward later, some of these same sensationalists thought, or professed to think, that a force should be forthwith despatched to be on hand to prevent Canadian troops from the Deadman's Island squabble was becoming acute, it will be remembered that H. M. S. Egria dropped anchor in Vancouver harbor. A more in-

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THE DISCUSSION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS upon the resolution introduced by Mr. McInnes, M.P., asking for a declaration of war, was the duty of the government to establish a mint at the earliest possible day, was of much interest, and although nothing came of it, the question has by no means been finally disposed of.

Mr. McInnes began his remarks by saying that the people were in favor of a mint as an abstract proposition, because it would stimulate the national industry and prove a valuable advertisement. He then took up the matter of cost. He showed that since 1882 Canada has coined \$3,462,114 in silver and \$245,925 in copper, the profit on the transaction having been \$908,101.92. Adding to this the cost of coinage, he reached the conclusion that there would be an annual profit on Canadian coinage of \$75,081.04. This profit is derived from the difference the bullion and coin value of silver and copper. Canadian silver is coined at the Royal Mint in England, and our copper coins are made by a Birmingham firm. The cost of a mint would be about \$25,000 in the first place, and the annual cost of maintenance would be not more than \$12,000. There would thus be a substantial profit upon the operating of a mint.

Mr. McInnes pointed out that up to date Canada has produced \$90,000,000 in gold and that not a dollar's worth of all this metal is in circulation in the form of a coin of the country producing it. Most of it has gone into circulation bearing the stamp of the United States mint. He thought that if the gold were coined in Canada a portion of it would remain in the country, and he believed it would give greater confidence to a trader, besides placing the country in a better position before the eyes of the world. In this connection he referred to the mints in Australia and India. Mr. McInnes spoke of the opposition of the bankers to the proposal, and said it was natural, as they were interested in preventing anything which might interfere with the profits of issuing bank notes. He urged that if a mint were established, the proper place for it was near the source of supply, that is, on the Pacific Coast, and of all places on the Coast Nanaimo presented the greatest advantages.

The Minister of Finance replied to Mr. McInnes. He declined to say that it would not be desirable at any time to establish a mint in Canada, but thought such a step inexpedient now, because it would tend to disturb our paper currency, which is giving such complete satisfaction. Only very grave reasons, he said, led us to make a change in a system which was so suited to the requirements of the country as our present currency. In regard to the cost of maintaining a mint, he thought the estimate given by the hon. member was too low, but even if it were not, the figures proved that it was cheaper for Canada to get her coinage done abroad. As there is no profit in coining gold, and as the silver and copper coinage would cost more with a mint of our own than we do now, there was no financial saving in establishing such a department. If we want a gold coinage of our own, it would be cheaper to have it made in England. He could not agree with Mr. McInnes that the mine laws from 3 to 10 per cent, through having to send his gold to the United States, having no evidence before him that they were under any such disadvantage. If it is a disadvantage to them, it might be worth while to consider the expediency of establishing a government assay office on the Pacific Coast, although he did not think the banks would be influenced by the government stamp on a bar of gold when they came to buy it. Referring to the Australian mints, Mr. Fielding said that they were branches of the Imperial mint and that Great Britain is largely supplied every year by coins from them. He thought the quantity of Canadian gold coins that could be placed upon the market of the world would be small, but perhaps if a mint were established in Canada to coin gold for use in Great Britain there would be good reasons in favor of it. The question having been brought up and public attention having been directed to it, the Minister thought it might be allowed to drop and moved the adjournment of the debate.

The other members taking part in the discussion were Mr. G. E. Casey, Mr. Frank Oliver, all of whom favored the establishment of a mint, though neither seemed to be very warm on the subject. It must have occurred to any one who heard the Finance Minister that he largely answered his own argument. He spoke of a mint having the effect of disturbing the present circulation, but at the same time said that very little gold could be got into circulation. Surely the latter proposition answers the former. After reading all that was said, we are more impressed than ever that it is in the interest of Canada that a mint should be established, and we join in the hope expressed by Mr. Oaler that "the government will take the matter into serious consideration, and that this consideration will be followed by the establishment of a mint."

The decision of the United States government not to locate any troops in territory in their possession, so as to create an impression that they proposed to maintain their claims to any of the disputed area on the Alaskan frontier, exhibits a degree of courtesy to which the world had not been accustomed from Washington diplomats, and indicates that the new responsibilities of imperialism are already having a sobering effect.

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DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE. Vice-Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood stated publicly in court that Dr. J. Collis Browne was undoubtedly the inventor of Chlorodyne, that the whole story of the defendant Freeman was literally untrue, and he regretted to say that it had been sworn to. Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne is the best and most certain remedy in Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Consumption, Neuritis, Rheumatism, Etc. Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne is prescribed by scores of orthodox practitioners. Of course it would not be thus if it were not a good medicine. It is a true and all a placebo. Medical Times, London, 1887. Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne is a certain cure for Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Croup, etc. Caution—None genuine without the words "Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne" on the wrapper. Sole agents: Messrs. J. T. DAVENPORT, 20 Great Russell Street, London, E.C. 4. Sole agents in Canada: Messrs. J. T. DAVENPORT, 20 Great Russell Street, London, E.C. 4.

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CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF AN EXTRA-PROVINCIAL COMPANY. "VAN ANDA COPPER AND GOLD COMPANY." Registered the 7th day of April, 1899. I hereby certify that I have this day registered the "Van Andra Copper and Gold Company" as an Extra-Provincial Company under the "Companies Act, 1897," to carry out or effect all or any of the objects of the Company to which the legislative authority of the Province of British Columbia extends.

MINERAL ACT. (Form F.) Certificates of Improvements "Vicking," "Norway," "Ballarat," "North Pole," "Southern Cross" and "Medicine" mineral claims, situated in the Alberni Mining Division of Alberni District. Where local resources of any lands and hereditaments owned by one mile below Nahamt. On the west side of the Alberni Canal, at the mouth of H. Hayes, acting as agent for W. A. Meara, Free Miner's Certificate No. 32741A, W. W. Cotton, Free Miner's Certificate No. 32741A, F. A. Goss, Free Miner's Certificate No. 32741A, and A. L. Mohler, Free Miner's Certificate No. 32740A, intend daily from the date hereof to apply to the Mining Recorder for Certificates of Improvements for the purposes of obtaining Crown Grants for the above claims. And further take notice that action, under Section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificates of Improvements. Dated this 17th day of April, 1899. G. H. HAYES.

NOTICE is hereby given that the John Irving Navigation Company, Limited, duly incorporated company, empowered by the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association to build (tramways) proposes, under and by virtue of the provisions in that behalf made, to construct, equip, operate and maintain a tramway from a point at or near the mouth of the Alberni Canal, to a point at or near Atlin City, along Pine Creek, and to construct, equip, operate and maintain a tramway from a point at or near Atlin City, along Pine Creek, to a point at or near the west end of Atlin Lake, in the Province of British Columbia, by the most feasible route. Dated at Victoria, British Columbia, this 23rd day of April, 1899. JOHN IRVING NAVIGATION COMPANY, Ltd. Foot, Duncan, V. I.

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Concentrated Plant Food. Can be bought at all the principal grocers at 35 cents per tin. The VERY BEST fertilizer for flowering plant in pots, garden plants, strawberries, tomatoes, etc. Manufactured by The Victoria Chemical Co. Ltd. What better can you drink than JOHN JAMESON & SONS (DUBLIN) WHISKEY. "Own cased" very old Black Bottle. Please see you get it with METAL CAPSULES. Sole export bottling agents to J. J. & C. DAY & CO, London.

EPPE'S COCOA. GRATEFUL COMFORTING. Distinguished everywhere for Delicacy of Flavour, Superior Quality, and Nutritive Properties. Specially gratefully recommended to the nervous and dyspeptic. Sold only in 1-1/2 lbs. tins, labelled JAMES EPPE & Co., Ltd., Homeopathic Chemists, London, England.

FOR SALE, CHEAP—(Leaving the country)—One of the most beautiful sites for a farm, 200 acres, fronting on Quinlan Lake, 20 miles from Nanaimo. All fishing, salmon and trout; near good tennis club; rail 2 miles. Apply James Robertson, Duncan, B. C.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF AN EXTRA-PROVINCIAL COMPANY. "VAN ANDA COPPER AND GOLD COMPANY." Registered the 7th day of April, 1899. I hereby certify that I have this day registered the "Van Andra Copper and Gold Company" as an Extra-Provincial Company under the "Companies Act, 1897," to carry out or effect all or any of the objects of the Company to which the legislative authority of the Province of British Columbia extends.

MINERAL ACT. (Form F.) Certificates of Improvements "Vicking," "Norway," "Ballarat," "North Pole," "Southern Cross" and "Medicine" mineral claims, situated in the Alberni Mining Division of Alberni District. Where local resources of any lands and hereditaments owned by one mile below Nahamt. On the west side of the Alberni Canal, at the mouth of H. Hayes, acting as agent for W. A. Meara, Free Miner's Certificate No. 32741A, W. W. Cotton, Free Miner's Certificate No. 32741A, F. A. Goss, Free Miner's Certificate No. 32741A, and A. L. Mohler, Free Miner's Certificate No. 32740A, intend daily from the date hereof to apply to the Mining Recorder for Certificates of Improvements for the purposes of obtaining Crown Grants for the above claims. And further take notice that action, under Section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificates of Improvements. Dated this 17th day of April, 1899. G. H. HAYES.

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