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POLITICAL MALPRACTICES.

No doubt there are many members of Parliament who might have been

unseated for corrupt practices if half of the stories told are true. There are

also persons in Victoria who are not

members of Parliament who would be

in jail to-day for acts committed in

connection with an election if the au-

thorities responsible for the enforce-

ment of the criminal law had done

their duty. This is a proposition which

does not depend upon the tattle of the

streets for its proof. It is a fact con-

fessed and proven aside from any con-

fession. The disgraceful incident of the

late Dominion election in Victoria has

not yet passed from the memory of

the people of Canada. It created a

sensation in this city at the time,

but it appears to have made a more

painful impression in other parts of

Canada than it did in British Colum-

bia, probably because we have been

made more familiar with such de-

picable political games by various

acts of our own Attorney-General,

who in the case in question refused to

take action for the punishment of the

criminal. We have become altogether

too callous in our attitude towards of-

fences none the less criminal although

committed by political adventurers

whose conception of statesmanship is

"playing the game," and playing to

win by hook or by crook, by means

which are usually foul, dishonorable

and mean. As we have said, the in-

cident of the late Dominion general

election has not yet passed from the

public mind, judging from the occa-

sional comment of eastern newspapers.

The Ottawa Free Press says:

"The Victoria, B. C., Post and its

father, the Colonist, have had the ef-

rontery to revive the issues of last

year's election campaign in that city

against Hon. William Templeman, and

when the Victoria Times, as was nat-

ural under the circumstances, retorted

with a vigorous reference to the forged

and garbled Borden telegram, the Post

had 'gall' enough to say:

"Now, the Post, in common with

everybody else throughout Canada,

who had to listen for months to the

purposely expressed expressions of

virtuous though venal indignation which were

poured forth by every subsidized Lib-

eral rag throughout the Dominion of

Canada, is pretty well tired of the

subject.

"The Post has reason enough to be

'dreadfully tired of the subject.' It

probably wishes that it could be put

into the political lumber cupboard with

other incidents of the last two years;

but the Post must remember that the

affair of the garbled telegram has

never yet been explained to the satis-

faction of the people of Canada, and

that while 'it' may be 'tired of the

subject' other people will not be tired

until the facts come out.

"Who was the man who altered the

Borden telegram?

"Who was the man who received ab-

solution from a high cleric under false

pretences?"

"When the Post has answered these

two questions, it can have all the op-

portunity it wants to exhibit its weari-

ness; until it has answered them, it

ought to keep silent on one of the most

disgraceful incidents in the modern

political history of Canada."

LABOR ON THE G. T. P.

Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson cannot un-

derstand why the people of British Co-

lumbia should object to the importa-

tion of a few thousand Oriental labor-

ers to facilitate the work of construc-

tion upon the mountain section of the

bus-which we mention without preju-

dice-has now been removed and the

Canadian management will have an

opportunity to show what it can do to

raise the Grand Trunk Railway to the

standard attained by its sister lines in

this country.

As for the suggestion of Sir Charles

Rivers-Wilson in regard to the import-

ation of Oriental laborers, he ought to

understand that the request cannot be

granted. Sir Charles has lately com-

pleted a tour of this country, and he

ought to understand from the senti-

ment he has encountered, if he mixed

with the people at all, the utter im-

possibility of such a suggestion being

adopted. For our part we cannot see

any reason why Sir Charles Rivers-

Wilson keeps harping on the subject.

The only justification for his bringing

it up so often is that there is not a

transcontinental line on the continent

that has not been built with the aid

of Oriental labor. The discrimination

will of course increase the initial cost

of the road. That is one of the results

of the new conditions which prevail to-

day and of the general repugnance to

yellow labor. It is all very well to say

that the strangers can be deported

after they have fulfilled their mission.

We believe that was said of the Orient-

al army imported by Mr. Onderdonk

when he undertook his contract with

the C. P. R. But the Chinese who came

remained, most of them, and did not

they brought others in their train.

There may be some difficulty in secur-

ing laborers to work on the Pacific

division of the Grand Trunk. But it is

not on record that the contractors

have complained of a dearth of labor

so far. Of course these gentlemen are

not in the habit of speaking of their

troubles for publication, and it may

be that they have confided things to

Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson that they

think better to keep hidden from the

public. In the meantime the prairie

sections of the line will soon be com-

pleted. That ought to release thousands

of laborers for work on the British Co-

lumbia section. Possibly Sir Charles

Rivers-Wilson, by reason of his un-

familiarity with conditions on this

continent with regard to railway con-

struction is inclined to magnify the dif-

ficulties of the situation. At any rate he

has talked too freely about the necessity

for the importation of Orientals.

AN INSPIRING PROGRAMME.

In an address displaying a states-

manlike grasp of the political situation

John Oliver on Tuesday outlined the

policy of the Liberal party of British

Columbia. We believe it is a policy

which will appeal to the people of this

province with irresistible force, and

that when analyzed by the electorate

must result in the complete overthrow

of the McBride government.

The platform adopted by the Liberal

party, it is hardly necessary to say, is

not a mere collaboration of common-

places designed to set the imagination

of the people in a blaze for a day, and

immediately following the election,

having served its purpose, to be stow-

ed away like the blackened properties

of a fireworks display until it may be

required again for a similar purpose.

The leader of the Liberal party is a

sincere, honest and straightforward

man. He would not lend himself to

deceit even for the purpose of gain-

ing the goal which is the natural ambi-

tion of every public man. In British Co-

lumbia the practice hitherto has been

for governments to build attractive plat-

forms and issue alluring prospectuses

just on the eve of elections, and to for-

get all about their fine promises and

pledges on the day following the elec-

tions.

We must give the McBride govern-

ment credit for one thing. To a certain

extent it has departed from the dis-

honored custom of its predecessors. It

has not taken the trouble to formulate

any policy except a policy of "fighting

Ottawa" up to this point. But that line

of procedure, while it appealed to the

people temporarily because they were

basely deceived as to the facts and led

astray as to the attitude of Ottawa to-

wards the province of British Colum-

bia, cannot longer be sustained.

Mr. Oliver showed last evening

that instead of the Dominion be-

ing indebted to the province the pro-

vince is a debtor to the Dominion by

an amount of not less than five million

dollars. There is no possibility of im-

pugning the authenticity of such fig-

ures. They were compiled by a dis-

interested authority from the public ac-

counts of Canada. On the other hand,

the case prepared by the McBride gov-

ernment was based upon spurious data,

with the deliberate design of deceiv-

ing the people and with the reprehensi-

ble object of setting one section of Canada

against all the other sections in order

that a government which has been

proved unworthy of confidence should

gain a little brief authority and profit

its supporters by the spoils of office.

Mr. Oliver proved beyond cavil on

Tuesday that not only was the Premier

insincere in this matter, but that his

insincerity characterized and charac-

terized his attitude and the attitude of

his government upon every matter of

importance which has been the subject

of discussion and of action in the Leg-

islature and in the secret councils of

the party. In the matter of Oriental ex-

clusion "they have invariably talked

and voted yellow."

But the leader of the Liberal party

devoted a very small part of his time

to what his political opponents describe

as his special attribute, destructive

criticism. He disposed of the situation

which has prevailed for the past five

years by the general statement that

while the government was bad it might

be worse, and that there is little doubt

that it will be worse if given the op-

portunity. He explained the policy of the

programme as being chosen to lead

the programme is attractive and am-

bitious, but it is not beyond the cap-

acity of a competent government, and in

the hands of earnest, capable and pro-

gressive men there is no doubt what-

ever that it can be carried out.

The province of British Columbia is

importing annually about seven million

dollars' worth of agricultural products.

That is chiefly because a great deal of

the produce of the land is heavy and

unsuitable for agriculture has passed into

the hands of speculators. Not that

there is anything reprehensible in

such speculation. The fault

lies not with the investor, but with the

system which permits of investments

inimical to the public well-being.

There are still millions of acres

of public lands which may be made

available for settlement. There is only

one way in which such lands can be

made accessible. That is by the con-

struction of railways.

Railways will not be built in British</