

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1896.

AN UNHAPPY EFFORT.

The Times, in discussing the Speech from the Throne, could not resist the temptation of introducing Dominion politics. Its efforts, however, to make a point were not more successful than usual.

During the past year the yield of crops was much larger than usual; but I regret, however, that owing to the low prices of the produce coming into competition with that of our farmers the season's operations have not been as profitable as I would desire to see.

It says: "This will be pleasant reading for the gentlemen who talk so much of the value of protection to British Columbia farmers." It does not require reasoning powers of a very high order to conclude that if the farmers with protection are getting low prices for their produce, owing to competition with foreigners, they would be very much worse off without it.

He is moderate in all his statements, and is rather within the truth than beyond it. With most of the facts contained in the interview most of our readers are familiar; but there is one subject on which the Agent-General was questioned which has not been much discussed in British Columbia.

"Has the confederation of the Empire," asked the Citizen's special commissioner, "ever taken hold of those in Canada with whom you may have been brought in contact?"

"It has been discussed at times, and a branch of the Confederation League was at one time started in British Columbia; but, though a good deal of interest was exhibited, no practical results followed. We are quite sensible of the tremendous difficulties that surround its accomplishment, and would enthusiastically welcome a practical solution.

At least I am sure that is the way British Columbians would feel, though I can't say I have any authority for saying so. My own idea is that such a confederation can only be accomplished gradually. It seems to me that Canada is in advance of other colonies, i.e., politically, for, with the exception of Newfoundland, the provinces have merged themselves into a common confederation, at the same time not parting with their individuality or their absolute control of matters which affect their immediate provincial interests and self-government. It is also the nearest colony to England. There are other matters, too, which I think are worthy of consideration, though perhaps I am presumptuous in saying so.

But there is an obstacle in the way of the immediate settlement of this matter that cannot be easily surmounted. There is a dispute about the ownership of the land. It is evident that the Indians have the use and occupation of it as long as there is a member of the tribe to the fore. But if they give up their right to it who is the owner of it?—to whom does the fee simple of the land revert? The Provincial authorities claim that it will belong to the Province, the Federal Government assert that the Dominion will then be the owner of the land. We do not think that there ought to be a long dispute about this. The circumstances are peculiar. It is not often that there is an Indian reserve within the bounds of a growing city. There can be no doubt that the land is valuable, because it is so situated, and it is equally doubtless that the enhanced value has been given to the land by the enterprise and the industry of the people of the Province. When these facts are taken into consideration we think that the Dominion Government should not be very tenacious of any technical right they may have to the Reserve. They will of course see that justice is done to the Indians, but that purpose effected to their satisfaction they should, we think, waive any right that they may possess in favor of the Province. We do not know whether they possess any right at all to the land after the Indians give it up; that is a legal question which we presume the courts must settle; but we trust that in the whole proceeding they will pay more regard to the equities of the case than to its purely legal aspect.

If the Provincial authorities and the Indians can come to an understanding as to the removal, the Dominion Government should not stand in the way of a speedy settlement. And we understand that if it were left to them the Indians would soon be comfortably settled in a place where they could live happier and better lives than they do on the present reserve, and the land now useless and an eyesore would be made to contribute to the progress of the city and would add to its beauty.

There are, or perhaps it would be more correct to say there were, two ways of regarding the decision of the Privy Council. It was looked upon by some as a mandate; others regarded it merely as a legal opinion. This was Mr. McCarthy's view, and we are quite willing to assume, for the sake of argument, that in this Mr. McCarthy was right. All, then, that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council did was to give the Dominion Government legal advice. They acted upon that advice. They had power to do so, and they are responsible to Parliament and the people of Canada for what they have done. The decision of the Privy Council has now nothing whatever to do with the dispute. The Dominion Government has from the first acted on the authority with which it is invested by the Constitution. According to the admission which the Times itself makes, the Dominion Government and the Dominion Parliament have ample power to deal with the appeal from first to last. When our contemporary thinks a little more over the subject it will see that the dispute is not about the interpretation of the Privy Council's judgment, but

about the obligation of Manitoba to carry out in good faith the terms of confederation. When it gets more light it will become convinced that there is no coercion in the matter, no invasion of provincial rights, nothing in fact for either Manitoba or the Times to howl about.

A GOOD INTERVIEW.

We have received a copy of The Citizen of the 28th December, a financial paper published in London. It contains a long interview with the Hon. F. G. Vernon, Agent-General for British Columbia. The subject of the interview was British Columbia and its Resources. It is illustrated by a very good portrait of Mr. Vernon. The interview is just what anyone who knows Mr. Vernon would expect. It is a clear and comprehensive account of the resources, the capabilities, the progress, the prospects and the present condition of this province.

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BE LOGICAL.

We are glad to see that the Victoria Times has begun to be reasonable on the Manitoba school question. In Monday's issue it says:

The Manitoba government and legislature have not in later days contended that the minority had no right to appeal to the federal authorities for redress of what they considered a grievance, or that the federal authority had no power to hear the appeal and act upon it. Nobody would think of offering any such contention in the face of the Privy Council's second judgment.

This is sound and sensible. If, then, the denominational minority has a right to appeal under the constitution; if the Federal Government has the power to hear that appeal and to act upon it, and if the Parliament of the Dominion is the tribunal appointed by the constitution to decide upon the minority's appeal, where does the invasion of provincial rights come in, and how can Manitoba, with any approach to truth, be said to be coerced?

Does not our neighbor see that the Constitution of Manitoba makes provision for just such appeals as the minority has made, and points out exactly how the appellants are to proceed in order to obtain a redress of their grievance? In presenting their appeal they are acting strictly within their rights, and they are not encroaching upon the rights of the majority. The Times must see that in making the admissions it does it gives the case of "coercion" completely away.

But, says our contemporary, "The dispute arises over the attempt of the Dominion Government to stretch the Privy Council's judgment into a mandate, when in point of fact it only granted a permission." Here our contemporary, if it will permit us to say so, becomes confused and mixes things up. The Privy Council's decision had not, necessarily, anything to do with the case. The Federal Government could have proceeded in the case and acted precisely as it has done without applying to the Privy Council at all. It has, as the Times properly admits, full power to deal with the appeal.

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A CLEVER DEVICE.

We are not in the least surprised to find that the Liberals have unanimously agreed in caucus to stand up for a Commission of Inquiry on the Manitoba school question. The attitude of seekers after knowledge is the most politic one they could assume. It gives them an exceedingly plausible excuse to refrain from committing themselves on the school question. How unreasonable to ask them to decide upon a question about which they know next to nothing! Wait until they get sufficient information on which to form an intelligent opinion, and then they will speak out and say distinctly which side they are on and what they propose to do.

Nearly all the Liberal members are in a very ticklish position on the school question, and this demand for a Commission removes their difficulties. To use a common but very significant phrase, it "lets them out." It gives them time. It affords them a specious pretext to be non-committal during the coming election campaign, and no one

is more than likely that a settlement effected by either of the schemes would be equally satisfactory to the citizens of Victoria and to the inhabitants of the Province generally.

But there is an obstacle in the way of the immediate settlement of this matter that cannot be easily surmounted. There is a dispute about the ownership of the land. It is evident that the Indians have the use and occupation of it as long as there is a member of the tribe to the fore. But if they give up their right to it who is the owner of it?—to whom does the fee simple of the land revert? The Provincial authorities claim that it will belong to the Province, the Federal Government assert that the Dominion will then be the owner of the land. We do not think that there ought to be a long dispute about this. The circumstances are peculiar. It is not often that there is an Indian reserve within the bounds of a growing city. There can be no doubt that the land is valuable, because it is so situated, and it is equally doubtless that the enhanced value has been given to the land by the enterprise and the industry of the people of the Province. When these facts are taken into consideration we think that the Dominion Government should not be very tenacious of any technical right they may have to the Reserve. They will of course see that justice is done to the Indians, but that purpose effected to their satisfaction they should, we think, waive any right that they may possess in favor of the Province. We do not know whether they possess any right at all to the land after the Indians give it up; that is a legal question which we presume the courts must settle; but we trust that in the whole proceeding they will pay more regard to the equities of the case than to its purely legal aspect.

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There are very few indeed on either side who believe that an inquiry into the facts of the Manitoba school question is really needed. That question has been so completely threshed out in the courts of law, on the platform, in the legislature and in the press, that there is not a grain of fact that is really new to be obtained by a year's inquiry. It seems to us that it would be almost as reasonable to appoint a commission to inquire as to whether two and two make four, as to set one to work to glean fresh information on the Manitoba school question.

This demand for a Commission is so plainly a device to gain time to tide over the general election that we are surprised that the Liberals have the face to ask for it. It is to be hoped that there is ability enough and ingenuity enough on the Conservative side of the House of Commons to expose the trick and to force the Leader of the Liberals and his lieutenants to declare themselves on the question in such a way that there can be no mistake as to the side they severally take. Laurier and his forces must be driven out of Torres Vedras.

THE RETAIL MARKETS.

There is no change in the market situation this week other than that of a little depression in the trade created by settlers outfitting. This is, of course, owing to the large number of vessels which have already sailed and the comparative few yet to be provisioned. Within the last few days the fish markets have been replenished with fresh salmon, the supplies of other varieties being fairly good. New rhubarb is com-

NO ROOM FOR MORE TWISTS.



"The Lion: 'I draw the line on you, young man; that tail has been twisted enough of late.'"

—New York World

ing in and is commanding a ready sale at the quotation below given. Eggs continue to decline in value, but other products of the dairy remain steady. Oregon apples have advanced 25 cents per box, while a corresponding increase is noted in navel oranges due to improved quality.

Following are the current retail quotations:

Table listing various goods and their prices, including Flour, Wheat, Oats, Potatoes, etc.

The best way to avoid scalp diseases, hair falling out, and premature baldness, is to use the best preventive known for that purpose—Hall's Hair Renewer.

DR. WOOD'S Norway Pine Syrup. Rich in the lung-healing virtues of the Pine combined with the soothing and expectorant properties of other pectoral herbs and bark.

THE CALIGRAPH No. 4. T. N. HIBBEN & CO. AGENTS. A Full Assortment of Typewriting Supplies Always on Hand.

Groceries and Provisions. FRUIT, CURRANTS, RAISINS, TEA, FLOUR, PORK, etc. R. H. JAMESON, 33 FORT STREET, VICTORIA, B.C.

EVERY FAMILY SHOULD KNOW THAT



Is a very remarkable remedy, both for INTERNAL and EXTERNAL use, and wonderful in its quick action to relieve distress. PAIN-KILLER is a sure cure for Sore Throat, Hoarseness, Croup, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Bronchitis, Croup, Cholera, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Cramps, Colic, and all Bowel Complaints.

NEW SEEDS. We mail free our new SEED CATALOGUE for 1896, beautifully illustrated, and containing a full description of the best introductions in Flower and Vegetable Seeds.

Seed. That Raise Money. Largest and most Complete CATALOGUE OF Good Seeds, Pretty Flowers, and Farm Requisites issued.

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLOROXYNE. Vice-Chancellor Sir W. PAGE Wood stated publicly in court that Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE was undoubtedly the inventor of Chloroxyne.

Tissue Papers. JUST RECEIVED. A Full Assortment of Typewriting Supplies Always on Hand.

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B. C. BOARD. Important Business Meeting Yesterday's Meeting. The Carmanah Po... vice—A Visit... fero C...

Quite a lengthy council of the British Trade held Wednesday being in attendance Ker, Secretary F. J. Chaplin John Irv Joshua Davies, A. Pearson, A. H. Seal.

As to the suggestion port that the proposed... a bonus should be... conceded that the... bring in immense pro...

In answer to Mr. See... the unqualified success... Mr. Davies spoke of... party would necessarily...

After further discuss... received from Mr. Hel... for amendment was... Helmecken being added...

President Ker sugg... board's reading room... members of the legisla... tion being favorably...

In bringing the Carr... chair trouble... Chair explained that... a letter from Mr. Jam...

After Mr. Leiser had... the necessity of a life-... the southwest coast of... the matter of holding...

In bringing the Carr... chair trouble... Chair explained that... a letter from Mr. Jam...