

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1900.

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W. H. REED, PROPRIETOR.

A. G. HARRISON, MANAGER.

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but it is to the farmer of the plains a most formidable enemy. It comes in myriads and devours his crops. Many ways of destroying it have been invented, but none of them seem to be effective. They appear to be like caterpillars; kill one and a dozen come to his funeral. It is said that the Government of the province should make it its business to exterminate this pest. The Winnipeg Free Press disapproves of this proposal. It believes that the requirement shows that the farmer places too much reliance on the Government and has too little confidence in himself. There would be something in this if the gopher were confined to a few farms or to one or two localities, or if it were possible to get rid of it by individual action. But, from what we hear of it, it is all over the country and the large area of unoccupied land affords it a safe breeding ground. The gopher in the Northwest is like the rabbit in Australia, a provincial nuisance, against which individual farmers fight in vain. When a nuisance assumes such proportions it is evidently the duty of the Government, to come to the farmer's aid. This has been done in Australia with respect to the rabbit and even then the effects of the Government were not effective. Why should not the Government of Manitoba use the means at its disposal to stamp out this plague of gophers? It seems to us that it is its duty to do so.

THE SILVER BILL.

The Silver bill that was passed by the Senate of the United States, a few days ago, by a large majority, is a most extraordinary measure. Its object is to give silver a fictitious value. The bill compels the Government of the United States to take all the silver that offers and to have it coined into dollars without charge. The Government dollar so coined is worth considerably less than the same weight of silver unc coined. Certificates are to be issued against the silver deposited with the Government. These certificates are to be redeemable in coin of standard value. They shall, in the words of the bill, "be redeemable for all taxes and duties to the United States, of every description, and shall be a legal tender for the payment of all debts, public and private."

The measure is not hailed with rapture by the people of the United States. Those interested in putting up the price of silver and keeping it up, are, of course, pleased, and so are the currency crooks whose idea it is "money" and who believe that if there is plenty of "money" in the country, no matter what kind it is, everything will go well. But thinking men fear that if the bill passes the House of Representatives, and is not vetoed by the President, it will be a most undesirable mischief. The San Francisco Bulletin says:

"The free coinage of silver, which these insolent despots of the mines would inflict upon the country, in order to swell the price of silver, would mean a degradation of the currency of the people as has never been attempted in this country, and has never been attempted in any other without involving every industrial and commercial interest in the country. The United States is an area of wild speculation on fictitious values, followed by a general collapse and ruin, in which the poor man and the men of moderate means will be the chief sufferers, and whose only beneficiaries will be the sharpers and the capitalists."

These are not matters of speech in the Senate. The experiment of substituting a depreciated currency of a spurious value for standard coin of a fixed value has been tried many times in the financial history of many countries and the result has always been the same. Every country which has attempted it has gone swiftly down the steep decline of degradation until it sunk in inevitable bankruptcy—unpleasant bankruptcy as averted by tremendous sacrifices to restore the financial system to a solid basis of standard values."

The St. Paul Pioneer Press believes that if the bill should become law the very worst consequences will follow. It says: "For the free coinage of silver, which these insolent despots of the mines would inflict upon the country, in order to swell the price of silver, would mean a degradation of the currency of the people as has never been attempted in this country, and has never been attempted in any other without involving every industrial and commercial interest in the country. The United States is an area of wild speculation on fictitious values, followed by a general collapse and ruin, in which the poor man and the men of moderate means will be the chief sufferers, and whose only beneficiaries will be the sharpers and the capitalists."

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THE TIMES OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

The London Times does not seem to be determined on an attitude with respect to the Newfoundland question as it does when discussing the merits of the Balm's Sea dispute. It sympathizes with the people of that colony and admits that there have been good grounds for the complaints they make, but it also says that there is a weak side to the case of the Newfoundlanders. The treatment that has been made with France at different times gives the colony rights and privileges in the waters and on the coast of Newfoundland; while the claim to exclusive jurisdiction over the waters of Balm's Sea by the United States has not the shadow of a foundation in fact. The Times does not believe that the treaties, fairly interpreted, give the French the right to catch lobsters in Newfoundland waters, still less do they extend to them the privilege of erecting fortifications on the shores of that colony. It considers, however, that there is something like an arguable case on the part of the French, and this is what it says about the negotiations that are now in progress:

"On the part of the English Government and their officers there has been a desire to observe the letter of the treaties, and not to inflame exaggerated native feeling. Having gone to the very limits of what is reasonable, we have the right to believe that the French Government will pursue negotiations with no settled intention to follow the one which is out of the question. In any case, it is worth the making the experiment. We shall lose nothing by approaching them in this spirit. We cannot do less for the people of Newfoundland, who are entitled, not as they are sometimes inclined to claim, to our assistance, right or wrong, but to our aid in all the difficulties that they face, and to arrive at that final settlement of which the French Minister of Foreign Affairs lately spoke."

The Times does not hint what it would recommend if the resources of diplomacy should be exhausted without a final, or any settlement being arrived at. It is quite evident from the tone of the Newfoundland newspapers and of the resolution of the French Government, that the fishermen of Newfoundland receive fresh provocations, no consideration for the difficulties they will place the Mother Country in will restrain them from taking the law in their own hands and doing what they think fit. The French Minister of Foreign Affairs lately spoke of the French Government's intention to make a martyr of him. He was imprisoned, but his quarters were very comfortable, indeed. He had all the luxuries that he had been accustomed to, and had been permitted to see his family. Altogether he had rather a good time. When the Government said that he was about as harmless as a pet canary, they pardoned him and he was bowed out of prison by the Governor and passed beneath its portals under a shower of such compliments as only a Frenchman can pay. "I am," said he, "very sorry to lose so amiable a companion in captivity. For I, too, have been your prisoner." Such refined courtesy demanded an adequate return, so the Duke of Orleans, after the Governor's scarf pin as a souvenir. The finale of this little bit of public theatricals was, of course, a manifesto. To issue a manifesto on leaving the country of his birth and his home was the greater thing to do, and the young Prince did it, and did it very prettily. Addressing his "dear comrades of the conception," he said: "Keep for me the place which I desired in the ranks, in your midst near the flag, and I will come and join you. Yours, for God and for France, the Duc d'Orleans."

The visit of the Duc d'Orleans to Paris has proved to the world that Bourbonism is very dead in France. It is not likely that he will ever return, except as a private citizen, of whom nothing is hoped and whom nobody fears.

SUGGESTION CARRIED OUT.

We are glad to see that our suggestion regarding the construction of the Government steamer, intended for service on this coast, is about to be carried out. The Government are to call for tenders for the construction of the vessel. The authorities will, we are very sure, find that the steamer can be built and fitted up here quite as cheaply as she could be purchased in the English market and brought to this port. She will, too, be better fitted for the work which she will have to do than if she was built on the Mersey or the Clyde. The people of British Columbia will appreciate the consideration for their wishes and partialities shown by the Dominion Government in this matter. They were most desirous to have the steamer built in the province and they will be correspondingly gratified to see the attention that has been paid to their wishes.

We are afraid that there are not many members in the Canadian Parliament who would have acted as Mr. Cairne has done—men who, without the slightest hesitancy, have applied to them, would resign their seats because they could not act in concert with the Government they were elected to support. The greater number, when they are placed in such a position, swallow their scruples, and when the time comes to vote with their party, they will be a bitter one, and to take it cause

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A conference of the friends of the colored race in the United States, was lately held in Montreal. The object of its members was to see what could be done to elevate and to strengthen, morally and politically, the men of the African race who are natives of the United States, particularly of the Southern States. The delegates were chiefly white men, the colored population, for some reason, not having sent as many representatives as was expected. One of the measures proposed was a national election law which would secure to the negro his fair share of representation in the Councils of the Republic. It would seem that this proposal did not meet with very enthusiastic approval, the majority of the delegates appearing to think that the best way to secure his political privileges to the colored man, was to qualify him to use them intelligently. Harpers Weekly has an interesting article on this question. It says:

The Montreal Conference holds that the negro in this country will generally remain where he is, that no other race ever made such industrial progress in twenty-five years, that there is already an encouraging number of land owners, and that the welfare of the country requires that the negro should live in relation of good will and mutual confidence with his white neighbors and fellow citizens. While very much has been done for education, the common school should be made more effective, and the opportunity of higher education opened more fully to ability. "In a thoroughly Christian education, we see hope for the race and for all races. The attainment of these ends the Conference looks to the enlightened Christian sentiment of all parts of the country. To the unselfish service of helping the negro to help himself in education, in morality, in religion, and in his civil and political rights, in fitness for citizenship, we fraternally invite all our fellow-citizens. Probably the conference thought that in this way the negro vote would disappear more certainly and swiftly than in any other way."

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REAL INDEPENDENCE.

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THE RACE PROBLEM.

A conference of the friends of the colored race in the United States, was lately held in Montreal. The object of its members was to see what could be done to elevate and to strengthen, morally and politically, the men of the African race who are natives of the United States, particularly of the Southern States. The delegates were chiefly white men, the colored population, for some reason, not having sent as many representatives as was expected. One of the measures proposed was a national election law which would secure to the negro his fair share of representation in the Councils of the Republic. It would seem that this proposal did not meet with very enthusiastic approval, the majority of the delegates appearing to think that the best way to secure his political privileges to the colored man, was to qualify him to use them intelligently. Harpers Weekly has an interesting article on this question. It says:

The Montreal Conference holds that the negro in this country will generally remain where he is, that no other race ever made such industrial progress in twenty-five years, that there is already an encouraging number of land owners, and that the welfare of the country requires that the negro should live in relation of good will and mutual confidence with his white neighbors and fellow citizens. While very much has been done for education, the common school should be made more effective, and the opportunity of higher education opened more fully to ability. "In a thoroughly Christian education, we see hope for the race and for all races. The attainment of these ends the Conference looks to the enlightened Christian sentiment of all parts of the country. To the unselfish service of helping the negro to help himself in education, in morality, in religion, and in his civil and political rights, in fitness for citizenship, we fraternally invite all our fellow-citizens. Probably the conference thought that in this way the negro vote would disappear more certainly and swiftly than in any other way."

Harpers Weekly is so dense right. The higher the negro rises in the intellectual scale, the nearer he approaches to a mental equality with white men, the more he will be respected, and the more cheerfully will his white neighbors accord to him all the privileges they enjoy themselves. The negro problem is the most difficult one that the people of the United States have now to solve. If they solve it in the reasonable and Christian-like way outlined by the Montreal Conference they will win the