

AT DIRECT ISSUE.

The Manitoba government has now made clear its intention to propose no legislation in regard to the grievance of the Catholic minority, its grounds being thus set forth: "It has become perfectly clear that no concession by the legislature will be regarded as a solution of the difficulty, or as removing the alleged grievances, unless such concession admits the principle of and re-establishes state-aided separate schools. Upon the question of the re-establishment of separate schools the government will make no compromise." This may fairly be taken to mean that the government and the legislature would have been willing to concede something less than the re-establishment of separate schools, if they had seen a way left open for them to do so, but the attitude of the Dominion government and of those who professed to speak for the minority seemed to preclude any such step. Along with the statement of the Greenway government's position comes a summary of the measure which the Ottawa government will propose to parliament dealing with the matter. This bill has apparently been drafted with the help of Archbishop Langrish and of John S. Ewart, Q. C., who has been counsel for the Manitoba minority throughout the dispute; therefore it may safely be assumed to embody the smallest amount of remedy the minority and the church are willing to accept. It provides for the re-establishment of separate schools for Catholics in Manitoba, but gives the provincial government a certain amount of jurisdiction over those schools. Certificated teachers are to be employed, and the government may prescribe the textbooks, excepting that in history. The dispatch conveys the information that "the payments of the provincial grant will be made contingent upon the results of the annual examinations." From this it is to be gathered that the bill contemplates a restoration of the provincial grant to separate schools, but no clear statement is made on that point. Nor is it explained how the Dominion authority is expected to enforce the payment of such grant should the Manitoba government and legislature refuse it. We must suppose that some machinery not specified in the dispatch is provided for a contingency like this. And therein lies the chance of a lamentable conflict. From Manitoba's present attitude it does not appear probable that the province will do anything whatever towards the carrying out of this Dominion legislation; neither does it appear probable that the Dominion government can force the province into doing so. Of course there is a possibility of parliament refusing to enact the legislation to be asked for, but that does not appear at all likely. What will be the final outcome? It is hard to say, but the trouble will evidently not cease with the passage of the act to re-establish separate schools in Manitoba. It is a thousand pities the affair has been so mismanaged by the Dominion government that a compromise could not be arrived at.

MR. WALLACE'S RESIGNATION.

After shivering on the brink for quite a long period, Controller Clarke Wallace has taken the cold plunge. Perhaps it should rather be said that the government has pushed him over by the open announcement of the kind of legislation it proposes in regard to Manitoba schools. The controller's action comes a little too late to give him a reputation for heroism. He did not know what was coming was too thin to afford effective shelter. It was a matter of common knowledge that the government had pledged itself to propose the re-establishment of separate schools in Manitoba, if that was not done by the Manitoba legislature, and there were very few indeed who believed that the legislature would prove compliant. Yet in face of this, and in face of his own declarations, Mr. Wallace was a few days ago doing his best to secure the election of a candidate in North Ontario to support the government's policy. His resignation now will not help himself much, while it is sure to do the government serious injury.

THEIR DUPLICITY.

The Times is now accused of being "virtuously indignant at the way in which supporters of the government expressed themselves on that (the school) question in Antigonish." Our worthy neighbor's mental vision is again slightly at fault, for the Times displayed no indignation, virtuous or otherwise, at the way in which government supporters expressed themselves on that occasion. We did, however, point out the hypocritical tactics followed by members of the government in expressing themselves one way in Antigonish and another way in North Ontario. If the government is pledged to remedial legislation, as was said in the Nova Scotia county, why did the government candidate in North Ontario refuse to commit himself for or against remedial legislation? And why did members of the government back him up in this refusal? The reason is obvious. If Mr. McGillivray had openly said he would support the legislation to which the government is pledged, he would have had no chance of election, therefore it was decided that he should conceal his intentions in the hope that he might be sneaked into parliament. Of course if he should happen to be elected to-morrow the government will at once turn around and say his election means that the people of North Ontario approve of remedial legislation, and from

that they will probably argue that the people of the whole province of Ontario are like minded. What they will say if he is defeated we could not pretend to know. In the meantime their duplicity and cowardice in connection with the two bye-elections is plain. The Colonist in the course of its lucubrations repeats its contention that the course followed by the Dominion government is prescribed by the constitution; that is to say, the Privy Council judgment lays on the government the duty of restoring the separate schools in Manitoba, as their draft bill provides. There are many who do not agree with this contention, and the Colonist's Conservative conferees the News-Advertiser is among the non-conformists, for it says in yesterday's issue:

"While it would be unfair to discuss Mr. Greenway's statement without more details than this brief dispatch affords, it is not improper to remark that he assumes a necessity which has not been established, so far as we have observed, or been suggested, either by the decision of the judicial committee of the Privy Council or by the communications made by the federal government to that of Manitoba. Indeed, the Privy Council distinctly stated that the re-establishment of separate schools was not a necessary result of any action that its decision might make desirable in the interest of the minority. Subject, therefore, to fuller information, it looks as though Mr. Greenway was begging the question."

The News-Advertiser is undoubtedly right. The judgment of the Privy Council did not impose on the Dominion government the duty of restoring the separate schools in Manitoba. Nor does the "constitution" prescribe any such task, though it is so glibly appealed to by hidebound government apologists on every possible occasion. The unnecessary work was undertaken by the government solely for the purpose of making party capital.

THAT PETITION.

It will be a waste of effort to keep up the agitation regarding the office of chief of the fire department. From the analysis of the signatures to the petition made by Mr. Campbell the fact is apparent that not more than a small proportion of the responsible citizens actually signed; and those who know anything of petitions are well aware that the names of a good many people were put down in the usual careless way. From the statements made in regard to this petition it appears to have been even a little more farcical than the ordinary. Mr. Campbell says that more signatures can be obtained, which is very likely true. It is at least equally certain that a number of those who signed would withdraw their names if they understood that the real purpose of the petition is the removal of the present efficient chief. Mr. Campbell will perhaps pardon us for saying that the last sentence of his letter is rather nonsensical, in view of the fact that one office is singled out for special treatment. If the people have at present no voice in the affairs of the city, how much will their position be improved by making one officer out of many elective? Do the agitators really believe that they have succeeded in concealing their animus? They must in that case have wonderful powers of self-deception.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Commencing with this date the price of a year's subscription to the Twice-a-Week Times will be \$1.50 per annum. The Twice-a-Week Times has easily led all its competitors in enterprise and popularity, and a reduction in the price of a year's subscription, such as is now announced is no inconsiderable item when that fact is remembered.

The management, however, actuated by a desire to see the Twice-a-Week Times a visitor at every home in British Columbia, and believing that the public will fully appreciate the concession, have decided to reduce the price from \$2 to \$1.50 per year.

The Times has ever chronicled fearlessly, faithfully and completely every occurrence of public interest, whether local or foreign; has courted, since its inception striven to advance the best interests of the province of British Columbia, and will continue in the same course to the end.

During the year 1896 the management purpose introducing many new and interesting features in the Twice-a-Week Times, which, at the exceedingly low price of \$1.50 per year, should be read by everyone who desires full and complete information on all matter of public interest.

At this season more particularly than at any other time during the year, one's thoughts are prone to turn to distant scenes, where, mayhap, the "old folks" still reside at the "old home;" and the natural thought arises, "What shall be the present to send as a mark of love and esteem. It is quite safe to assert that a large majority of the thousands of "resents" which are each year dispatched to distant friends are unwisely selected, and, though they testify to the desired degree the well-wishes of the donor, fail to bring any lasting comfort to the recipient. This can be avoided if a little wisdom is exercised in the selection of the present. We believe we are expressing an undeniable truth in asserting that all presents should be

chosen with the view of providing lasting comfort to the person on whom it is bestowed.

A point upon which all will agree is that those who occupy a sufficiently high station in one's esteem to be considered at Christmas time are certain to evince a great interest in the locality in which one may for the time reside, and if this be so, an excellent—we may say the best—present to forward would be one sure to convey some idea of the nature of the country in which one dwells and the character, habits, customs and scenes which interest its people. Such a present from those who dwell in British Columbia is found in the Twice-a-Week Times—British Columbia's best and brightest weekly—a paper which chronicles faithfully, fearlessly and completely, every occurrence of public interest, whether local or foreign. We boldly assert that a paid-up subscription to the Twice-a-Week Times is the best present—incomparably the best present—intended for absent friends, that \$1.50 can buy. Nothing would give a friend interested in the land in which you dwell—this glorious province of British Columbia—the hours of pleasure, the real happiness, that he would get from a year's subscription to the Twice-a-Week Times.

Col. Prior, M. P., writes to the morning paper to deny a statement published in a Spokane paper to the effect "that he was in some way mixed up" with Morrison and Cummings in the jumping of the Homeless mine at Rossland. A few days ago the Col. thought it necessary to deny that he had signed the petition asking for the election of the Victoria fire chief. As to the first charge the Col. thinks there is "a little political animus in it," while his denial of the other was probably due to political expediency. But, seriously, the Col. is altogether too sensitive; he should be stolidly indifferent, like his colleague, to all such absurd stories. It does not look well to be eternally denying something; in fact it suggests a suspicion that there is a weak spot somewhere that needs covering up, as in the case of a woman who is constantly extolling her own virtue. Is Col. Prior not yet assured that his character as a citizen places him above the faintest suspicion of being capable of committing the indiscretion of signing the anti-Deasy petition? The Col. ought really to cultivate a better opinion of himself. We assure him the public look upon the denial of the claim-jumping story as the greater of the two absurdities.

It seems a little improbable that the London Globe's story of Sir Charles Tupper coming over to take Premier Bovell's place can be correct. Sir Charles is now a very old man, in rather indifferent health, and he would doubtless be loath to exchange his comfortable London berth for the "straw post" of premier. On the other hand, he probably realizes that his term of office in London would be suddenly terminated if the Liberals came into office. His own indecent partisanship would be quite sufficient cause for his ejection. Then the Tories have invariably called on him for help in their difficulties; and their present situation is extremely desperate. Taking all things into consideration, it would not be so very surprising if he did consent to relieve Sir Mackenzie. At all events, there can be no two opinions as to the latter's flat failure.

Principal Jordan of the Leland Stanford University says the steelhead is a trout. The California state fish commissioners, acting on this opinion, have decided to stop fishermen from taking these fish in fresh water and selling them. The fishermen, on the other hand, contend that the steelhead is a salmon, and that it is extremely useful as a food fish. They have taken all the steps necessary to have the controversy decided by the courts. The decision cannot be foretold, but manifestly the part of common sense would be to treat the steelhead as a salmon, whether it is a salmon in a strictly scientific sense or not.

Chief Justice Meredith, in a talk with E. E. Sheppard, editor of Saturday Night, has given the quietus to all rumors of his leaving the bench to help the Conservative politicians at Ottawa. Mr. Sheppard asked the Chief Justice directly: "Is there any truth in these rumors?" The reply was: "None at all." "Then you do not intend to retire from the bench?" was the next question, to which the Chief Justice replied: "I do not." Some days ago Chief Justice Meredith's portrait was displayed at a Conservative party meeting in North Ontario, an indecent act which will surely not be repeated now that he has made this plain statement.

Montreal Herald: They have two Conservative associations in Brockville, each of which claims to be the only S. M. pure. They have also two Conservative associations in Ottawa, each supporting the claims of different candidates. In Cornwall and Stormont the party is also divided against itself. When the leaders cannot agree among themselves it would be absurd to look for union among the rank and file.

The plan is now advanced that the "present manner of appointing the city officials is inconsistent with the federal principle." This is at least an attempt to give a reason for the petition for the fire department, if not a very successful one. We had supposed that civic officials everywhere throughout Canada

were appointive, not elective, and that all provincial and Dominion officials were in the same position. Are the agitators going to propose that the system be changed throughout the country to make it "consistent with the federal principle"? Or is it only the one office of chief of the Victoria fire department that needs to be changed to bring harmony out of chaos? We trust the chief will not be unduly puffed up by the great importance thus attributed to his office.

Senator Morgan appears to have a very copious flow of words and a very small conscience.

The Times congratulates the Colonist on attaining to its thirty-seventh birthday.

THE FIRE CHIEF'S OFFICE. To the Editor: The petition recently circulated to have the office of fire chief made an elective one contains 63 more signatures than half of the total number of votes polled for Mayor last year. It contained the names of 241 people actually engaged in business in this city, 22 of whom are grocers, 18 doing business as bismuth, horseshoers and carriage builders, 42 contractors, 32 signed as merchants, 12 mill men and lumber manufacturers and 234 clothiers, tailors, bakers, butchers, lawyers, doctors, boot and shoe dealers, etc., and the balance of the 1041 signatures are mechanics, gentlemen at leisure, bookkeepers, clerks, insurance men and working men, all of whom had represented themselves as being competent to qualify as members of the public opinion of the city, and should be so amended as to bring it into harmony with the principles of popular government. By a petition the council has an expression of public opinion upon the question. The chief of the department was elected by the people, and why was the position changed from an elective to a permanent one? It was changed without the consent of the people. The petition is a popular one and is signed by responsible citizens who will find it to be eternally denying this fact; it suggests a suspicion that there is a weak spot somewhere that needs covering up. The petition is not concealed from the public and if you find it on the side of the opponents, and not the petition, have had to stand all the abuse. The citizens who support the department should have the privilege of choosing the chief. G. CAMPBELL.

MR. ALLEN'S ADDRESS. On the Cuban Question is Some-what Rambling, and Not Very Strong.

Labor Federation in Convention—The End of the Coit Divorce Case.

Washington, Dec. 11.—In the senate today Vice-President Stevenson, in accordance with the rules, instructed the clerk to call the first order on the calendar, which proved to be the resolution of Mr. Allen, Populist, declaring it to be the sense of the senate that the government of the United States should recognize the Cuban revolutionists as belligerents. Mr. Allen said he supposed the resolution would be referred to the committee on foreign relations. He, however, did not allow the opportunity to pass without informing the senate that the Populist party, which was sneered at as a party of domestic grievances, stood shoulder to shoulder with the Republican and Democratic parties for the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine.

Mr. Allen commented on some of Mr. Cullom's speech yesterday, and then proceeded to condemn the alliance of the money power of the east with that of England. In connection with this idea as a text, he read contemptuously to the report that Theodore Havemeyer, the retiring Austrian consul-general at New York, was to be made a baron as evidence that that gentleman was ashamed of the country of his birth. Mr. Allen evidently labored under the delusion that Mr. Havemeyer was United States consul to Austria. He also referred to American women who were marrying titled European mendicants.

New York, Dec. 11.—When the Federation of Labor delegates met today the statement was given out that the election of officers would not be reached until next week. The work of the convention is progressing slowly on account of many contested seats. A resolution was offered by T. J. Eldarkin deprecating the practice of federated lodges affiliating with Knights of Labor and other similar organizations.

Buffalo, Dec. 11.—Thomas Esford, iron worker on the Elliott square building, tripped and plunged down the elevator shaft from the ninth to the second storey this afternoon. Almost every bone in his body was broken and he died in 20 minutes. He was 27 years old and unmarried.

Nantucket, Dec. 11.—A severe east gale struck this port about midnight and is now blowing forty to fifty miles an hour. The highest tide known in years accompanied the gale.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 12.—At the chess banquet held last Sunday in honor of Harry Nelson Pillsbury, the young Brooklyn chess player, who took first prize in the international chess tournament recently held at Hastings, England, St. Petersburg, who won fifth prize in the same tournament, President Saburov, of the Russian chess club, in welcoming the guests, said Russia had the warmest friendship for America.

Mr. Pillsbury, in responding, thanked the club for the honor it conferred upon him and his fellow players in inviting them to participate in the tourney in which the best chess players in the world were to compete.

DANGEROUS RESULTS SURE TO FOLLOW. Neglect of Kidney Trouble—South American Kidney Cure Is a Remedy that Quickly Eradicates Kidney Trouble in Any of its Stages.

It is an unfortunate blunder to allow disease of the kidneys to obtain a hold in the system. The disease is of the character that leads to many serious complications which too often prove fatal. The strong point of South American Kidney Cure is that it drives this disease out of the system, whether taken in its incipient stages or after it has more nearly approached a chronic condition. The medicine is a radical one, easy to take, yet thoroughly effective, and what is encouraging to the patient, the results of its use are made manifest almost immediately. As a matter of fact, this medicine will relieve distressing kidney and bladder disease in six hours.

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FOOTBALL. NAVY V. CIVILIANS.

The Cowhitan Association football team met the Royal Arthur team at the cauteen grounds yesterday and defeated them by three goals to nil. On Saturday the navy team will meet the Victoria Rugby team at Caledonia park.

CHESS.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 11.—Owing to Lasker's late arrival in the city the international chess tournament will not begin before Friday next.

GETTING MUCH SIMPLER.

Very Soon the Jingoists Will Have One Less Topic.

London, Dec. 11.—The Times prints a dispatch this morning from its correspondent in Caracas giving the result of an interview he had with President Crespo, of Venezuela. The president said he understood the question of the outrage upon the British Guiana police and the boundary question were to be treated distinctly as between Great Britain and Venezuela, but declined to discuss the British note on the subject. He added that the Venezuelan officer who had arrested the British officers would be punished for exceeding his instructions, and that the Englishmen would be compensated. He was unable, he said, to see any reason for British intervention.

London, Dec. 9.—A dispatch from Rome announces that numerous wrecks occurred during the great storms which swept over Italy. Much damage was done, especially along the coasts.

LAW INTELLIGENCE. The full court yesterday in Royal Canadian Packing Company vs. executors of George Williscroft, made an order for the trial of an interpleader issue in case the plaintiff desires it. The garnishee must pay all the cost since the cost of the appeal. A. L. Belyea for plaintiffs and C. E. Pooler, Q. C., for the garnishee.

The full court, consisting of Justices Crease, Walken and Drake are today hearing the appeal in Mahson vs. Howison. The action was brought by the plaintiff for the rescission of a certain agreement whereby defendant agreed to sell to plaintiff certain lands in the district of New Westminster, and for recovery of certain moneys alleged to have been paid by plaintiff to defendant. The defendant counter-claimed for specific performance of the agreement and payment of the balance due under it. Mr. Justice McCroight at the trial at New Westminster refused rescission and payment of the balance, and refused specific performance and the defendant appeals. A. J. McColl, Q. C., for appellant and E. P. Davis, Q. C., and Anlay Morrison for respondent.

London, Dec. 9.—A dispatch from the Cape says it is reported there that the Ashantes have deposed King Prempeh, and that the war party have enthroned his mother as Queen in his stead.

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Hood's Sarsaparilla. Is the Only True Blood Purifier. Prominently in the public eye today. Be sure to get Hood's and only Hood's. Do not be induced to buy any other.

Hood's Pills. cure's Liver, Bile, Biliousness, Headache, Constipation, etc.

GER... The Big Wit... No Lives... sel... She is OO... Liverpo... line stea... Kinstry... Queenstow... the mout... Scotch co... ed to die... The dia... namic dr... steamer G... there till... brea and... aboard the... broken. V... engaged... founded... to Liverp... landed at... the optio... ny by... bria, wh... ember 11... Teutonic... December... New Y... Star line... no cable... ing any... Dunrave... enger on... of the G... to neces... said by a... transfe... he is an... soon as... Later... officials... of their... and thos... may be... her... The off... is im... damage... leison ye... In addi... line, wh... discover... steamshi... German... Questio... line stea... Liverpool... York, wh... to take... steamer... also tak... gers who... London... office au... manic m... and it is... to New... falls fro... at South... An Insu... Haven... Segura... surgent... Gnaissma... piratical... carried... wounded... and had... Oliver c... me and... are in a... and man... ying the... the actu... Gomez i... mounting... ing to r... to the... brought... for coast... PASS... English... Rome... stantino... Dryad w... mede pa... to-day... Owing... his said... to-day... HAYW... Harry I... Live... Stillw... Claus A... that Ha... investigat... (domest... of 1894... is that... and that... have kill... was aft... Missions... was the... Reater... planned... DEMON... came to