

MEN AND FERRIES.

The Colonist strongly advocated the case of the Terminal Railway By-Law when it was before the people. We do not think we would be putting the case too strongly if we were to say it went into raptures over it and was completely carried away by its enthusiasm the day after the result of the voting was announced. We could quote articles from our contemporary in support of these assertions, but the facts are too well known to require any such proof. It is also said that the Premier, who directs the policy of our contemporary, was himself in favor of the scheme until he made the discovery that it was a "tin-pot" ferry. Both the paper and its chief proprietor have changed their minds, apparently. For very shame's sake, we suppose, the Colonist is somewhat timid about announcing its change of position. It approaches the subject in a roundabout way. Yet it is not easy to put the Colonist out of countenance. For advocates of the very scheme the Colonist would now have the people reject Mr. Bodwell as their representative. Yet it remains to be demonstrated that the citizens did not do a good stroke of business when they voted for the by-law. The immediate effects were beneficial and there is good ground for the belief that the ultimate results will be quite as healthy. A consultation with the C. F. R. people led to a change of attitude on the part of the Premier and the announcement that a ferry connection would be maintained between Victoria and the Mainland by the E. & N. Railway Company and the C. F. R. without a cent of cost to the ratepayers. This was probably designed to kill the other ferry scheme, but it merely confirmed the people in their determination to have competition. Since the Colonist is determined to go below the surface for motives, perhaps it will explain why the E. & N. company not so long ago asked a very large sum as a bonus for a service which it afterwards gave for nothing more than a prospect of competition? That ferry connection has been steadily maintained ever since, although it has in many respects proved far from satisfactory and has more than once been dubbed a "tin-pot" ferry. Would there have been such a connection to-day if the people of Victoria had not announced their determination to do all that lay in their power to free themselves from monopoly? The absorption of the C. P. N. Company by the C. F. R. confirmed the impression that connection with the continent by an independent route was necessary to the welfare of Victoria. The relations between the Premier and the great Canadian railway company are most intimate. No exception can be taken to them entering into any arrangements they deem advisable for the advancement of their interests. But Victorians note the fact that the scheme of the railway company and the coal managers do not include within their scope the enhancement of the welfare of their city. The interests of both are centered elsewhere and all their energies and all their influences, they can bring to bear are exercised for the building up of other places. We cannot complain of these things. Almost every man in the community is engaged in work of the same nature; but it is our duty as citizens of Victoria to do all in our power to protect ourselves and see that those who have the power do not injure us while attempting to further their purposes. There are men who place the welfare of the cities in which their lots have been cast above every other consideration. At the same time, there are others. The deeper motives are probed into the more apparent will this become.

low their destinies to be disposed of in such a summary fashion. The statesman of Great Britain have now an example of the meshes in which their alacrity to accept of every suggestion that emanates from the United States may involve them. The Monroe Doctrine was hailed in certain circles with acclamation as the very acme of political wisdom. It was even proved that it had its origin in the councils of the Empire. Observe what follows. Carrying the doctrine to its logical conclusion, Mr. Bourke Cockran has called upon the President of the United States to prevent Canada from sending more men to take part in the South African war. Discussing the subject the Toronto Star rather warmly remarks: "The Monroe Doctrine cannot be accepted by Great Britain or by Canada. It is a doctrine which would not be accepted if Uncle Sam were in Jack Canuck's place he would not accept it. The doctrine would lay over us an authority based on neither law nor justice, but wholly on force. However that doctrine might at first be interpreted, it would logically become what Bourke Cockran says now. A Dominion paper has warned Great Britain that if the principles of Monroism are recognized it means the loss of Canada to the Empire, and the warning is wisely given. Canadians are not content with being here a puppet state. We hope to have a country as great and rich as the neighboring republic, and if Great Britain should sign away our right to do so by subscribing to the Monroe Doctrine, it would unquestionably do much to change the route by which we hope to reach the goal—but we would move towards the goal."

COMMONS VACANCIES. The full list of vacancies in the Dominion House of Commons numbers fourteen. They are as follows: St. James Division, Montreal, rendered vacant by the appointment of O. Desmarais to a judgeship. Liberal majority at the last election, 1,641. Beauce, rendered vacant by the appointment of Joseph Gauthier to the Senate. Liberal majority, 1,257. L'Islet, rendered vacant by the appointment of A. M. DeLoche to the Senate. Liberal majority, 100. Terrebonne or Maisonneuve, both represented at present by Mayor Prefontaine, of Montreal. He had a majority of 267 in Terrebonne and 1,816 in Maisonneuve. Laval rendered vacant by the appointment of T. Fortin to a judgeship. Liberal majority, 219. York, N. B., rendered vacant by the unseating of A. Gibson, Jr., Liberal. Liberal majority, 76. West Queens, P. E. I., rendered vacant by the appointment of Sir Louis Davies to the Supreme Court. Liberal majority, 735. West York, Ont., rendered vacant by the death of the Hon. N. Clarke Wallace. Conservative majority, 820. West Hastings, rendered vacant by the resignation of Henry Corby. Conservative majority, 842. West Durham, rendered vacant by the unseating of C. J. Thornton. Conservative majority, 40. Kingston, rendered vacant by the appointment of B. M. Britton to a judgeship. Liberal majority, 192. Lisgar, rendered vacant by the unseating of R. L. Richardson, who had a majority last November of 249. Victoria, rendered vacant by the unseating of Col. Prior.

Of these fourteen vacancies one is in Manitoba, five in Ontario, four in Quebec, one in New Brunswick, one in Nova Scotia and one in British Columbia. Six were formerly represented by members of the opposition and eight by supporters of the government. There are also three vacancies in the Senate; those caused by the death of Senator Almon, of Halifax; Senator Villeneuve, of Montreal, and Senator Allen, of Toronto. As these three Senators were all Conservatives, the filling of the places will add materially to the Liberal forces in the Senate, which are now pretty nearly on an equality in voting strength, with the followers of Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT. The Colonist discourses learnedly on responsible as distinguished from parliamentary government. It would be interesting to have our contemporary's candid opinion of the form of government that is attempting to guide the destinies of British Columbia at the present time. What is the usual procedure when a Premier finds he cannot induce representative men to take office under him; when he finds the current of public opinion running so strongly against him that no man can be found willing to uphold his cause in one of the chief constituencies in the province when the existence of the government may depend upon the verdict given by that division? When there is, to say the least, a good deal of doubt as to whether the government or the opposition has the larger following in the House, is it in strict accordance with the principles of responsible government for a Premier to postpone the meeting of the House which will pronounce upon his position until the latest possible date the law allows? In such a case would it be contrary to procedure or recognized principles for the Lieut.-Governor to say to a head of a government who thus shirked his duty that he must furnish the country with a cabinet ministerial and in other respects such as the law or the rule calls for; that he must fill all the seats in the Legislature and meet the House at the customary time?

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will hasten to take up this suggestion as an election cry. The Conservative party of this country is in a bad way and would welcome any policy that would do as much for them as the National Policy did. But Mr. Borden will not take it up. Canada is not yet prepared to surrender her commercial or her political independence. The New York Times thinks Great Britain might very much like to see an arrangement. Let it not deceive its readers with such a suggestion and keep alive within their breasts a hope which can never be realized. If Canada were to vote in favor of such a proposition the British government would interpose no objections. Lord Salisbury and some of his Ministers appear to place so high a value upon American opinion that sometimes it seems as if they would welcome any arrangement, even to a division of the Empire, to retain the fiscal thing. Their successors may be men of broader views.

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